

Dayton's Bluff DISTRICT FORUM

Volume 21, No. 2

www.daytonsbluff.org

April 2008

Inside This Issue

Take a Hike	Page 2
Upcoming Home Tours	Page 2
Cub Scouts	Page 2
Access Saint Paul Corner.....	Page 3
Summer day camp	Page 3
Annual Spring Dinner	Page 3
Haunted overnight	Page 3
April Fool Stories	Pages 4 & 5
ECFE volunteer	Page 6
Your home's history	Page 6
The Regime	Page 7
W. B. Martin closes	Page 7
Got curb appeal?	Page 8
EXTRA connection	Page 8
St John "Power Hour".....	Page 8

Two neighborhood home tours this year



This spring there are two home tours in Dayton's Bluff - the Mpls./St. Paul Home Tour on April 26-27 (which includes this home at 56 Mounds Blvd.) and the Vacant Home Tour on May 3-4. See pages 2 & 5 for details. It's also time for the *Forum's* April Fool's Day issue. So don't worry too much about that fleet of flying saucers buzzing Dayton's Bluff but watch out for some of the stories inside.

**Second Eastside
Business-Community
Networking Breakfast**
Wednesday April 23rd
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
**Hiway Federal Credit Union
Community Room
840 Westminster St.
(just off Phalen Blvd.)
Speaker and Theme to be
Announced Later**

The first event was at the Mounds Theatre in Dayton's Bluff in January and attracted about 140 people, including Eastside residents and Business people, as well as government and foundation representatives. The sponsor for this second event is the Hiway Federal Credit Union.

These FREE events are organized by the Eastside Social Leaders Action Network (SLAN) as a way to promote and enable connections and possibilities on the Eastside of Saint Paul. For more info and directions, please go to www.daytonsbluff.org or call Ed at 651-772-2075.

Placeography.org makes preserving the history of places an online adventure for everyone

By Joe Hoover

"I remember driving up to Sears [on Lake Street] and thinking we had reached the Emerald City because of the green neon sign and the building that loomed up to the clouds." Ruby Rose Wilson was just a child when she first visited the Sears building on Lake Street in the 1960s. Its looming presence is still etched in her memory, but now those memories are available online for others to read.

The new web site Placeography.org developed and hosted by the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS), is a collaborative web site that allows anyone to create, edit and link to pages devoted to preserving the history of department stores, homes, farms, public lands or any physical place in Min-

nesota. Once an entry is created, others can add stories and memories, and even pictures. This kind of collaborative web site is called a wiki.

Just launched, Placeography.org already has hundreds of stories and photos posted by users on places across the state. From individual homes to the Sears Building on Lake Street, the goal of Placeography.org is to create a comprehensive historical database that includes both well known and lesser-known locations. Tracey Baker, Assistant Head of Reference, helped create the site and says she expects it to be really popular with individuals as well as organizations, including local historical societies, preservation groups, community councils and neighborhood and city development groups.

To create an entry users follow a series of prompts. A how-to page helps people get started. As much or as little information can be added and users can go back and edit their entry at any time. Those interested in re-

searching building history can get help from the MNHS library, through classes and reference assistance.

Older than the state itself, the Minnesota Historical Society is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1849 to preserve and share Minnesota history. The Society tells the story of Minnesota's past through museum exhibits, extensive libraries and collections, historic sites, educational programs and book publishing.

During 2008, the Society is commemorating Minnesota's 150th anniversary of statehood with Sesquicentennial events and programs including "MN150," the new exhibit featuring 150 people, places, and things that have shaped our state, on display at the Minnesota History Center.

Dayton's Bluff has a page started on this site www.placeography.org/index.php?title=DB. Watch for more on this in the future. For more information call Karin at 651-772-2075 or email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org.

**Dayton's Bluff District 4
Community Council
798 East 7th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55106**

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAINT PAUL, MN
PERMIT NO. 3996

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

Dayton's Bluff Preservation Evening May 8th

Do you want to learn more about repairing and preserving your home? Curious about your house's history? The Fourth Annual Dayton's Bluff Preservation Evening is May 8th from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The event will take place in the Ecolab Community Room, third floor of the Metropolitan State

University/Dayton's Bluff Branch Library, just west of the intersection of Seventh and Maria

Come and hear about historically sympathetic home preservation and repair.

"Preservation" continued on page 2

Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting

The next Community Meeting is **Thursday, April 3** 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.

Several months ago at the December Community Meeting the attendee's requested that we invite someone from the Fire Department to come and talk with us. Fire Chief Tim Butler and Deputy Chief Steve Zacarrd will be coming to our April meeting. Please come with your questions for them.

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 can get me the addresses of problems ahead of time I can get them to the police and 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.

Meet with the police

On **Friday, April 18** 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.

Take a Hike

Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike takes place on the first Saturday of every month. Meet at 10:30 a.m. in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Blvd. We will hike from Mounds Park to the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary then walk along the Bruce Vento Recreational Trail through Swede Hollow Park to the new Phalen/Arcade Park. Along the way we will share stories and learn some local history of the area. The hike is about 4 miles long with some moderately rough terrain. Transportation will be available to return to Mounds Park or you may hike back.

Join us and explore some of our parks and the Regional Trail. Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike started in Dec. 1990. Since then hundreds of people have attended these events. For more information, call 651-772-2075 or email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org.

Dayton's Bluff Recycling
Every Tuesday. Have your recycling on the curb by 7 a.m.
Call 651-772-2075 for a bin.

The whole family can enjoy Cub Scouts



The Cub Scouts do many things but few are as popular as the Pinewood Derby races.

By Joshua Yurek

This is Joshua Yurek who is back from, well...Let's just say I'm back from an overwhelming first half of my high school year. Anyway I've finally got that information on the whole Cub Scouts thing I was talking about the last time I wrote. I had a chance to go to the Cub Scouts' Pinewood Derby districts tournament. This is basically where the Cub Scouts do their racing after the race with their individual Troop. Scouts from all over St. Paul come here to race each other and try to win prizes and trophies. They also make really cool looking cars.

For people with kids who are looking for something to do, Cub Scouts is a great option. I, being a former Cub Scout and Boy Scout can say that it is a very good group to participate in. Cub Scouts do things like going camping, having den meetings where they learn skills they may need to know

later, and of course have the Pinewood Derby races every year.

Joining Cub Scouts can also help a family grow and give them something to do together. At the Pinewood Derby district tournament, many parents cheered their kids on to victory when their car was racing. Even when they lost they still had a good time. Shawn Larose, who is a dad to two Cub Scouts and was in charge of the districts tournament this year, said, "It's fun to see what cars the kids can build and race, and it's great to see the parents get involved and cheer on their kids".

As you can see Cub Scouts is a great option for kids and will help them learn in the future. This is Joshua Yurek reporting the "Cub Scouts Story" for the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*, all news for your neighborhood. That was kind of meant to be funny, oh well. See ya in two months!

