Inside This Issue

Community Meeting........Page 2
Monthly Food Giveaway.....Page 2
Church Directory...........Page 2
Sculpture Dedicationss....Page 2
Access Saint Paul Corner....Page 3
Rockin’ at the Mounds......Page 3
Mnds Pk United Methodist...Page 3
Fish Hatchery History.......Page 4
Pastor Hamilton BBQ......Page 5
DB ECFE Programs.........Page 6
Mounds Park Community....Page 6
Walk the Bluff Walk-a-thon..Page 6
District Council News........Page 7
Halloween on the Bluff......Page 7
Christmas at the Mounds....Page 8

Don’t Forget!
Vote in the District Council elections on Monday, October 15 and stay for the potluck dinner and annual meeting.
Contact Karin 651-772-2075 karin@daytons bluff.org See Page 7 for details

Dayton’s Bluff Walk-a-thon
Saturday, October 6.
Contact Garry 651-772-2075 Garry@daytonsbluff.org See Page 6 for details

Message from the Dayton’s Bluff Bluffalo

The Dayton’s Bluff Bluffalo, also known as District Council member Jacob Dorer, wants to remind everyone about the District Council elections, potluck and annual meeting on October 15. See details on page 7. And also have a safe & Happy Halloween.

Dayton’s Bluff District Council - A House in Order

By Ed Lambert, Executive Director, Dayton’s Bluff District Council

The League of Women Voters (LWV) of Saint Paul released its “Report on the District Councils in St. Paul” on September 10th in Saint Paul. The Pioneer Press article about the LWV report curiously emphasized the areas where the Councils could use some help, as if they are worn out and failing, but failed to get the bigger story. The Councils are still in place, still involving thousands of residents and businesses every year in local improvement efforts, and developing and running programs which continue to make a difference in city neighborhoods.

The big story is how much they have accomplished over 32 years, and continue to accomplish, in spite of limited resources; and in spite of the ongoing struggles to get the community’s foundations and major corporations to adequately and consistently work with them. Some foundations seem to think the Councils are undeserving of their support because of the close working relationship they have with city government. Yet it is just that close relationship which enables the Councils to be effective partners with motivated donors to get more civic engagement by under-represented minorities, as well as more effective action on local problems, concerns, and opportunities.

City financial support provides a meaningful funding base and all Councils consistently raise additional funds from various individuals, foundations, and corporate donors every year. Those efforts struggle to get the long term and substantial support needed from foundations and our larger corporations. Too often they see the Councils as a “quasi-government body” which should get all its funds from the city. They miss the point, however.

The city contracts with independent non-profit agencies (the District Councils) to work on city and community related issues and developments; and the Councils provide a network of organizations which can substantially leverage that support to make very effective use of donors’ contributions to move further, faster, and more effectively on local property, environmental, and people concerns.

The newspaper report identifies a number of recent problems which a few of the 17 District Councils have had, but is light on illustrating the fact that most of the Councils are doing just fine.

The major issue for most Councils remains fully representing the diversity of the city’s racial and ethnic groups and, in fact, fully engaging all the residents and businesses in their districts. This problem is endemic to a democratic system, and remains an important issue at all levels of government, and with community oriented activities throughout the world. The big news is not that the District Councils have this problem, but that they succeed in spite of it. Saint Paul’s Councils are among the most persistent, determined, and successful organizers of local civic engagement in the U.S. Yet they would be the first to say we must do more.

Dayton’s Bluff District Four Community Council is one of many in the city that has its house in order. Our annual financial reports are compiled by an outside accountant, all our financial and corporate reports are filed on time, our board gets monthly financial and corporate reports are filed in writing, our financial and corporate reports are filed in writing, our financial and corporate reports are filed on time, our board gets monthly financial and corporate reports are filed in writing, our financial and corporate reports are filed on time, our board gets monthly financial and corporate reports are filed in writing, our financial and corporate reports are filed on time, our board gets monthly financial and corporate reports are filed in writing.

We have two long-standing communication tools in place: a monthly informative newsletter (the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum) mailed to nearly all residents and available free to everyone, as well as an established and

“House” continued on page 5

DISTRICT FORUM

Volume 20, No. 7
www.daytonsbluff.org
October 2007

Dayton’s Bluff

District 4

Community Council

798 East 7th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55106

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Photo by Karin DaPaul
Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting

The next Community Meeting is Thursday, October 4 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 1st 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 new ideas for improvement in Dayton’s Bluff.

