National Night Out in Dayton's Bluff

Over 18 gatherings of local residents to share food and good conversation took place on August 7 for the annual neighbors’ night out. In the city of St. Paul, NNO has been an annual event on the first Tuesday of every August for the past 28 years. It is a citywide celebration that helps to build stronger, healthier, neighborhoods with the quality of life that everyone desires and deserves. The neighbors we meet help to build stronger neighborhoods throughout the year.
Dayton’s Bluff District Forum – Upcoming events & opportunities  September 2012

Watch the glow of the setting sun, then enjoy a cookout
by Karin DaPaul Community Organizer
Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

Come and join the delight of hearing stories and songs from former Swede Hollow residents and Hamm’s Brewery employees at the annual “Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery” event hosted by Friends of Swede Hollow (FOSH).

The event will start at 6:30 pm on September 29 and everyone is welcome to attend. Meet at the Henge in Swede Hollow Park near the Dreyer Lane and Beamont entrance to watch the setting sun.

Witness the sunset firsthand, and see the bright glow of the brewery building. After the sun sets, the evening cookout and socializing begins. Former Swede Hollow residents and Hamm’s employees share memories of the good old days of living in the Hollow and working at the brewery. In past years, Joe Sanchelli and his daughter Nancy have entertained everyone with Italian songs and stories about life in the Hollow.

FOSH is a nonprofit organization that works on Swede Hollow issues, plantings, cleanups, education, history tours, and events. For more information, please send an email to karin@daytonsbluff.org or call 651-776-0550.

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

- Teen and Youth open gym
  Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays: Ages 13 & under, 6:00-7:00 pm; Ages 14-18, 7:00-8:00 pm

- Boys’ Group, ages 11-17, every Tuesday

- Girls’ Group, ages 12-17, every Thursday

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

- Basketball Skills for ages 6-14, every Thursday from 6:00-7:30 pm for nine weeks, starting September 20.

- FREE ARTS
  Beginning September 27, every Thursday evening from 6:00-7:00 pm.
  Availability is limited.

- Rec Check
  Beginning the second week of September

Questions? Call us at 651-793-3885

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

Stop by and check us out!
Italian Opera in Swede Hollow

Come to an Italian opera in Swede Hollow on September 22 at 4:00 pm. Enter Swede Hollow Park at the Dreyer Tunnel at Beaumont and Dreyer Lane, one block south of Payne Avenue and Minnehaha next to HOPE Community Academy. Mixed Precipitation presents Idomeneo, re di Creta (King of Crete) in the beautiful park along Phalen Creek that was once home to hundreds of immigrant Italian families.

Mixed Precipitation's adaptation, The Return of King Idomeneo, directed by Scotty Reynolds, brings the myth to life on the urban streets of mid-century America. Hometown heroes of Crete are returning, victorious, from the long and bloody Trojan War. Idomeneo barely recognizes the town that he left. Mozart's epic music comes to a 1950s street corner with a unique mash-up of passionate arias, exciting chorus, '50s doo-wop and '60s girl groups. This magical story is family-friendly and full of adventure. Chef Nick Schneider’s five-course sampling menu of locally-grown treats is created especially for the performance.

To reserve your seats, call 612-619-2112. Audience is encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets to sit on.

This September at the Historic Mounds Theatre
by Raucci Bath, Executive Director

1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106
www.moundstheatre.org

BAUMAN FINE ARTS MUSIC SERIES BEGINS SEPTEMBER 16

The Bauman Fine Arts Series was established in 1989 by HPCUCC long-time member and East side resident Charlie Russell in honor of Quentin and Helen for their 50+ years of service to Hazel Park Church. The series is dedicated to bringing diverse fine arts experiences to the church community and the surrounding neighborhood.

Blessings of the Animal Service Gives Praise

The human-animal bond is a special one. On Sunday, September 30, at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary, 1821 East Minnehaha Avenue, St. Paul, a free-will offering will be collected. The Bauman Fine Arts Series was established in 1989 by HPCUCC long-time member and East side resident Charlie Russell in honor of Quentin and Helen for their 50+ years of service to Hazel Park Church. The series is dedicated to bringing diverse fine arts experiences to the church community and the surrounding neighborhood.