Dayton's Bluff Home Tour Apr. 26 & 27

The 2008 Dayton's Bluff Home Tour will be held on Saturday, April 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 27th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Home Tour is free of charge and open to the public. This is the twelfth year that the Dayton's Bluff Community Council has hosted the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour. The tour includes the Dayton's Bluff homes on the Minneapolis/Saint Paul Home Tour (MSPHT) plus a number of additional Dayton's Bluff homes.

Jean Comstock, long time Home Tour supporter and Community Council board member, stated, "I look forward to the Home Tour every year. It's a great opportunity to see what my neighbors in Dayton's Bluff are doing with their homes—restoring, redesigning, redecorating, everything! It's especially gratifying when volunteering at a house to hear visitors from other parts of the Cities compliment the special houses we have here, acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the owners, and comment on the upswing of the area in general. Best of all, spending a few hours at the Home Tour always makes me look at my own house in different ways, imagining what I could do with it and encouraging me to get started. It's a

great place to see new ideas and get energized to do something with them!"

The following Dayton's Bluff homes are on the tour this year:

705 East 4th Street
*694 Surrey Street
243 Maria Avenue
*56 Mounds Blvd.
996 Burns Avenue
699 Frank Street
1216 Margaret Street
*619 Bates – Saturday only – Historic Saint Paul walk starts here on the hour.

* Also on the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour

Come to the tour to meet your neighbors and get some great ideas for your home.

The MSPHT is sponsored by the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and St. Paul PED. The Dayton's Bluff tour is hosted by Dayton's Bluff Community Council.

We can always use volunteers to help with the Home Tour. Volunteering consists mostly of greeting people at the door helping the homeowners for a few hours either day. If you're interested, please call Karin at 772-2075.

For more information on the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour visit www.DaytonsBluff.org and for the Minneapolis/Saint Paul Home Tour visit www.msphometour.com.

Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Tour - May 3 & 4

By Nick Duncan

The Dayton's Bluff Vacant Building Committee (DBVBC) is organizing a Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Tour to compliment the annual Mpls/St Paul City Living Home Tour. The goal is to showcase some of the vacant homes in our neighborhood and, hopefully, to find buyers for them.

The DBVBC was formed last year just as the early fallout from the sub prime crisis began to emerge. Initially, the group's goal was to provide neighborhood input on the city's decisions when to (or when not to) demolish vacant properties in the Dayton's Bluff area. The idea was to stop the city from tearing down vacant properties just because they were vacant.

The DBVBC is hoping the Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Tour will be the alternative to vacant house demolition. There are a huge number of historical Victorian era homes in our neighborhood. Homes of all sizes, some in move-in shape, some in need of a lot of work. The DBVBC wants to showcase a wide range of these homes. They want people to see the options available in our neighborhood.

Mark your calendars: The Vacant Home Tour will be the first weekend in May, Saturday May 3rd and Sunday May 4th, one week after the Minneapolis/Saint Paul and Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Tours.

Anyone who would like to help out with the tour or get involved with the Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Committee is welcome to join. We need your help. Please contact Karin DuPaul, at Karin@daytonsbluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

"Preservation" continued from page 1

Dayton's Bluff has a historic district, and many beautiful homes are in all parts of Dayton's Bluff. Neighbors have had extensive experience preserving and repairing their homes. Some of these neighbors will be on hand to speak about their homes and show before and after images.

If you have a historic home you want to preserve and research and don't know where to start, you can learn about researching your home and its previous owners.

Hear from experts in the field, who offer technical advice, assessment, and hard-to-find classes such as historic masonry.

We need your experience with this event. We are asking residents to bring their stories, pictures, picture boards, scrap books, etc. on big and little home repair projects to share. For the last two years residents brought photos, picture boards, and stories about kitchen, bathroom, porch, and whole house projects. Call Karin at 772-2075 or email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org if you have projects you would like to share with others or for more information.

This event is being co-sponsored by Metropolitan State's Center for Community-Based Learning, Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council, and the Dayton's Bluff Branch of the St. Paul Public Library.

4% and 6.875% Interest Home Improvement Loans

4% Interest					
Maximum Loan Amount: \$35,000					
HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMITS FOR 4% INTEREST					
1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons
\$43,050	\$49,200	\$55,350	\$61,500	\$66,400	\$71,350
7 Persons	8 Persons	9 Persons	10 Persons	11 Persons	
\$76,250	\$81,200	\$86,100	\$91,000	\$93,100	
6.875% Interest					
Household Income Limits: \$93,100 Gross					
Maximum Loan Amount: \$35,000					

Eligible Improvements

- A room addition or a new garage
- Roof replacement, a new paint job, or siding
- Septic system repairs or plumbing
- Accessibility improvements such as bathroom accessibility remodeling or building a ramp
- Furnace/air conditioning installation
- Upgrade or replace electrical wiring
- Energy conservation, including replacing windows and doors or insulating walls or attic space
- Many other repairs and remodeling projects

Terms and Eligibility: You can take up to 20 years to repay the loan

Home Improvement Deferred Payment Loans (Limited Funds Available)

Repayment Terms This loan is secured with a mortgage at zero percent (0%) interest. Loan repayment is deferred until the borrower sells, transfers title, or no longer lives in the property. Depending on funding sources available, the loan may be due in thirty (30) years.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMITS FOR DEFERRED PAYMENT LOANS					
1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons
\$28,300	\$32,350	\$36,400	\$40,450	\$43,700	\$46,900
7 Persons	8 Persons	9 Persons	10 Persons	11 Persons	12 Persons
\$50,150	\$53,400	\$56,650	\$59,850	\$63,100	\$66,350

Eligible Improvements Basic and necessary improvements that directly affect the safety, habitability, energy efficiency, and accessibility of your home. Correction of lead-based paint hazards is required.

Saint Paul Home Loan Fund

Tchu.Yajh@ci.stpaul.mn.us 651-266-6592



Don't Lose your Home to Foreclosure



Facing foreclosure can be a stressful and complicated time.

Contact us today for **FREE** counseling to help you learn about the steps necessary to keep your home.

Stay in your home and remain part of your Saint Paul community!



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention
25 West Fourth Street, 12th Floor
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-6626

Para información en español comuníquese con Neighborhood Development Alliance (NeDA) **651-292-0131**



Summer day camp at Mounds Theatre

The Portage for Youth, housed in the Historic Mounds Theatre will launch a new summer day camp program this year, featuring 2 tracks. Track 1: Theatre and Dance (ages 8-13) or Track 2: Photography and Video (ages 13-17).



The Program is free and open to both boys and girls. Activities will take place at the Historic Mounds Theatre, home of the Portage for Youth, 1029 Hudson Road, Saint Paul, MN 55106. The application deadline is June 1st or until all sessions are filled. For additional information or to request a registration form, email raeann@theportage.com or call 651-772-8674 or register online at www.theportage.org.