If you would like, you can email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 772-2075 with problems before the meeting. If I have the addresses of problems ahead of time I can get them to the police and NHPD (code enforcement). Then they can bring information about the problems to the meeting.

Remember, it’s always on the 1st Thursday of the month. All Dayton’s Bluff residents are welcome to attend. If you need more information email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Eastern District Meeting

On Friday, October 19 the Eastern District Police will host their monthly meeting for community members. The meeting is intended as a time to listen to and address people’s concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

The community meetings are held at the Eastern District police office at 722 Payne on the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues on the third Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

Glorious Food Giveaway

The Food Giveaway takes place on the third Saturday of the month at Mounds Park United Methodist Church, Earl and Euclid Streets. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. The Food Giveaway is from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Come and receive a free bag of food, no questions asked.

Listen to music while you wait. Communion is served at 10:00 a.m. for those who wish to participate. Call the church at 774-8736 for more information.

Register Early for Next Small Business Class

The Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class is taking applications for the spring class. This program helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome.

Class room training lasts 8 weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, how to creating a successful business, and preparing a business plan, plus 8 hours of one on one time with the instructor to work on your business concept. 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, landscaping, 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 registration fee based on a sliding fee scale. The next session will start in April. Class size is limited, so do not wait to apply. For an application, call Karin at 651-772-2075 or email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org.

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Calling Crafters!!

Ceremony Senior Care - Marian of Saint Paul is hosting their annual Craft and Bake Sale on Friday Nov. 16th from 10:00-3:00. If you are interested in a table please call 651-793-2116 for information.

Opportunity Knocking!

Volunteer Editor needed for this paper. Call 651-772-2075

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

Wants Your News, Photos and Articles

About Organizations People Events Opinions Businesses Neighborhood Issues Contact

Karin for more info at 651-772-2075

Pictured above is the graduating class from the spring 2007 Dayton’s Bluff Microentrepreneur Class. Registration is already open for the spring 2008 class.

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Karin for more info at 651-772-2075

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum is now mailed monthly to Dayton’s Bluff businesses and households FREE!! Your 5” x 4” display ad gets to over 6500 addresses for only 2 cents per address. Other size ads are also available. Include the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum in your advertising plans. Contact Karin@daytonsbuff.org or call 651-772-2075.
Mounds Theatre is Rockin’ in October

Hometown Theatre presents the revival of their original stage production of Rockin’ at the Sock Hop at the Mounds Theatre this October 5 – 27. Rockin’ at the Sock Hop tells the story of Sivle Yelserp, a nerdy high school boy who is tragically accident prone until he discovers Rock ’n Roll music. Within the course of one week, Sivle manages to mess up a radio broadcast, is challenged to a car race, and after being visited by an angel who shows him that he might have it within himself to win the big singing contest at the Homecoming Dance. Of course, along the way he might make up his mind to become a rockabilly singer. This custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi’s love for all creatures. It is celebrated in October around the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, commonly known as the Blessing of the Animals. There will be a couple of events for a special ceremony called the Blessing of the Animals. This custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi’s love for all creatures. It is celebrated in October around the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, commonly known as the Blessing of the Animals. There will be a couple of events for a special ceremony called the Blessing of the Animals.

Central Corridor Development Strategy won a Minnesota American Planning Association Honor Award. The Minnesota Chapter of the American Planning Association is happy to announce that The City of St. Paul Central Corridor Development Strategy, received an Honor Award (their highest award) at the statewide annual conference.

St. Paul Central Corridor Strategy Honor

The broad geographic extent and diverse existing land use patterns create challenges in articulating a vision for this transportation corridor. The plan, however, rose to the challenge, resulting in a set of “Big Ideas” in which to invest. The reviewers recognize the extraordinary degree to which the planning effort brought in public input and developed building strategies. They also appreciate the large format to maximize the use of graphics.

Juggling was performed by five members of the Iowa chapter of the American Planning Association. Details about the conference facility and schedule can be found on the Chapter’s Website at www.mnapa.com.


Mounds Park United Methodist Church Celebrates 150 Years

Mounds Park United Methodist Church will celebrate its sesquicentennial anniversary on Sunday, October 21st at 3:00 p.m. Bishop Sally Dyck will be the speaker. Following the service, there will be an opportunity for fellowship, and historical displays may be viewed.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church, located at the corner of Euclid and Earl is a merged congregation with the former Holman United Methodist Church which was located at Bates and Euclid. Holman Methodist Episcopal Church traced its roots back to 1882 with Rev. F.O. Homan as the first pastor.