REduced-price Groceries Available

Hazel Park Congregational United Church of Christ is a distribution partner for Fare For All Express, a cooperative food-buying program that offers fresh produce and quality meats at a savings of up to 40 percent off retail prices. The cooperative buying program is open to everyone, with no qualifying requirements or pre-registration. Fare For All groceries are available for purchase on select Wednesdays each month from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the church, located at 1831 East Minnehaha Avenue, St. Paul.

Upcoming drop-in distribution events are September 5, October 3, October 31, and November 28. The Regular Pack is $20 and contains three or four frozen meat items such as turkey, beef, chicken, or fish plus potatoes, onions, carrots, two varieties of fresh fruits, and two additional varieties of fresh vegetables. Distribution events surrounding holidays may include packs with ham, turkey and/or pig and other holiday foods.

SACRED HEART CHURCH FALL FESTIVAL

Kermesse del Sagrado Corazon

Sunday, September 9, 2012
9 de Septiembre, 2012
2012 East 6th & Arcade Streets
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Authentic Mexican food & American food
Comida Mexicana y Americana

Music, dancers, games for all ages, pull tabs, raffle & more.
Musica, danzas, mago, juegos para niños y adultos.

Huge Garage Sale
Venta de Garage
Saturday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Sunday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

For more information, call 651-776-2741

Artability Art Show

The 18th annual Artability Art Show and Sale comes to the Historic Mounds Theatre at the end of September.

The People Incorporated Artability program involves a summer-long series of writing and workshop courses, culminating in a three-day show in the fall to celebrate the creativity of people with mental illness and the contributions they make to society.

In 2011, more than 400 people attended our 17th annual art show, which featured the paintings, sculptures, and other creations of more than 100 artists. Artists sell their work at the show and receive 90% of the profits, with the remaining 10% going back to support the Artability program. Writers

Volume – The Summoning of Dragons – is missing from the Library's shelves.

To the rescue comes Captain Vimes, Constable Carrot, and the rest of the Night Watch, who, along with other brave citizens, risk everything, including a good roasting, to dethrone the flying commerce and restore order in Ankh-Morpork (before it's burned to a crisp).

A rare tale, well done as only Terry Pratchett can. This will be the third Terry Pratchett production at the Mounds Theatre. "Guards! Guards!" will run September 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22 at 8:00 pm and September 8, 9, 16, 23 at 2:00 pm. Tickets on sale now at www.moundstheatre.org.

This September at the Historic Mounds Theatre
American Indian Family Center wins $50,000 remodel from Maxwell House

by Mark Gallagher, Forum intern

On August 7, the American Indian Family Center, located at 579 Wells Street in Dayton’s Bluff, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate winning $50,000 in renovations from Drops of Good: the Maxwell House Community Project competition. The event featured Mayor Chris Coleman, Congresswoman Betty McCollum, and Maxwell House emcee Cory Provine. The ribbon was cut by Minnesota Twins Hall of Fame pitcher, Brad Radke.

How does a world-class right-hander get involved with the American Indian Family Center? “Maxwell House has been filling in on what they have been doing with Drops of Good, not only here but all over the country,” Janice LaFloe said. “It was great pitching here for 12 years, and it’s a great opportunity for me to come back and give back to the community.”

The American Indian Family Center, located at 579 Wells Street, has become a haven for Native Americans living in the Dayton’s Bluff community. Janice LaFloe is the Development and Marketing Director. “Sixteen years ago, the St. Paul Ramsey County Children’s Initiative began the first step to have neighborhood family centers become one-stop-shop places for families,” she said.

Back in 1996, St. Paul was looking to build eight family centers. Janice says, “The American Indian community stepped forward and said, ‘We would like to build a [nonprofit] family center, but we want it to be culturally specific and only serve the Indian community.’”

The American Indian Family Center was nominated by Rebuilding Together-Twin Cities, which partners with Maxwell House to give the award. The Dayton’s Bluff location was one of three winning community centers. Of the 10 nominated centers, Janice said, “We were the only Indian and only Minnesota agency competing. It’s pretty cool; we certainly appreciate...[the] opportunity.”