Limited transportation is available to East Side youth through the Circulator (a free bus service).

COME JOIN US FOR A WEEK OF SUMMER FUN.

*For those of you who remember the old Portage for Youth logo, we have changed the logo to meld with our new location, the Historic Mounds Theatre – "Building Solid Community Leaders through Arts and Cultural Enrichment".

Dayton's Bluff annual Spring Dinner

The Dayton's Bluff Spring Dinner Event will be held on **Saturday, May 17, 2008**. This event started in 1995 and has been a great opportunity for neighbors to meet and greet. This annual dinner originated as a means for people in the neighborhood to get together, socialize, and just have a good time! Participants are from the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood area. The more people that participate in the event, the more the event has to offer. Host homes are particularly needed in order for the event to be successful.

If you are interested in receiving a flyer giving more information about the Spring Dinner Event, please contact the event coordinator, Margie Smith, at 651-778-1075. Please note that this event is intended for adults living in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. We look forward to another exciting year of dining together in the neighborhood!

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum
Wants Your News, Photos and Articles Concerning Our Neighborhood
Contact Karin for more info at 651-772-2075

Greening, garbage, and grade school?

That's right, it's that time of year when the snow begins to melt, the flowers start looking skyward, and the garbage rears its ugly head! What can you do to help? How about joining your neighbors at Metropolitan State to help prepare new trash cans donated by Budget Towing, to be painted by fourth graders at Dayton's Bluff Elementary. The Dayton's Bluff Greenspace Committee, District 4 Community Council, Metro State University, and Dayton's Bluff Elementary are joining together to get our streets ready for spring. We need your help on **April 19** from 9 – 11 a.m. to help prep these cans. The more people the faster it goes! For more information on how you can help, call Karin at 651-772-2075. or e-mail Karin at karin@daytonsbluff.org.

Plant Swap and Sale

The fifth Annual Greening Dayton's Bluff Plant Swap and First Lutheran's Annual Plant Sale will be held on **Saturday, May 17**. Look for more information in the *Forum's* May issue.

April at the Mounds

Watch for a new play from Hometown Theatre at the Mounds Theatre in April. These are the folks that brought you *War of the World: The Musical* and *Rockin' at the Sock Hop* so you know it's going to be fun and a little bit weird. For more info visit www.hometowntheatre.org or www.moundstheatre.org.

Spend the night in a haunted theater

The Historic Mounds Theatre is billed as one of the most haunted places in the Twin Cities. Maybe it is and maybe it isn't. Now you can find out for yourself... if you dare.

As a fundraiser for the Portage for Youth, which has its home in the Mounds Theatre, two overnight stays on Saturday June 7th and Saturday June 21st are being auctioned off.

In addition to spending the night the lucky winners will get to participate in a mini psychic investigation with the Minnesota Ghost Hunters Society.

All bids for the auction must be submitted by May 1. For more details visit www.moundstheatre.org or call 651-772-2253.

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 also available. Include the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* in your advertising plans.
Contact Karin@daytonsbluff.org Or call 651-772-2075

Dayton's Bluff DISTRICT ENQUIRER

Volume 21, No. 2.5

Published sporadically since 1980

April 1, 2008

New Dayton's Bluff toll road opening soon

April 1, 2008 - Get ready to keep some extra change in your car in the future. You may need it while driving through the neighborhood a year or two from now. There was a small provision tucked away in the new transportation bill passed over the veto of the Governor. And it is related directly to the East Side.

In a little known paragraph, the Minnesota Department of Transportation was directed to turn East Third Street into a toll road. The conference committee members said that it was done to add some money to the coffers for transit projects around the Metropolitan area.

The Bluffway, as it will be called, will start out at the foot of the Third Street Bridge on the eastern edge of downtown and go through to McKnight with several entrance and exit spots to be determined. The inconvenience that would be caused was a major concern. To make the Bluffway a major four-lane arterial, parking would be eliminated. "We need to get people around the metropolitan area quickly," a planner said, "so we are hoping that residents will see that the greater good will be served."

The cost of driving through each segment has yet to be determined, but will probably be in the area of fifty to seventy five cents. "These are streets we need to use and have already paid for," one outraged resident said at a meeting.

"It's not all that much, and we need more money for the state roads and bridges," a speaker said. "Besides, there is a provision that residents and students attending Harding High School will be able to get discounted rates."

"The Dayton's Bluff-Battle Creek toll road is a vital pilot project," a city planner said at a meeting. "If it works out as well as Minnesota Department of Transportation officials told us, many more neighborhood toll roads will be added throughout St. Paul."

Ghosts threaten to leave Mounds Theatre

April 1, 2008 - According to their spokesmedium Madam Grimaldi, the ghosts of the Mounds Theatre, purportedly a projectionist, an usher and a little girl, are upset with conditions at the Mounds and are looking for a new place to haunt.

Chief among their complaints is the lack of visits by local residents. "They've been residing in the Mounds all these years because they like the neighborhood and the people who live here," channels Grimaldi. "However, very few neighborhood people attend events at the Mounds and they don't like those stuck up, latte-drinking, highfaluting suburbanites who keep showing up. Worse yet, many of them come from Minneapolis and some are even cheeseheads from Wisconsin."

Another complaint is all the noise and disruption to their daily routines caused by plays and other live events. Not surprisingly, the projectionist, who may or may not be named Dennis, is most nonvocal in expressing his desire to see movies return to the Mounds. Although obviously retired from the projection business himself, what with being dead and all, he still wants the projectors to be running and to see moving pictures on the big silver screen. The usher wants the seats to be full again and the little girl just wants to watch movies although she was very disappointed to hear Shirley Temple is no longer making films.

Don't be alarmed if your home or place of business is visited by one or more noncorporeal beings in the near future. The ghosts of the Mounds Theatre may be checking out your place for their next earthly abode.

Does Lyman Dayton haunt Daytona Beach?



An auto race literally came to a crashing halt when this image appeared in the clouds over Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Florida. Local residents had no idea who it was but two Dayton's Bluff residents visiting the Speedway immediately identified him as Dayton's Bluff founder Lyman Dayton. Research revealed that Dayton had real estate holdings in the Daytona area back in 1865 but lost them in a crooked card game. Shortly afterward he vowed on this deathbed to get revenge. Apparently he meant it and now his stern visage regularly disrupts races at the Speedway.

Rare snail slows Hamm's rehab

April 1, 2008 - Recently the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood has looked with favor upon the big plans being made for a new Asian center ready to use the old Hamm's Brewery as their new headquarters. But now something quite small is threatening the progress of the large project—a snail.