What is now Mounds Park United Methodist Church was founded in 1857 by missionary minister from the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Church. It was located at Pine and Eleventh in downtown St. Paul and was commonly known as the Pine Street Church.

In 1917, after changes in the downtown neighborhood, the church property was sold to Great Northern Railway. Lots were purchased in the newer residential area of Dayton’s Bluff and a new building was finished in 1921. At that time, the church was known as First Evangelical Church. After several denominational mergers it has been known since 1968 as Mounds Park United Methodist Church. Rev. Victor Waters is the current pastor.

EVERYDAY HEROES: FEATURING DEVELOPER RICHARD COPLAND, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 6PM.

Everyday Heroes is the first of a series of 10 television programs focused on specific individuals and their life story. The first five in this series are scheduled to focus on African American male heroes.

The program celebrates the professional and personal paths taken by “ordinary heroes” and the public organizations that supported them along the way. Richard Copland, owner of Thor Construction is a success story of the City of Saint Paul Construction Partnering Program (CPP) that began with the Excel Energy Complex. In addition to two current projects in Saint Paul, The Old Swedish Bank Building on Payne Ave. and the Bonnie Jean Condominium renovation on 7th Street, Copland has continued his relationship with M. A. Mortenson Co. on the New Twins and Gopher Stadium Projects. For more information on our Construction Partnering Program:


DID YOU KNOW...Today, a third of Saint Paul’s residents are minorities, a figure that doubled in the past 15 years. The city’s business community has changed dramatically as well, and many of its older commercial strips are now home to new ethnic entrepreneurs serving new and existing markets. The Emerging Markets Economic Data highlights the buying power of ethnic communities in the City of Saint Paul. Saint Paul American Indian Economic Data, African American Economic Data, Latino Economic Data, Mexican American Economic Data documents are located at http://www.stpaul.gov/business/mbrd.

CONTACT YOUR SAINT PAUL HOME LOAN FUND FOR: MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE PREVENTION, REHAB, FIRST TIME HOME BUYER PROGRAMS, ETC. AT 651-266-6626

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

Everyone is welcome to attend this celebration of many years of ministry in the Dayton’s Bluff Community.

Blessing of the Animals

Oct. 14 in Mounds Park

Each October many communities around the world lead a procession of animals, everything from dogs and cats to hamsters and even horses, are led to churches for a special ceremony called the Blessing of the Animals. This custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi’s love for all creatures. It is celebrated in October around the Feast of St. Francis in honor of the humble priest who loved all of God’s creation.

This October 14th at Indian Mounds Park from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Mounds Park United Methodist Church will host a Blessing of the Animals. There will be a couple of hymns, some scripture reading, a prayer for endangered species, and the chance for you to bring your pets forward for a prayer of thanksgiving that we will offer to the Creator on their behalf.

You may bring a live pet or a picture of a current or past pet. There will be cold water for the human guests and a treat for each pet. All are welcome to this celebration of creation. If you have any questions call 651-774-8736.

Matt Glowacki to speak at Metro State University

In observance of Disability Awareness Month, October 2007, Metropolitan State University is hosting a motivational speech by Matt Glowacki entitled “Diversity According to South Park and Family Guy.” On Tuesday, Oct. 4 at the St. Paul Campus, 700 East Seventh Street, Founders Hall, Auditorium from 3-5 p.m. Glowacki, a native of Janesville, Wis., was born healthy but without legs. From a very young age his parents provided him with every opportunity to participate in a normal life. He got a Bachelor of Arts in communication with an emphasis in public relations and a minor in history from the Univ. of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Something Fishy in Dayton’s Bluff History Or Down the Fish Hatchery Road

By Steve Trimbble

Not many people today are familiar with the State Fish Hatchery that was once one of the most popular tourist attractions in the metropolitan area. Willowbrook, as it was called, was started in 1878 by the New State Fish Commission, and was located at the foot of Mounds Park.

Raising fish to stock the lakes and streams of Minnesota was—and still is—an important state function and the site below Dayton's Bluff was an almost perfect spot for such activity. The hatchery utilized ponds to catch the flow of Willow Creek that came flowing out of the bluffs.

In addition the nearby Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad tracks that made it easy to ship fish throughout the state. By 1894, 1,212,000 Brook Trout and 31,600,000 carp or gold fish so universally ad-

mire.

August 16th.—Begun finishing the fence about the grounds to keep out the railroad marauders and protect our property from depredation.

December 29th.—Spawned the last of the brown or German trout, the fry of which we will keep for breeders until we have a stock from which to raise for general distribution.