What does winning the grant mean for the center? The Indian community has been working to understand its needs and challenges. The biggest challenge involves health, especially diabetes and childhood obesity.

With all these concerns, the American Indian Family Center plans to use most of its $50,000 grant to renovate their lunchroom space, and renovate their existing kitchen into a training kitchen. “One of the first things in addressing diabetes is a lot about understanding healthy foods, learning how to cook nutritiously, and making some of those changes in behaviors around how our families choose to eat,” Janice said. “The teaching kitchen will allow us to demonstrate that. They will install a cooking station with a much larger refrigerator.

We are going to put in at least one stove. Rebuilding Together, are the rehab experts. They’ll take a look at this space and decide [what] it needs.”

Renovation of the kitchen and a bathroom were started a few weeks earlier by professional contractors, and they are about 80 percent complete. On the morning of August 7, 70 volunteers from Maxwell House and about 15 volunteers from Rebuilding Together were painting and stenciling the outside of the building, planting shrubs, landscaping, and other tasks to make the building look its best.

“We have a partnership with the University of Minnesota Extension Services,” Janice said. “They have a ‘Simply Good Eating’ project where they come out and teach a lot of food nutrition along with their food expertise.”

Students who use the training kitchen will learn how to cook Native American as well as American style. The Science Museum of Minnesota initiated a project about how to grow the “Three Sisters Garden,” involving one group of typical traditional foods: beans, squash, and corn. “There are naturally growing foods that we want to just help families connect with, so they will understand how it once was in our diet as Native American people,” Janice said.

Part of the grant will also be used to create a handicapped-accessible bathroom upstairs at the center.

Brad Radke was impressed with the efforts. He added, “I would like to thank Maxwell House and Rebuilding Together. It has just been a great experience for me—seeing, firsthand, people out working hard for the project. It’s definitely a great organization to be involved with. “It brings a lot of hope to the people, and that’s what this country needs—everybody working hand in hand and helping each other out.”

“The American Indian Family Center’s mission is to provide American Indian families with programs and services enriched by traditional American Indian values and culture,” Janice said. “The family center is a place where American Indians thrive.”

Mark Gallagher is a professional writer and editor and a graduate of Metropolitan State University. Mark can be reached at refineEditorial@gmail.com
St. John’s is NOT closed
by Greg Cosimini, Trustee, St. John’s Catholic Church

Contrary to what you may have heard, St. John’s Catholic Church at 5th and Forest Streets is not closed. It is still open here in Dayton’s Bluff, just as it has been for the past 125 years.

The confusion is understandable. The announcement was made in October 2010 that St. John’s would be merging with St. Pascal’s. Many mergers in the archdiocese did occur fairly soon after their announcement, but this one isn’t scheduled to take effect until July 1, 2013, unless the parish runs out of money before then.

To make matters even more confusing, the St. Paul Pioneer Press erroneously reported earlier this year that St. John’s would be closing in July of this year. St. John’s has exhausted all earthly avenues to appeal its closing, so its members are now appealing to a higher Authority through prayer. But it is also true that God helps those who help themselves, so the parish is also working to improve its financial situation.

Some of the efforts are fairly mundane, such as asking parishioners to increase their weekly donations, contacting inactive and past church members who haven’t donated in awhile, and continuing the effort to rent the school building. Another suggestion was to increase awareness that St. John’s is still an active parish, thus this article and accompanying ad. And there will also be fundraisers.

Parishioner Gary Stucci kicked things off by holding his own one-man fundraiser. He took it upon himself to make a 37-mile “Walk for St. John’s” during the horribly hot and humid weather of this past July. Fortunately, he survived his trek and raised over $3,000 for St. John’s.

There will be a rummage sale held in the church hall September 27-29. On Sunday, October 7, church members belonging to the VFW will sponsor a pancake breakfast with silent auction. All events are open to the public. Alumni should contact St. John’s for more information. Don’t want to wait? St. John’s will gladly accept donations at any time.