Not just any snail—a newly discovered species called "Yeast Mold Snails." The Community Council has been sponsoring tours of the brewery buildings and, by chance, a Metropolitan State University biology professor went on one and made the astounding discovery. He is planning to name the new species Molluskahammus, in honor of the beer that was responsible for its creation.

It seems that many years ago the snails probably crawled out of the old Phalen Creek, got into the brewery and began living on an unusual yeast mold that grew underneath the boiling vats. Somehow they were able to survive and even thrive in what would appear to be a very inhospitable environment.

The Discovery Channel found out about this important find and is planning a television segment. According to them, these hop yeast-snails are an example of what are now being labeled "extremophile"—species that live in extremely harsh situations such as deep vents in the ocean.

Meanwhile, the neighborhood is faced with a classic development versus environment dilemma—an East Side version of the old "snail darter fish" dispute in California. There are ardent supporters on both sides of the argument. Environmental activists have gone to court for an injunction and until the controversy is settled, the DNR has said no construction at the site can occur. Some people have been suggesting that the snails might be relocated to another brewery, but none of the ones contacted were interested and there is a question of whether these special mollusks would survive such a move.

Another possibility is the dedication of one of the floors to a "Yeast Mold Snail Interpretive Center." The Metropolitan State University student association recently suggested taking on the discovery as an official mascot and selling "Metro State Snails" tee shirts.

As this paper goes to press the Capital Investment conference committee at the State Legislature is considering whether to grant several million dollars for the establishment of a pan-Asian center in the old brewery. Unfortunately, because of this current dilemma a project that once seemed to be on the fast track is now moving at, well, a snail's pace.

Airway Beacon accidentally sold on eBay

April 1, 2008 - Last fall an employee of the Metropolitan Airports Commission was cleaning out some old files that were supposed to be thrown away. She spied something that looked a little unusual and took a closer look. There before her was a map and a sketch of a tower overlooking the St. Paul Airport and a lot of legal looking phrases. As an eBay participant, she thought this was something that could be auctioned off for a little money.

Within a few days, there it was, listed as an interesting tidbit of historic aeronautics. At the end of the week it had been bought for eleven dollars. It was only later that the true value of the document was discovered. It was, in fact, the actual deed for the land on which today's Airway Beacon stands. St. Paul had transferred title of the small slice of land in Indian Mounds Park and allowed the St. Paul Downtown Airport to either own it or transfer ownership to another entity.

And that is exactly what has happened. A sharp-eyed real estate agent realized the true nature of the deed, bought it and then resold it to a firm for a huge profit. The new owners, AstroAdvertising, have big plans for the beacon. They will be adding signage to the metal structure. They will also be experimenting with a new technology they have developed and use the revolving light somewhat like a giant PowerPoint presentation to transmit huge digital advertisements. The looks will be somewhat similar to that in the new lighted billboards along the freeway. However, these will project images against downtown buildings, the bluffs and metal flood-wall across the river and even against the clouds above.

St. Paul's City Attorney is looking into the legality of such advertising. The Council will soon be holding a hearing as to whether the land under the beacon should revert to the Parks Department. Meanwhile, AstroAdvertising and its raft of lawyers is working to rebut the Airport Commission's allegations that the eBay sale by their now-fired employee was illegal. However, there are rumors that they may agree to the company's purchase if they are cut in on the profit.

Open pit mining in the neighborhood?

April 1, 2008 - By now most readers know that 3M has announced a total pullout from Dayton's Bluff. But what is going to happen to the acres and acres of land? A secret memo from a company employee who lives in this community was recently leaked to the *Forum's* crack research staff.

The document reveals that an Iron Range company will be sold all the land as well as the mineral rights. When 3M came to the Dayton's Bluff area in 1910, they made sure they had control of any metals or other valuable extractive material below the surface. They never did any digging themselves, but they retained the ability to do so.

GroundRip, the corporation that may soon be in control, apparently believes there are enough valuable minerals to strip mine the area north of East Seventh Street between Arcade and Forest. In an email to the *Forum*, they say that open pit mining would be the only economically viable approach if a few environmental variances would be given by the state.

When called, a GroundRip spokesman refused to confirm or deny the purchase, but did say that such a project would be of great benefit to the neighborhood, providing much-needed employment.

So what might the future bring? After the dirt is dug away, the hole might develop into a tourist attraction as an urban lake. Another possibility was that it could be used by nearby Vertical Endeavors as a unique climbing venue.

According to the secret documents, the sell off of the land and the mineral rights should be completed by early summer. Because they will have severed any connection to the mining portion of their Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing heritage, the long-time East Side corporation will soon be known as 2M.

Mounds Park Treasure Hunt uncovers odd stuff

April 1, 2008 - As widely reported by other Twin Cities media outlets that didn't take January and February off, the 2008 St. Paul Winter Carnival Treasure Hunt medallion was found in Indian Mounds Park in January. But after the *Forum's* staff awoke from its winter hibernation, its drowsy but intrepid reporters managed to find a new slant to the story.

The treasure hunters turned over a lot of snow in their quest for the medallion and in the process unearthed other treasures. Most important to some neighborhood folks was the discovery of the winter lair of Moundsfoot, the diminutive, hirsute creature first reported in this paper in April 2006. Local residents who have reported Moundsfoot sightings in the past were mocked by supporters of Bigfoot because unlike Bigfoot, no credible evidence has ever been obtained of Moundsfoot's existence. This time photos of the creature, its underground cave and footprints were all obtained. Unfortunately, those photos were downloaded to a PC and were lost when it was updated to Windows Vista the next day. Researchers returned to the site but by then all trace of the creature had been destroyed by rampaging crowds of treasure hunters.

A number of other items were also found but these were of considerably less importance. These included: the fabled lost treasure of Lyman Dayton, 12 cases of 50-year old Hamm's beer, an engine from Amelia Earhart's airplane, Al Capone's real underground vault on the site of the old Burlington Hotel, the fossil remains of a previously unknown dinosaur, and Jimmy Hoffa's wallet. More details to follow in future issues of the *Forum* if time and space permits.

2 Opportunities to Explore the BLUFF! -

2008 DAYTON'S BLUFF NEIGHBORHOOD HOME TOUR

- When: April 26-27 (Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 p.m.) and (Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
- The Home Tour is free of charge and open to the public.
- Dayton's Bluff homes on the tour:
 - *705 East 4th Street
 - *694 Surrey Street
 - 243 Maria Avenue
 - *56 Mounds Blvd.
 - 996 Burns Avenue
 - 699 Frank Street
 - 1216 Margaret Street
 - *619 Bates – Saturday only - Historic Saint Paul walk starts here on the hour.

* Also on the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour

JOIN US FOR THE FIRST EVER VACANT HOMES "POSSIBILITIES TOUR!"

- When: May 3-4 (Saturday, noon-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m.)
- The Home Tour is free of charge and open to the public.
- Free Trolley rides to homes.
- The tour starts at 761 East 3rd Street.
- Come experience the wonderful housing opportunities in Dayton's Bluff.