The hatchery had started out on a few acres of rented land with a few hastily built structures. Even so, its importance was recognized and at an early stage and, according to one newspaper, “Minneapolis conceived the idea of purloining the hatchery and worked up a scheme prior to the 1901 legislative session” to do so.

The hatchery had started out on a few acres of rented land with a few hastily built structures. Even so, its importance was recognized and at an early stage and, according to one newspaper, “Minneapolis conceived the idea of purloining the hatchery and worked up a scheme prior to the 1901 legislative session” to do so.

It is but 1,300 feet from the park, but it would require a road-

way half a mile long winding from the top of the hill to reach it at convenient grade.

The 1901 annual report of the Park Board announced that 35 new acres were added to Mounds Park. “These acquisitions extend it eastward to the boundaries of the beautiful tract of 22 acres on which the State Fish Hatchery is now permanently established,” it said and proudly added that “for all practical purposes, when the contemplated road connections are con-

structed according to plans mutually agreed upon by the Game and Fish Commission and this board, become a portion of Indian Mounds Park, although not under the jurisdiction of this board.”

A newly planned Hoffman Avenue (today’s Mounds Boulevard) would extend through the park and would also “by an easy descent to the picturesque grounds of the fish hatchery. Here-tofore the Fish Hatchery has been very difficult of access by reason of the steepness of the only roadway to it through a precipitous ravine.”

A year later another annual report affirmed the goal of “the completion of the road through Indian Mounds Park to the State Fish Hatchery, much the largest and most expensive portion of which was graded... last year. The road,” it continued, “which has a grade of only a little over 4 per cent, is an admirable piece of road and landscape engineering, commanding a succession of charming and changing views along its winding course.”

The 1903 report: “The Fish hatch-

ery grounds, with their propagating ponds, fed by streams of pure water, gushing from the neighborhood hills, have for many years been an object of great interest to the public, but it was only accessible by a steep and difficult road, subject to frequent washouts, until the adjacent lands came under the jurisdiction of the Park Board, when it at once set about the construction of a convenient road of easy grade to the Fish Hatchery.”

This road was planned and con-

structed by Superintendent Nussbaumer. The route from the park to the hatchery below it revealed “a series of delightful views as it runs around the crests and slopes of the hill.” It was nearly completed... “It still remains to be adorned with trees and shrubbery and its naked cuts with turf. When finished, it will be one of the pleasantest driveways in the city.”

The Fish Hatchery now contained sixty-two acres. The city’s annual report described the “meadow-

land at the foot of the triangular sweep of hills... from whose bases gush the many copious springs of the purest water which flow directly or through pipes into the fish ponds. Of this large area, twenty-two acres was purchased a few years ago and donated to the state by citizens of St. Paul.”

There were two ways to get to the Hatchery from the park. There was “a fine carriage road of easy grade winding down around the sinister slopes of the hills and commanding charming views at every turn.” It leads to the central gate of the hatchery.

There had been a carriage road, but it went through a narrow ravine, was too steep for heavily loaded teams and often had washouts after a big rain.

There also was “a footpath through a picturesque ravine which forms a shortcut for pedestrians to the west-

ern gate of the hatchery” and “a still better and shorter one is to be made in the future.” When the city taxpay-

ers came to the aid of the hatchery “it was understood and expected that the state would make reasonably liberal provisions for the improvement of the hatchery... for nearly all its buildings are in a state of decay.”

“Hatchery” continued on page 5

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum
October 2007

A 1903 map by the Saint Paul Parks Dept. shows the looping carriage road (right of center) and several smaller walking trails that connected Mounds Park with the Fish Hatchery and its waterways down below. The pond (left of center) shown in Mounds Park was located where today you find a fire pit. Mounds Boulevard had not yet been built.

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In 1926 the road down to the Fish Hatchery was rebuilt to accommodate cars instead of carriages and the brothers of which some of us had never caught it.

"Once or twice during the summer, neighborhood boys would follow the cliffs along the bluff from Plum Street and generally clinging to the sides of the sandstone with hands and toes. Many promises were made to never again pursue such folly, but there would always be another time."