St. John’s Catholic Church is located at 977 East 5th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106. 651-771-3690, stjohns@stjstp.org or www.stjstp.org.

Hoping the weather isn’t an omen

St. John’s is NOW 300% closer. That population is expected to grow 30 percent in the next 20 years. From 2010 to 2011, St. Paul’s population grew .4 percent which was the second highest percentage growth in the metro area. The existing lanes on I-94 are not adequate to accommodate future population growth in the east metro and the Gateway Corridor will help relieve these challenges. The Gateway Corridor will improve mobility, provide a cost-effective, economically viable transit option, support economic development in the region, protect the natural environment, as well as preserve and enhance the quality of life for residents and businesses in St. Paul.

After the proposed options are narrowed down, the next step is to assess the environmental impact of each option. For more information on the Gateway Corridor, visit www.thegatewaycorridor.com or the Gateway Corridor Facebook page.
CLUES: Sowing hope for immigrants in Dayton’s Bluff
by Kelly Lundeen, Dayton’s Bluff Arts and Culture Committee

It’s so interesting how people come here and they carry this hope, this desire to do things, and they’ve already worked out this grand plan. “I want to be a volunteer in a hospital. After that, I am going to study to be a nurse.” They have their entire life planned; their families enter and that’s why they come to the United States. The majority of our clients come from. “The majority of our clients come from this neighborhood... The neighborhood has changed, and CLUES has changed with it. More immigrants that arrived in Swede Hollow in the mid-1800s, when there was no one around for many years CLUES has changed to meet the needs of the community.”

CLUES: Sowing hope for the immigrants
by Kelly Lundeen, Dayton’s Bluff Arts and Culture Committee

Es bien interesante como las personas vienen aquí y tienen esta esperanza, estas ganas de hacer cosas y ya tienen sus grandes planes. “Yo quiero ser voluntaria en el hospital. Después voy a estudiar para ser asistente de enfermera, y luego voy a estudiar para ser enfermera.”

Tienen toda su vida planeada, a pesar de que tienen hijos y que son nuevos inmigrantes en este país en y en Minnesota. “Sin embargo el sentido de que “si te puede, de que yo puedo hacer esto,” está allí.”

Teresa Ortiz, CLUES, Comunidad Latina Capacidad para Educación

CLUES, Comunidades Latinas Unidas in Service, is an organization dedicated to making the quality of life of the immigrant community in Minnesota. Provide services in English and Spanish for services to any age. The neighborhood has changed, and CLUES has changed to meet the needs of the community. More immigrants that arrived in Swede Hollow in the mid-1800s, when there was no one around for many years CLUES has changed to meet the needs of the community. More immigrants that arrived in Swede Hollow in the mid-1800s, when there was no one around for many years CLUES has changed to meet the needs of the community. More immigrants that arrived in Swede Hollow in the mid-1800s, when there was no one around for many years CLUES has changed to meet the needs of the community.

CLUES: Sowing hope for immigrants in Dayton’s Bluff
by Kelly Lundeen, Dayton’s Bluff Arts and Culture Committee

We are so lucky to have such an organization here welcoming new immigrants and helping them make their dreams reality. Take advantage of this nearby treasure. A new session of free English as a Second Language classes will begin on September 17. You can go directly to the office at 797 E 7th Street and register on Thursdays at 12:30 pm or at 6:30 pm. For more information about any of their services or to stop by their office, call (651)379-4200, or see www.clues.org.

Survey finds strong support for redeveloping Vento sanctuary building
by Sarah Clark
Lower Phalen Creek Project

The brick warehouse building next to the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary is a familiar site in the community, highly visible from the Kellogg Bridge, Mounds Blvd and I-94. Vacant for many years, the building was purchased by Saint Paul Parks and Recreation in late 2008 and work to remove soil contamination in the area wrapped up in 2011. A nonprofit group, Lower Phalen Creek Project, has long advocated for an interpretive center here, and recent planning with St. Paul Parks and Recreation and other partners confirmed initial support for renovating the warehouse for an interpretive center as well as other uses that complement the park.