With creativity and imagination, "Possibilities" can become reality - Let us show you how! arh

This ad is no April Fool's joke! Don't miss these two great tours!

For more information email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Forum is downsizing

April 1, 2008 – Astute readers have probably already noticed that this issue of the *Forum* isn't as large as last month's. In a move following other nationally known newspapers such as our own *Saint Paul Pioneer Press*, the board of directors of the *Forum* decided to reduce its carbon footprint and help save the world from global warming by reducing the amount of newsprint used for each edition.

Starting with this issue and continuing until the end of the year, this paper will be reduced one half inch in both width and height each month. So as to maintain as much content as possible, text size and photos will be reduced proportionally. While this could make the paper more difficult to read, we have been assured by experts that by gradually reducing the text size each month, readers' eyes will be able to adapt to the smaller print. Because experts can sometimes be wrong we will be including a free magnifying glass with our October issue.

Because the *Forum* will be much smaller there will be a corresponding reduction in the quantity of paper recycled in our neighborhood. This will result in an increase of state recycling fees by approximately \$10 per household. This is a small price to pay for saving the planet. But our good deeds will not go unnoticed. Al Gore promises to visit Dayton's Bluff during National Night Out this August and thank each of us personally.

Mounds Park to secede from Dayton's Bluff

April 1, 2008 – The Mounds Park neighborhood, or *Prestigious Mounds Park* as it is now being called, is in the process of disenfranchising itself from the rest of Dayton's Bluff. Ever since this part of town was "Rondo'ed", first by the construction of Highway 12 in 1948 and then by I-94 in the 1970s, Mounds Park has tried to distance itself from the portion of Dayton's Bluff located north of the freeway.

"What was once a single neighborhood connected by a grid work of streets is now divided into two distinct regions separated by a gaping concrete chasm," stated a spokesperson for *Prestigious Mounds Park*. "There is no reason to continue this sham that we have anything in common with those people to the north."

As soon as all the legal technicalities are worked out *Prestigious Mounds Park* will become Saint Paul's first gated community. Gates will be constructed at various locations on Earl St., Burns Ave and Mounds Boulevard. Limited access will be granted for those visiting Indian Mounds Regional Park. The park will open at noon and must be vacated by 7 p.m. each evening. Special holiday hours are being discussed.

Letter to the Editor

G. B. LeRoy is on his soapbox again

April 1, 2008 - Ever wonder why the East Side is never treated as well as the neighborhoods to the west of downtown? [Editor's note: Because we have less money?] At the risk of being repetitive [Ed. note: Too late!], I have to comment on information in recent *Pioneer Press* articles regarding the way that the school district is dealing with *Homecroft Elementary School*, located a bit south of the Highland Park neighborhood.

Like our former Parkway School [Ed. note: Here he goes again], *Homecroft* was faced with academic problems and a declining attendance. However, the *Homecroft* people were allowed to have some say in what was going to happen.

While the school's eventual outcome is still in doubt one thing is certain—the parents there were treated incredibly better than they were in Dayton's Bluff. If you remember [Ed. note: You won't let us forget], there were no public meetings until the one that let the parents know that Parkway was being shut down.

One of the school board members tried to justify the shabby treatment by suggesting that there was no need for a public hearing since the school was "not being shut down," the building was only "being re-purposed." Where in the world did they come up with that linguistic run around? [Ed. note: Prolonged exposure to politicians?]

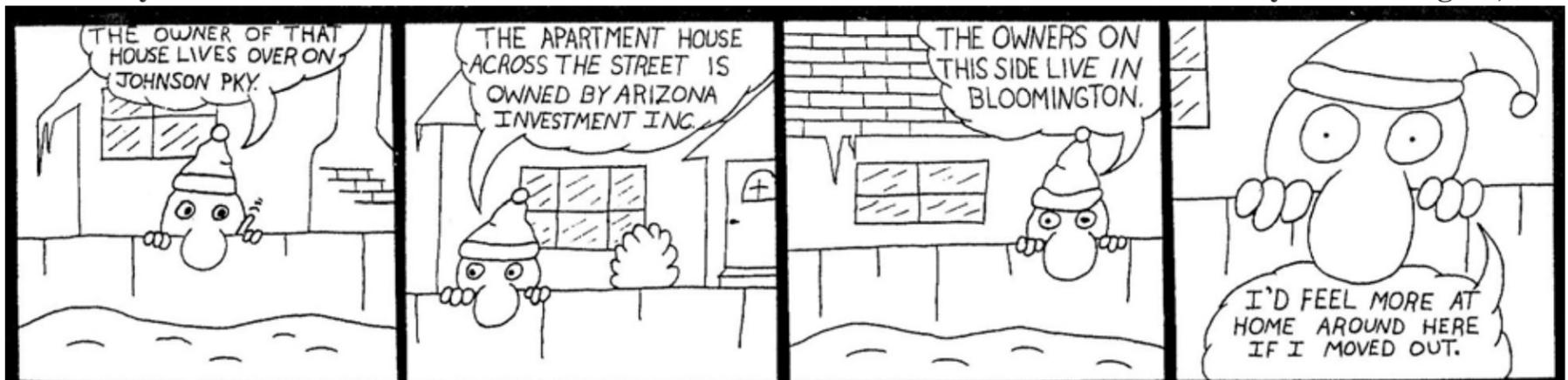
As my grandmother used to say, "There's no use in crying over spilt milk." [Ed. note: If it feels good, do it] But I do think this neighborhood should do a little more demanding and try to change the way the East Side is generally treated. Let's try to keep open the recreation centers and schools still remaining in Dayton's Bluff. Perhaps someone should make tee shirts that say "Remember Parkway!" [Ed. note: Not quite as catchy as "Remember the Alamo!"]

G. B. LeRoy

[Editor's note: I'm sorry G.B. Please ignore all previous editor's notes] Dayton's Bluff Resident [Curmudgeon] [Ed. note: Oops, I did it again. Sorry!]

Life in Dayton's Bluff

By Glen Blomgren, Sr.



Editor's Note: This cartoon by Glen Blomgren, a past editor of the *Forum* who recently passed away, was first published in April 1990. Not much has changed in 18 years.

Volunteer celebrates volunteering at Dayton's Bluff Early Childhood Family Ed program



A former United States president described volunteers as "points of light." Dayton's Bluff Early Childhood Family Education program sparkles with them!

By Meg Gronau

I certainly didn't set out to "volunteer". I didn't reflect upon the goodness welling in my own breast and say, I must share myself with Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)!

I didn't even know ECFE, really — when I'd given birth to each of my kids, I'd received ECFE handouts in the hospital, but as mom with a full-time job and a sizable support network of friends and family, I didn't think I needed ECFE.