The Fish Hatchery is today a combination site of the Park and the Hatchery. Both were prompted by the increased use of automobiles. In 1923 the section of Mounds Boulevard through the Park from Thom to the post pavilion to East Street was paved. In 1926 the road down to the Fish Hatchery was rebuilt to accommodate cars instead of carriages and a new flight of stairs was constructed from the railroad yards to the top of the bluff. By the 1930s the ability of people to use those automobiles to travel further away for their recreation led to a decline of interest in trips to the Hatchery. However there were still visitors—some of them unwelcome—who were drawn to the fish—raising area. Some of them were adventure-some boys. "Who knows how many fish grated the family table because of a fish line down the pant leg of a bib overall of an adventurous boy?" one person later commented.

Accommodating the" whole families walked to Indian Mounds Park, thence down the long sandstone with hands and toes. Many promises were made to never again pursue such folly, but there would always be another time."

Red Earth is a postcard from the early 1900s showing the Willow Brook Fish Hatchery. The sign reads, "Visitors are forbidden to throw or put anything into the WATER or PONDS, disturb or frighten the FISH with sticks, cans or in any manner."

"Below the mouths, reached by a rugged pathway down the side of the bluff, the Cresco River is an invitation to explore the Willow Brook Fish Hatchery. In the ponds at the bottom of the ravine dwell thousands of trout and other game fish of all sizes and varieties, while in the buildings and hatchery rooms may be seen spawned and in fry stages of development."

"Millions upon millions of young fish are sent from this hatchery to restock the great river sliding lazily in the sunlight."

From a tourism pamphlet produced by the St. Paul Association of Commerce.
Dayton’s Bluff School Programs Celebrate Parent Involvement

By Mary Ann Cogelow

I once heard the story of a Hmong mother whose four children were highly successful in school. All of them gradu- ated from high school with honors and went on to get degrees in higher educa- tion. The mother did not speak, read or write English. When she was asked through an interpreter what she had done to help their children be so successful in school, she said that she always sat at the kitchen table with her children while they did their homework.

I wish I had asked more questions when I first heard this story. I suspect this mom was doing many things all day, everyday that supported her children’s ability to be academically successful. Since she didn’t have command of English, her involve- ment with the homework must have been limited. But I think her presence at the table during homework sessions sent her children at least three crucial messages: 1) you matter to me; 2) education is im- portant; and 3) I want to help you do well in school.

Every mom and dad wants his or her children to be successful in school and in life. Everyone wants to have a parent who can help his or her children succeed. Accord- ing to Carolyn Anderson writing in the Summer 2007 edition of Pacesetter, the news magazine of The Pacer Center, the “most accurate predictor of a student’s school achievement is how much the fam- ily encourages learning.” Unfortunately, many parents don’t know that they have the power to do a good job of supporting children’s learning.

Interestingly, the most crucial message parents need to send their children to support school success is not about 1, 2, 3 at A, B, C. It’s about love. All children need to believe that their parents love them and will always love them just because they are, not because of what they do or don’t do.

All Dayton’s Bluff Elementary School Programs want parents to understand the powerful role they play in helping their children succeed. The Early Childhood Family Education Program located in Dayton’s Bluff Elementary has been de- scribing parents as “the first and most important teachers” for more than thirty years.

Parents with children ages birth to school entrance have an opportunity to come to school once each week to play and learn together with their kids and to continue adult discussion with other moms and dads. They explore many ways to support their children’s development physically, socially, emotionally, and in- tellectually.

Project Early Kindergarten is beginning this school year with the first monthly take home package titled “School and Home – Partners in Learning.” The September package includes The Kissing Hand, by Audrey Penn. This story describes how wise Mother Raccoon helps her kinder- gartner discover a way to feel connected to her when she misses her while he is at school. (Wise Father Raccoons can use the same technique.)

The suggested follow-up activities for parents and children to do at home ex- tend the child’s growing abilities to lis- ten, to understand, and to expand on ideas in a book while they support the child emotionally. A brief note to the par- ents explains what the child is learning and what research says about it. The first “Welcome to School” handout ends, “When families help their child feel good about going to school, they are helping their child succeed in school.”

Dayton’s Bluff Achievement Plus El- ementary School offers many opportuni- ties for parents to become involved in their children’s school lives. Some of these are the Open House on September 20, 2007, “Student of the Month” assemblies, “Cook and Book” nights, parent-teacher conferences, “Family Involvement” events, informal conversations with Dayton’s Bluff teachers and stuff, partici- pation on the Dayton’s Bluff site council, and many chances to volunteer in the school.

All of the programs housed in Dayton’s Bluff Elementary offer parents many oppor- tunities to send the messages “you matter to me” (I love you), “education is important,” and “I want to help you do well in school” to their children. Look here for more specific suggestions about supporting children as learners next month.