The planning team launched an online survey this summer to gather broader feedback and more than 225 local residents, employees and visitors weighed in. The result? Over 75% of respondents selected renovating the building as their preferred option for the area. (Other choices in the survey included tearing down the building, building a new interpretive center or adding phased improvements.) The renovation would provide a place “to view the Vento sanctuary, to dream,” people said, and create a place to celebrate the unique environmental and cultural resources here.

“Don’t tear down the old building” was a plea expressed by many taking the survey, including one person who added, “as the Dayton’s Bluff community promotes preservation of historic houses, so should the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary.”

Lower Phalen Creek Project and Saint Paul Parks and Recreation are moving forward to identify sources of funding as well as potential partners and tenants. They are also working to organize events and activities to enliven the area, which was identified as a priority gathering place along the Mississippi River in the recent Great River Passage Master Plan. Visit www.lowerphalencreek.org for updates and be sure to “like” the sanctuary on Facebook.

Celebrate the Sanctuary Saturday, September 29

The Trust for Public Land, which played a major role in securing the land for the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, will celebrate its 40th Anniversary on Saturday, September 29 starting at 11:30 am at the Mounds Park Overlook. To RSVP contact Meg Shoemaker 651-999-5313, Meg Shoemaker, meg.shoemaker@tpl.org.

The festivities move down to the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary with guided tours as well as arts events sponsored by the Lower Phalen Creek Project, including river flag making with Kinship of Rivers and art demonstrations by local “plein air” landscape painters.

Instead of watching TV, make TV!
If you have the desire to produce television to express yourself, to get your point across, to help your neighbors, or to change your community for the better, we can help.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum – Neighborhood news September 2012
A month or so ago, I paid a small amount on eBay to get around 50 old matchbooks. What convinced me to bid was the fact that there were seven from Dayton’s Bluff businesses—in the “old days” they used to give them away as advertising. You don’t see that any more, or do you?

We want you to send in any memories you have of these places. Please. They don’t have to be earth-shattering thoughts. This is the sort of thing that people do on Facebook pages. Let’s have some short responses that could be printed in the next issue of the Forum.

One of the older matchbooks is probably from the Pabst Blue Ribbon store, which said it had been in business since 1886. The Victorian commercial building, although altered, still stands at 800 Margaret at the corner of East 7th Street. Bulletin points inside advertise “fresh foods, bakery & delicatessen, meats, fancy groceries, hotel meat supplies.” It has been closed down for some time, but maybe some reader went there as a child.

Another older-looking matchbook was from Saurth & Marchal Rec. at 1066 East 7th Street. Its telephone number was “Tower 9266”—before there were all numbers.

Spanky’s Saloon also operated at 1066 East 7th Street in later years. Their matchbook carries a numeric phone number and leaves one to wonder what kind of music might be “better than live.” The sketch of Spanky’s (of Little Rascals movie fame) on their wall got them in legal trouble and had to be removed. Remember when it appeared as “Charlie’s Bar” in the 1980s movie “That Was Then, This Is Now?” Did you hang out there? The Earl and 7th Street structure is gone, along with Viaduct Inn, another casualty of the St. Paul Port Authority’s “bring in the bulldozers” approach.

Then there is a matchbook from Brozek’s Super Market at 999 Hudson Road. During the Great Depression, “good old John Brozek would let us charge groceries,” one man said in an interview. Remember when there were banks in Dayton’s Bluff? One of them was First Merchants State Bank at 7th and Minnehaha. Their matchbook reads “11 Group of Banks,” since the local company had been bought by a chain.

Another financial institution—now also gone—was Minnie-Mine Credit Union at 848 ½ East 7th Street, which started “Serving Employees of Minn. Mining & Mfg Co.” in 1954. Inside it has a “sample loan schedule” showing the difference in total interest you would pay on a $100 loan, depending how many months you took to pay them back.

The last matchbook description is the only one of the businesses that is still around, and it remains a favorite of many Dayton’s Buff residents. This one reads “Savoy Inn pizzas” with their still-current “sample loan schedule” showing the difference in total interest you would pay on a $100 loan, depending how many months you took to pay them back.

Thank you, St. Paul Garden Club!