But then I found myself at home with my kids during the day. And we took outings to the Children's Museum, local parks, Como Zoo, plus play dates with friends. But as the summer of 2007 wore on, I began to wonder if my kids could benefit from some more structured group activities. I spoke with a friend of mine who had been delighted with her own experience in the ECFE program at Randolph Heights, so I started to look into ECFE.

I chose the Wednesday morning Birth-to-Five-Years class at Dayton's Bluff, and when I heard there was an identical class on Thursday mornings and a need for volunteers, I hatched an idea.

I could attend the Wednesday class AND commit to volunteering at the Thursday class! My kids would get to play with "new to them" toys twice a week, in addition to getting some extra socialization, and I wouldn't have to brainstorm ways to keep them entertained in the morning.

So that's what I do. I bring my kids to class on Wednesday mornings; we read books and sing songs as a group before the children go to their rooms and we parents head to the parents' room for snacks and lively discussions with the parent educator, Mary Ann Cogelow. On Thursdays, we do our reading and singing, and then I say goodbye to Ruby (my three-year-old daughter) and take Max (my two-year-old son) into the younger kids' room.

I play with Max, and when he wanders off, I play with the other kids. I read books, sing songs, pick up the occasional toy, mediate the occasional conflict, wash eight-to-twelve pairs of little hands, and pass out innumerable graham crackers and goldfish. I get to watch Max interact with other kids in a neutral environment; I get to watch him interact with authority figures who aren't related to him. I chat with the other teachers in the room, trying to learn as much as I can from them.

Ruby, then, gets the true preschool experience of being separated from Mom two mornings a week (at a public school price! This is the best little secret!). She

has bonded with the teachers in her room as well as with the other children in her classes — when we're getting dressed in the morning, she's always asking what Lily and Maddie are going to be wearing. I am so happy that she gets to play with her fantastic teachers two mornings a week.

And Max gets, if he wishes, some serious undivided Mom time. As the younger child, his ideas for play are often vetoed at home by Ruby's strong personality. And I don't know about you, but playtime at my house is rarely carefree for me — there's always laundry in various phases of completion, or a meal in various stages of preparation or cleanup. My volunteering time is pure pleasure.

The ECFE teachers are exceptional educators and wonderful people. When a child starts crying (and I volunteer in the "birth-to-three-years" room, so it happens) they are right there with hugs and comforting words. They are authoritative — clearly reiterating the rules and redirecting behavior when necessary — without being authoritarian or punitive. Their love for children is clear, and their training is right on the cutting edge of early childhood education.

One of the really powerful elements for me is learning about child development and family dynamics in the parent class I attend on Wednesday, and then seeing that same principle applied in class on Thursday. The consistency of the curriculum and the communication between Cogelow and the classroom teachers is impressive. A few weeks ago in my parent class we were talking about speaking to young children in positive terms: telling them what you want them to do, instead of saying "don't" to stop a given behavior. The very next day, a child in my room (I won't name names, but it starts with a M and ends with an X) began walking up the slide. Instead of saying, "Don't walk up the slide," I tried "Remember to go up the steps, please" instead. I felt empowered and educated — and I got the response I needed. As the parent of two under four, any kind of affirmation that I'm doing the right thing is a huge boost to my morale.

And with me as an extra grownup body in the room, there are always plenty of us whenever any child needs some quiet cuddle time in the rocker, or with a book, or in the stroller. Young children, I believe, need immediate attention when they need it. For lots of the children, ECFE is their

"Volunteer" continued on page 7

Discovering your home's history

By Nick Duncan

When Amy Handford agreed to show her home on the Dayton's Bluff Parade of Homes she wanted to include a brief history of her house for tour attendees. But where to begin? Handford was fortunate in that her home had been included in a historical review of the Dayton's Bluff district done in the early 1980s, so she knew something of its past. "When we bought the house all we knew was the name of the family that had built it and the year it was built," said Handford. "The historical review gave us some very good information but nothing too detailed. I talked to some family members of the past owner and they gave me some information but I wanted to know more."

Like Handford, many of us would love to know more about the history of our homes. When was it built and by whom? How much did it cost to build? What did the original owners do for a living? Where were they from? What did your home look like 100 years ago? Was the second floor layout always that way or did someone do some remodeling at some point? Was that back bedroom always a bedroom or did it used to be a pantry? Was that garage originally a horse barn or was it built later? Remember, there were no cars 100 years ago. By researching the history of your home it may be possible to answer some of these questions.

Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood

Most of the homes in our neighborhood are built on a tract of land originally developed for residential use by land speculator Lyman Dayton in the 1850s and 1860s. Dayton's Bluff quickly grew from a small colony of well-to-do businessmen, who built large homes along the ridgeline overlooking downtown St. Paul, to a mixed income development with homes of a wide range of styles and sizes stretching well eastward from the river bluffs.

If you live in Dayton's Bluff chances are that your home was built in the later part of the 1800s or early in the 1900s with the oldest homes generally being located nearer the Bluff itself. In the late 1800s Dayton's Bluff was considered one of the preeminent neighborhoods in St. Paul. Many of the city's most wealthy and influential citizens called Dayton's Bluff home. This included Railroad magnet James J Hill who resided on Dayton's Bluff in the 1890s while his famous mansion on Summit Avenue was being completed. At the same time, the 1880s saw St Paul's population explode. An influx of immigrants from Germany, Ireland, and Scandinavia flooded into the city. Many of these new Americans also built homes on Dayton's Bluff, although, at a much more modest level than their wealthy counterparts.

The diversity in home size and home style is easily Dayton's Bluff's most noticeable architectural characteristic. A quick drive down any street in our neighborhood and it will quickly become apparent that Dayton's Bluff is truly a melting pot of architectural style. One notices that on virtually every block there are one or two large Victorian style homes sandwiched between a variety of smaller houses in an assortment of architectural styles and characteristics. But, regardless of your home's size or grandeur, there is a very good chance that it has a rich and interesting history.

Getting Started

So how do you begin your house history research? There are a variety of resources available right here in St Paul. We talked to some experts and have outlined some resources for beginning your research.

Building Permits

"The best starting point when researching your home's history is with the building permit," says Jim Sazevich, St Paul's preeminent House Historian. From 1883 forward every house built in the city of St Paul required a Building Permit. 90% of these permits still exist. The building permits include information on everything from dates of construction, original dimensions of the house, and additions to the house. The Ramsey County Historical Society now holds the permits. But, in order to obtain a copy of the original building permit for your home, you must first get the Building Permit number and year of construction from the City of St. Paul License-Inspections and Environmental Protection Office (LEIP) at 350 St. Peter Street, Suite 330, in downtown St. Paul.

Once you have obtained the Building Permit number and date call 651-222-0701 to request the copy. The Ramsey County Historical Society charges a \$12.00 fee for each permit copy you request.