Crime, Community Building In the Mounds Park Area

By Steve Trimble

The Mounds Park neighborhood is usually considered a pretty serene place to live. However, during the month of August it was the scene of a rash of bur- glaries. More than a dozen homes were broken into and what is assumed to be a small group of thieves stole cash, cell phones and other electronic equipment.

Thanks to an active e-mail network, people began to spread the news and urged people to keep a look out for suspi- cious activity. The crimes had a pattern. In most cases they cut through window screens to enter but there were also some unlocked doors.

What disturbed residents the most was the fact that many of the burglaries oc- curred when people were at home, often upstairs while their things were being taken in a quick in-and-out manner. In one case they did their looting in a kitchen while someone was sleeping on a couch in the living room.

A meeting was called at a Maria Av- enue house and overheard when almost a hundred people showed up to voice their concerns and to listen to police re- port and make safety suggestions.

There was finally a break in the case and one young man was arrested while trying to pawn some purloined property. He admitted he had stolen from seven houses. Some of the stolen goods were recovered in his mother’s Mounds Park residence.

It looked like he was going to plead guilty and receive a year in jail, but re- cently decided to plead not guilty in spite “Crime” continued on page 8

Dayton’s Bluff School District Forum
October 2007

Walk-a-thon Oct. 6
for Snow-Free Winter Walking

By Garry Fay, Walk the Bluff Coordinator

A Walk-a-thon for Snow-Free Win- ter walking will be held on Saturday, October 6th from 10 a.m. until noon. The Walk-a-thon will start at the In- dian Mounds Park Pavilion located at the Mounds Blvd. and Earl St.

What a Walk-a-thon? Winter walking the bluff is ham- pered by snow. Many people don’t shovel to make for comfortable win- ter walking. Our sidewalks and walk- ways are as local infrastructure and we are responsible for them. My g’pa was a small town mayor and his solu- tion to snow accumulations was, “July.”

There are many strategies to snow removal but it all begins with people taking responsibility for their own property and then reaching out to the community. Many people need us to do this vital work. From school kids, to grandparents, to the elderly who have chosen to give up driving, from moms with strollers to those who use canes or walkers to get about, the list is as long as our streets.

The streets speak to us. Listen and you will hear you community calling you into action. Become a local hero. We are seeking the combined efforts of many people to maintain our local walking infrastructure. Please join us and make for Snow-Free Winter Walking in your neighborhood.

One strategy is we can build com- munity as we create snow-free win- ter walking for our neighborhood. Here’s how: just as folks join together to get their alley plowed we can make snow-free winter walking possible by getting our sidewalks cleared of snow accumulations. It’s up to you and your neighbors to get this done.

Our Walk-a-thon is focusing on sev- eral routes in Dayton’s Bluff. What routes need to be done in your neighbor- hood? Naturally, you do your own sidewalks and help out those you know just as you would give their car a jump. What are the next steps?

The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council is putting up $500 in seed money for the project with another $500 to match donations. The seed money comes from the Walk the Bluff program which is funded by Blue Cross Blue Shield. The money will be used for the actual snow removal when we can’t get volunteer work and donated materials.

We are organizing to get groups who will offer snow removal labor, materi- als and equipment. We propose a slid- ing fee for the elderly and disabled. We ask that the able bodied and un- employed work to clear their own sidewalks or suffer an abatement from the city which can run into big money fast - Community building pow- ered by elbow grease, a carrot and a stick.

For details see our website http://www.daytonsbluff.org/Programs/WalkTheBluff/WalkTheBluff.html, call Garry at 651-772-2075 or email Garry@DaytonsBluff.org.
Don’t Forget to Vote on Oct. 15th For Your Community Council Representative

On Monday, October 15, 2007 polls are open from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. at 798 East 7th Street at the corner of 7th and Margaret. Come and vote for your representatives. A list of candidates will be available at the Community Council office.

Annual Dayton’s Bluff resident age 18 or over can vote. Voters can cast ballots for their Sub-district Representatives and for an At-Large seat. Write-in candidates are also permitted.

The Board of Directors totals 18 members of which 16 represent four sub-districts and two are At-Large positions. Sub-district representatives must be residents of that particular sub-district while the At-Large Director can be either a resident of Dayton’s Bluff, a business owner, or an operator of a Dayton’s Bluff business or organization.

All of the current Board openings are two (2) year terms.

Are you unavailable on October 15th? Absentee ballots maybe requested. All requests for absentee ballots must be received at the Community Council office by October 15th? Absentee ballots will be mailed by the Council at least seven (7) days before the election to the address on the request form. You can request a ballot by mail or you can pick up your ballot at the Community Council office by October 15th. All of the current Board openings are two (2) year terms.