Garden Club grants to the Lower Phalen Creek Project are greening the community with plantings in Swede Hollow, Eastside Heritage Park and the large raingarden at the Bruce Vento Regional Trailhead at Payne Avenue and East 7th Street. Volunteers, St. Paul Environmental Services and Community Design Center interns, including the young man pictured here, are assisting with planting.

Block Nurse Program by Carolyn Heim

The Dayton’s Bluff Seniors Living at Home/Block Nurse Program helps elders with services including: advocacy and information on housing options, nutrition, transportation resources, in-home assistance (chores), and financial assistance programs, independent living, care coordination, and caregiver support.

Dayton’s Bluff Seniors partners with many programs that assist seniors and other community members, including Parkway Gardens Wellness Center, the University of Minnesota at Wilson Hi-Rise Wellness Center, Project Awareness, Merrick Community Services, and the Love Grows Here Wellness Center.

If you need our services or know someone who does, or if you would like to volunteer or make a tax deductible donation, please visit our website: www.daytonbluffsieniors.org or call 651-776-7210 ext. 303. If you live outside of the Dayton’s Bluff area, call the Living at Home Network at 651-649-0315 or 1-800-320-1707.
People in your neighborhood
People make up the fabric of Dayton's Bluff. Who makes a difference to you? Email editor@daytonsbluff.org.

“Must’ve been a riveting article,” comments Brea Lambert, wife of Jacob who is pictured here with their daughter, reading the August issue of the Forum.

Two sisters sell lemonade on Mounds Boulevard.

First annual Dayton’s Bluff Business Fair “Night Out on East 7th Street” prize winners

Over 40 prizes were given away at the Dayton’s Bluff Business Fair on August 17 as part of the Make It Happen on East 7th Street Initiative. Special thanks to Tabitha DeRango, pictured at left with the Kindle Fire Grand Prize winner, for organizing the event.

Photo courtesy of Lambert family

“Must’ve been a riveting article,” comments Brea Lambert, wife of Jacob who is pictured here with their daughter, reading the August issue of the Forum.

Two sisters sell lemonade on Mounds Boulevard.

Photo by Steve Trimble

Letter to the editor

New look, and looking forward

The new and improved look of the District Forum is great! I can’t wait to hear more about the Art & Culture Committee’s plans for a speaking event on the various peoples who have and do live in Dayton’s Bluff. Exciting work!

Jodi M. Bantley, Metropolitan State University

Lundeen playing an active role

Dayton’s Bluff is a community of neighbors, business owners, and others who inhabit this great place in East St. Paul. What makes this place so great? Well, just the word “history” says a lot about this neighborhood. It is also the dedication of the people who make this place so amazing. They desire to make Dayton’s Bluff a better place to live and raise a family.

Some individuals who want to do this are members of the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council. One of them, Kelly Lundeen, is passionate about the community that she lives in. “I moved here two years ago, and my husband and I fell in love with a house that we saw,” Lundeen said. “The house was built in 1885. We are doing a lot of work on the house. My husband and I wanted to live in East St. Paul and close to Phalen.”

Kelly joined the DBCC because she wanted to get more involved in her community and to play an active role. “I am the Chair of the Equity Committee and also of the Arts and Culture Committee,” she said. “I hope to make the work of the council more relevant to the people already living here.” She wants it to be more applicable to the different racial and ethnic groups living here in Dayton’s Bluff. “I want to respond to the needs of those who are going through economic difficulties. The Equity Committee has been working on making meetings more accessible to the public and more open to them.”

“I would like neighbors to work together to meet our own needs and build trust among neighbors across economic lines and racial lines instead of blaming each other for the situation they are in.” She also hopes for more interdependence among the people and neighbors who live in Dayton’s Bluff. “Kelly wants neighbors to communicate with each other when they have disputes, instead of automatically calling local officials. She’d also like to see more people walking, biking, and using public transportation.

While the people of Dayton’s Bluff live and work here and want it to be a better place, some people go above and beyond the call of duty. The members of the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, including Kelly Lundeen, have a dream for this neighborhood, and they want to see it come to fruition.

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