Abstracts/Deeds

Another important source for discovering the history of your house is the home's abstract. The abstract is the document that records all legal transactions associated with a given property. A lot of valuable information can be gained just by examining the abstract. Not only can you find out who owned a certain house, when and for how long, but many times you can also find out who built the house and if and/or when it has undergone extensive renovations. It's a very good source to begin to find out more about the people who once inhabited your home. Most people were given the abstract of their home upon its purchase. If you're a homeowner you already have access to your home's abstract. If your home does not have an abstract and is Torrens property, you can look up documents pertaining to the history of your home and lot at Ramsey County Property Records and Revenue Department at 50 West Kellogg Blvd.

City Directories

There are city directories for St. Paul going back as far as 1856. These directories are far more than your run of the mill telephone books. They list the names of all the adults in a household along with their professions. From 1929 forward the city directories even "cross index" so one can look up a listing by address not just the last name of the occupant. These directories are a great source if you want to know more about the past owners of your home. The Minnesota Historical Society Library has St Paul Directories going back to the 1860s. They also have an early but selective directory, the Dual City Blue Book, which also has a reverse index. The Library has those directories for the years 1885-1923. MNHS Library is located in the Minnesota History Center at 345 Kellogg Blvd and is open to the public. It is the single best resource for discovering your home's history.

Census Records

If the city directories don't provide enough information on the past residents of your home maybe it's time to check out the census records. Every ten years from 1790 forward there was a federal census taken across the country. For the years 1850 to 1930 these census records are on microfilm at the Minnesota Historical Society Library.

Tracey Baker, MNHS Librarian and resident House History expert encourages researchers to look at the census for their house. "In the census you'll learn about how many people lived in your house, where they and their parents were born,

"Home history" continued on page 7

The Regime

Dayton's Bluff Rec Center Teen Group

Through My Eyes

Laqueshia Moran, age 14, Battlecreek School



Hi, I am Laqueshia. I am 14 years old. I have been a resident of the Dayton's Bluff area for 12 years. I am very excited to be a participant of the Regime Teen Club. I like to go by "Lady Regime". My goals for this group are to help make my community become a pleasant place. I also feel that the club will attract other kids in the area off the streets, and allow them to have a safe place to hang-out. With my bubbly personality and outspoken characteristics, I feel I can serve as a positive impact to other teens who want to come to the group activities. My passion is acting and I hope one day I can write a skit and we can have the performance at the Rec. I also look forward to one day becoming a teen coordinator or Mentor for the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center.

Upcoming Events

- Meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Rec Center.
- Open Group Topics
- Cooking



The Regime Team includes (from left to right): Jasmine, JJ, Dohneshia, Zina, Richie, Denario, Tiffany, Laqueshia

Dayton's Bluff Rec Center Starts New Teen Group

The Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center has started a new teen group. Participants have named the group "The Regime," representing the control they have of their own lives.

The group, for students in 6th-12th grades, aims to inspire teens in building healthy lifestyles and skills to build positive relationships in our communities. Led by adult leader Tiffany Washington, the group will guide teens to the road of becoming productive and responsible citizens.

The group, has already started the blueprint for their teen room, the members met and agreed on colors, furniture and designs that they wanted and now, the teens are excited to begin the re-facing of "their" new meeting space.

The Regime • Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center • 800 Conway St., St. Paul MN 55106 • 651-793-3885

Long-standing Dayton's Bluff family-owned business closes its doors after 87 years

By erin sobaski

W.B. Martin Lumber Company is part of Dayton's Bluff. Its location at the corner of East Seventh Street and Johnson Parkway has been home to the family-owned business since 1921. Serving contractors and do-it-yourselfers alike, the company succeeded due to their personalized service and ability to fulfill special orders that the "big boxes" (large chains such as Menard's and Home Depot) don't have.

Unfortunately those "big boxes," along with the current housing foreclosure crisis, have driven the company to close its doors as of February 1, 2008. Although it was a heart-wrenching decision, third-generation president Richard Hoppe, who grew up on Johnson and Sixth, says, "I'm ready. It's tougher and tougher to make money."

History

The W.B. Martin Lumber Co. started in 1921 with one building and one shed, after Wallace B. Martin left the Stanton Lumber Company to start his own business. It grew through the years, even surviving World War II when suppliers carried them along. The company has only known three presidents: W.B. Martin, Howard Nelson (Hoppe's uncle) and Hoppe, who has been president since 1996—although he has worked there for 57 years. "I've seen customers my *dad* used to wait on," said Hoppe.

"Family" in the family-owned business, also includes employees. The

average tenure for staff is 21 years. Bookkeeper Florence Kulisheck, age 77 and long-time Dayton's Bluff resident, has worked at the lumberyard since 1948 when she graduated from Mechanic Arts High School. It has been her only job and she speaks highly of her employers.

Why leave?

Back around the 1950s, there were 15-20 lumber companies in existence in St. Paul, most of which were family-owned. W.B. Martin was the last independent lumber company to survive. But now they are out, too.

According to Hoppe, older patrons rely on high quality and loyalty. But younger consumers simply go by price, so the big conglomerates are more attractive. "Pretty soon," says Hoppe, "there will be no small businesses around."

In addition to the Menard's on Prior Avenue, Hoppe mentioned that an 84 Lumber store might be opening in St. Paul. According to 84 Lumber, there are no plans for a store in Minnesota, although two are scheduled to open in Wisconsin (outside Madison and Green Bay).

What's next?

The company has a loyal set of customers, mainly general contractors. They are all upset over the closing. One of the main services missed will be the custom mill shop, which was popular with local residents restoring their historic homes.

As for Hoppe, he extends his thanks to customers and employees for being loyal, and wishes them all well. And what will he do now? "I may go golfing eight days a week."

"Home history" continued from pg. 6 their ages and occupations, " says Baker. "It's amazing to discover that a house you consider cozy was once a home to a family of eight children." She adds.

Plat/Insurance Maps

Over the years there has been a number of detailed maps of St Paul. These maps, mostly made by insurance companies like the Sanborn Company, include detailed drawings of every structure within the city. This includes the Dayton's Bluff area. If you want to see the footprints of your home 100 years ago or if you want to know if the porch was originally open, this is the place to look. Again, these maps are available on microfilm at the MHS Library.

Newspapers

Over the years St Paul has been home to a variety of newspapers. This includes citywide papers along with local community papers. Sazevich points out that included in the pages many of these newspapers are a variety of articles that can be very helpful in your home history research. Events such as births and deaths are recorded and, in many cases, new buildings and even the doings of certain local architects were reported on. Again, these papers are available on microfilm at the MNHS Library.