Come to Vote and Stay for Our Potluck and Annual Meeting

The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council Election/Annual Meeting and Pot Luck will be held on Monday, October 15, 2007. All three will be held at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Center. Voting for your Community Council representatives starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 7:00 p.m. Be sure to come for the Pot Luck Supper, which starts at 6:00 p.m., bring a dish to share, and stay for the Annual Meeting and the results of the election. It’s a great way to find out what the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council is all about and have supper with some of your neighbors at the same time.

Some of the activities the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council has been involved in this past year include, Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Clean Up, Block Club Clean Ups, Block Clubs, National Night Out, Walk the Bluff, Greening Dayton’s Bluff and its plant swap, Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour, Arts and Culture Committee, Park Clean Up, Park Litter and trash pick up on East 7th Street, in the parks, and on some residential streets, a number of Land Use issues, and so on.

If you have any questions about the Community Council, the election, the potluck, and/or the Annual Meeting email Kari@DaytonsBluff.org or call Kari at 651-772-2075.

Your District Council President Has a Request… of You

By Walter Waranka, 2007 President Dayton’s Bluff District Council

Every time we turn around it seems something new is causing us stress and worry; from the tragedy of the I-35W bridge collapse to floods in southeast Minnesota. In comparison our neighborhood problems are not nearly as great as those things.

Personal safety cannot be taken for granted; in fact, we may wonder if we can feel safe in our own neighborhood. One of the biggest crimes, I feel, is when we become victims of those wrongs that are going on around us. If we let it, they can start to interfere with how we think and how we react to other things around us. I must say, for myself, it is a pretty easy mind-set to get into and it takes work to move beyond it. Instead of sitting around and wondering why and how, we should try our best to make a difference in our and others’ lives.

One way to make a difference is to get involved in the community. I would like to suggest one important way and ask you, as a resident of Dayton’s Bluff, to consider becoming active within your District Council. We can use your help in many ways. One possibility for you would be to fill a board seat that might open up during the year, or to join one of our action committees to make things better in Dayton’s Bluff.

The Council is involved in many different areas so you can easily find something that matches your interests and concerns. For example, you could contribute by:

- Keeping our neighborhood green
- Developing cultural events and opportunities
- Dealing with the concerns about va-cant and abandoned homes
- Working on business community con-
- cerns and issues related to business
- Operations and our community.

By working to keep our neighborhood safe and attractive places to live.

There are also other opportunities to help your neighborhood. We are even looking at possible new directions the Board can take to “Build up the Bluff.”

I would like to personally invite all of you to take some time to consider these opportunities and explore how you can help our community.

If there is anything mentioned above that caught your interest, or if you have other suggestions, please call the Council office at 651-772-2075. We are more then willing to help you to participate in any way and at any level of involvement you would like.

In closing, we have two choices to make when looking at the world. We can look at all the bad that is going on and let it negatively influence our lives, or we can work to improve our neighbor-

bors wherever we can.

Come out and become a part of your Dayton’s Bluff District Council. Your community needs you! And also come join us on October 15th for our potluck and annual meeting.

It’s Halloween on Dayton’s Bluff

By Nick Duncan

It’s All Hallows Eve on Dayton’s Bluff, and a strange, mysterious old man lays on his deathbed. Distracted over the recent death of his beloved wife, J. W. Yandes has taken his own life. A few days later J.W’s son will take his own life at his father’s grave. Both souls are doomed to haunt our neighborhood for all eternity. This is a true story. At least the part about the deaths of J.W. Yandes and his son. It happened in 1884. And though the newspaper of the time reported J.W. death being caused by ‘paralysis,’ it was long believed that it was suicide. Yandes had a big home and seven acre orchard and dairy farm a little east of where present day Mounds Boulevard inter-

sects 1-94.

Indeed, a neighborhood such as Dayton’s Bluff with such a long and rich history is full of macabre and ghostly stories like this. Talk to any long time resi-

dent of the Bluff and you’ll hear about the ghosts that haunt homes, parks, the-

atres and businesses all over the neigh-

borhood.

Amy Handford, who has lived on the Bluff for more than twenty years had her first run in with Dayton’s Bluff’s undead the first day she moved into her 1877 built Victorian home. Amy and her husband, an experienced carpenter, had plenty of work to do on their new fixer-upper.

“It felt like the house was fighting us,” remembers Hanford, “everything we did went wrong.” Finally, Hanford did some research and held a salt ceremony. She talked to the house and told it she wanted it no harm. The problems with the house ceased, at least for the time being.

The ghostly reapparance in Hanford’s house. Sometimes there were footsteps coming up the back stair-

way late at night, or mysterious shadows on the ceiling. From the bedroom, voices could be heard in the middle of the night, like the television was on. When Hanford went to check downstairs everything was silent. In certain rooms there was a strong smell of perfume for no apparent reason.

“One family owned this house from the time it was built until we bought it,” said Hanford. “The last family member to live in the house was an old woman who died here.”

Amy held another ceremony. This time it was a sage ceremony. Again, the ghosts vanished. But just last month new visitors arrived.

“I woke up in the middle of the night,” recalled a wary Hanford, “someone was yelling my name but there was no one there.”

If you’re looking for a paranormal happen-

ing on a dark and spooky Halloween night, or better yet on a sunny fall day with the trees in full color, here are some famous/infamous neighborhood sites where ghosts just may reside.

from throughout the region. When whites arrived the site became a park and the mounds that weren’t out and out destroyed (at one time there were 36 mounds now there are only 6), were pillared of any valuables, including human remains. Now they stand guard as the last shred of sacred land. Just take a walk through the park on a dark night; you’ll see what I mean.

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum would love to hear your Dayton’s Bluff ghost stories. Please contact Nick Duncan at 651-774-3459 or e-mail at nick.duncan@mbis.mnsu.edu.

Photo credits: J.W. Yandes and Margaret Street Police Station courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society Collections. Mounds Park Indian mounds photo by Nick Duncan.
Christmas is Getting Closer at the Mounds

Create or continue a holiday tradition at the Mounds Theatre. A Christmas Story is appropriate for all ages. Tickets to the play make a great gift for those “hard to buy for” individuals on your shopping list. Purchase your tickets now. Don’t delay and be disappointed.

**Performances:**
- Fridays, Dec. 7, 14 & 21 and Saturdays, Dec. 8, 15 & 22 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sundays, Dec. 9, 16 & 23 at 2:00 p.m.

**Tickets:**
- Ticket prices are $15 Adults; $10 Student/Senior (55+); and $5 Children (12 and under). Advance purchase group discounts are available.
- Visit www.moundstheatre.org for an order form or call 651-772-2253 and leave your name and number. Someone will call you back to take your order.
- The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106. Half block west of Earl St.

“Crime” continued from page 6

of the confession. Police also believe that he had at least three accomplices and while there are some suspects, further arrests have yet to be made.

There was a second meeting to follow up on the suggestion of forming block clubs and taking other measures to protect homes. This event was held at Crenceny (the old Marian Center) and around thirty people attended.

A wide variety of topics were covered. Crime was obviously a prime concern. The beat officer gave hints on how to protect homes and what do if a person sees suspicious activities in the neighborhood. One of the key long-term suggestions was the formation of block clubs. That way people get to know their neighbors, share information and look out for each other.

While other parts of Dayton’s Bluff have such organizations, until now there were none in the Mounds park area. They are now in the process of being formed. They will be self-defined and some may contain more than a single block. Ten block club coordinators have already volunteered and more are needed for the area south of I-94.

One of the specific items agreed upon at the meeting was the creation of a Neighborhood Walk Group, something modeled after such a program in the Newell Park area. Adults take turns walking around in the evening and at night making their presence known, getting to know folks and sometimes checking out trouble spots. This is one way to create a positive presence that deters crime and also builds a sense of community.

The need to develop a stronger sense of place and to promote community-building will be another important aim. Some suggestions were made—distributing an occasional newsletter, and having some seasonal activities, such as picnics and potlucks. Maybe there could be book clubs or sports groups or how about a talent show at the Mounds Theatre?

“My dad bought a red shooting star for me today to get me to stop walking around the neighborhood a lot!” asked one person. Some else suggested that something good might come out of this unfortunate turn of events. Many shared the feelings of one woman who said “It’s too bad it took a crime to get me to go to a meeting.”

If there is something you see that looks suspicious or you think a crime is in progress call 911 so there is a chance to catch people while things are going on. If you have questions or just want to talk to one of the police officers assigned to Dayton’s Bluff beat, there is a cell phone: 651-341-7637. If you live in the Mounds Park area (anywhere south of I-94) and want to get involved, please call Mary Petrie at 774-1502. For other parts of Dayton’s Bluff call Karin DuPaul at the Community Council office at 772-2075.