Photos

The Minnesota Historical Society has photographs of many houses. To search the collection you can visit the Library or view their Visual Resources Database online (<http://collections.mnhs.org/visualresources>). The Ramsey County Historical Soci-

ety also has some photographs of the neighborhood. If at all possible, talk to previous owners, neighbors or long time Dayton's Bluff residents. There's a good chance you're home made the background of at least a couple of pictures in someone's family photo collection.

This certainly is not a complete list of sources for researching your home's history but hopefully it will offer a good stepping off point for you to begin your work. Most of these resources are free and open to the public. The Minnesota Historical Society Library is open Tuesday 12-8 and Wednesday thru Saturday 9-4.

"Volunteer" continued from page 6

very first opportunity to be separated from their parents in an organized setting. I'm proud to serve alongside these teachers to make that transition as gentle and comfortable as possible for everybody.

Cogelow, who has taught the parent class for 33 years, says, "Without volunteers of many kinds - classroom helpers, writers, fundraisers, computer whizzes, advocates, and much more - this ECFE program would be a ghost of its current self." Every Thursday, the teachers take a moment to thank me for being there. I feel welcomed and appreciated and positively blessed — so much so that I honestly forget that I'm technically "volunteering." I'm a more involved and informed parent than I was before I "discovered" ECFE at Dayton's Bluff. Being able to double my time there, by volunteering, has given me back so much more than I ever expected.



Size-Matters Fashion Shop
Fashion Wear & Custom Alterations

Helping People Dress The Way They Want

851 East 7th Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55106
651-793-4922

Bring in 6 items get one free!

Business Hours
M-F 9:00 am to 7:00 pm
Sat 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sun Closed

Mee L. Thao
Tailor & Owner

**Think
Globally
Sew
Locally**

**Think
Globally
Shop
Locally**



Metro Liquor Warehouse
(651) 774-6033

Mon - Thurs 9am - 8pm
Fri - Sat 9am - 10pm

854 E. 7th Street
St. Paul, MN 55106

“Got curb appeal?” No? Here’s how to get it!

By a Dayton’s Bluff resident

Have you ever driven by a house and wanted to slam on the brakes? No, not because it looked so bad that you needed to get the house number so you could call it into code enforcement, but because it looked so great! Why did this particular house stop you in your tracks and get your attention? Maybe, your house has been on the market and you’re not getting people to stop by to even look at your house. Maybe you just want your house to just look better. How do you get your house to have “curb appeal”?

Here are a few hints that hopefully will be helpful in your quest for “curb appeal:

- *Change the color of your front door; Burgundy, black, white, dark green, burnt orange or deep red are popular. The front door should be the focal point of your house.
- *Add shutters or repaint existing ones; Usually the same color as the front door.
- *Pressure wash the siding if it’s dirty.
- *Paint the house if needed or at least the trim; Colors chosen should work well with the shingle color. You could drive around to find color combinations you like.
- *Add pots of flowers next to the front door.

- *Plant some bushes or flowering shrubs.
- *Trim existing shrubs.
- *Add a wreath to the front door to welcome people.
- *Add flowerboxes: Fill with evergreen branches in the winter.
- *Add a large doormat by the front door.
- *Add low voltage lighting by entrance.
- *Add plastic edging around landscaped beds. Curved lines usually work best.
- *Buy fresh woodchips for landscaped beds; deep colored chips available.
- *Trim the bottom branches from your trees so your house is visible from the street.
- *Trim the dead tree limbs or limbs that are close to roof.
- *Mow the lawn, get rid of weeds and fill in any bare spots with seeds.
- *Replace torn screens.
- *Spray paint the mailbox.
- *Replace hardware including door handle, kick plate and house numbers.
- *Buy new lighting fixture at door entrance.
- *If you have a front porch, add outdoor furniture such as a table and two chairs.
- *Clean the windows; Make it sparkle.

Most of these hints don’t cost a lot of money but they do make a big difference.

“Preparing Children for a Life of Learning”
ALL children at Concordia Creative Learning Academy will be prepared for success in high school and beyond - without remediation.



Concordia Creative Learning Academy Is A NEIGHBORHOOD School That Provides Your Child...

Opportunities To Express Individuality and Creativity in a multicultural setting.
Art, Music and Physical Education offered daily.
Individualized Attention From All Teachers and School Staff.
Family Involvement In Your Child’s Learning Experiences.

Free All Day Kindergarten!! Free Breakfast and Lunch!!
Free Before and After care!! 15 to 1 Class size
STOP BY ANYTIME FOR A TOUR
Now accepting Enrollment for Grades K-8 NO TUITION !!
Concordia Creative Learning Academy
930 Geranium Avenue East Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106
651-793-6624 www.cclaonline.org

An EXTRA connection to Dayton’s Bluff

In addition to the *District Forum*, we now have a new e-newsletter, the **EXTRA**. The goal of the **EXTRA** is to keep you informed of happenings in Dayton’s Bluff between issues of the monthly newspaper. It’s free and easy to sign up. Just visit www.daytonsbuff.org and click on the link on our home page. You can unsubscribe at anytime. If you have previously subscribed but haven’t received your issues, be sure to check your “spam” settings and allow our address to come through to your inbox. Sign up today for your **EXTRA** connection to the Bluffs!

“Power Hour” at St. John Lutheran School

St. John Lutheran School presents the free “Power Hour” **every Thursday, now through May**. The “Power Hour” is for children 5 years of age or younger, accompanied by an adult. Activities include Bible stories, songs, crafts, etc. For more information, call Debbie at 651-776-0761.

Also taking place is “Christian Education Sunday” on **April 20**. There will be a 9:30 a.m. service, followed by a potluck and entertainment.

St. John Lutheran School is located at 771 Margaret St., Saint Paul, MN 55106. We can be reached by phone at 651-776-2763.

Disclaimer: Some articles in this issue were written in the spirit of April Fool’s Day. They were not meant to offend or upset anyone. If you were offended or upset, we are sorry that you lack a sense of humor.



Now OPEN



From the re-creators of the **Town Talk Diner** and the former Executive Chef of **Muffuletta**



The new meat and fish house in East St. Paul
www.domeats.com
1 (877) DO-MEATS

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

798 East 7th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-772-2075
FAX: 651-774-3510
E-mail: karindupaul@comcast.net
Monthly Circulation: 6,500.

Also available online at www.daytonsbuff.org This is a publication of Hopewell Communications, Inc. and is intended to provide a forum for the ideas and opinions of its readers and to be an instrument for developing community awareness and pride. No material contained in this paper may be reprinted without consent of the editor. Articles and letters to the editor are welcome and may be emailed to KarinDuPaul@comcast.net or faxed to 651-774-3510. The *Dayton’s Bluff District Forum* is delivered to every home in the Dayton’s Bluff area. Outside this area, subscriptions cost \$12 and may be arranged by calling 651-772-2075.

Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul and Steve Trimble
Editor & Layout: Greg Cosimini.
Next issue: May 2008. Deadline for material: April 5, 2008.