St. John’s Catholic Church for sale

by Greg Cosimini
special to the Forum

It seems impossible to put a price on a place that has been the spiritual home to thousands of people over the past 127 years – a place that has seen the happiness and sadness that accompanies countless baptisms, first communications, confirmations, weddings and funerals; a place where neighborhood children used to walk to school to learn their ABCs and multiplication tables; a place where the somber observances of Advent and Lent gave way to the joyous celebrations of Christmas and Easter.

But as a matter fact, it is possible. St. John’s Catholic Church, which includes the school and church buildings, parish house and parking lot, recently went on the market. It can be yours for $929,900. The property can be purchased, but the memories will always belong to those who once called St. John’s their parish.

The school and church have literally been stripped bare. Anything that wasn’t firmly attached is no longer in the building. The organ was removed from the choir loft immediately after the church was closed in early July. It is now also for sale separately. The statues, Stations of the Cross, crucifixes, candleholders and other religious items are all gone.

Some objects have already found new homes. The statue of the parish’s patron saint, St. John the Evangelist, that stood on the main altar for 90 years, is now at St. Pascal’s, with whom St. John’s merged on July 1. It will be used in a St. John’s chapel being created there. The Matt Talbot shrine also went to St. Pascal’s. The two altar angels and another statue went to the University of St. Thomas. Smaller statues, donated to St. John’s in memory of departed loved ones, went back to the donor families. Many other statues and religious items went to St. Patrick’s Guild, where they will be resold. Hymnals have found their way to other parishes that enjoy a similar style of music.

Looking for Neighborhood Honor Roll candidates

by Karin DuPaul, Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

The quality and amount of community volunteerism in St. Paul is amazing. The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council is looking for three people or groups to add to the Dayton’s Bluff Honor roll this year. If you know someone who does outstanding volunteer work in Dayton’s Bluff, call Karin at 651-772-2075 or email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org.

The St. Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll started in the 1980s as a list of St. Paul citizens who do outstanding service in their neighborhoods. Each year, all 17 District Councils can add three names to the honor roll. Past honor roll inductees volunteered for years at a church or a school, served on their community council board of directors, were block club leaders, led projects like butterfly removal, or spearheaded a community event.

Last year, the Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Community Council added Paul Brodersen, Carlos Stewart, and the team who developed the Youth in Transition Program, a program to get kids out of gangs (Colin and Mary Moore, and Steve Randell) for their service in Dayton’s Bluff.

The St. Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll is located in the hallway on the third floor of City Hall.

Beauty at Bruce Vento

Dayton’s Bluff resident Mona Rath took the above photo during a morning jog through the Bruce Vento Sanctuary.

One last look

A statue of St. Therese stands near the front door of St. John’s before leaving the church forever. The church, a Dayton’s Bluff institution for 127 years, is closed and vacant.

St. John’s was often overshadowed by its neighboring church, Sacred Heart, high on the hill at 65th and Arcade Streets. As a matter of fact, when explaining how to find St. John’s, it was often easiest to tell them to go to Sacred Heart and then head two blocks east. And yet, as quiet and hidden as St. John’s Church was, it was also a unique building of almost museum quality, little-appreciated by the rest of the world.

The outside, while interesting from an architectural standpoint, is a fairly conventional church design. But the interior was something else. It was one of those buildings that appears bigger on the inside than the outside, partly because it is rather large in comparison to other local churches, but also due to its huge stained glass windows. These unique arch-topped windows provided an ever-changing color and pattern of illumination as the sun moved across the sky. It is unfortunate that the name of the maker of these windows has been lost.

St. John’s was also a showcase for the creations of the Daprato Statuary Co. of Chicago, a world-famous maker of altars and statues in the early twentieth century. All three altars, the majority of the church’s stained glass windows, and statues throughout the market. It can be yours for $929,900. As a matter of fact, when explaining how to find St. John’s, it was often easiest to tell them to go to Sacred Heart and then head two blocks east. And yet, as quiet and hidden as St. John’s Church was, it was also a unique building of almost museum quality, little-appreciated by the rest of the world.

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While examples of Daprato work can be found in other area churches, such as the Cathedral and St. Agnes, the only Minnesota church completely outfitted by the company was St. John’s.

What will happen to St. John’s? For now, the church and school stand cold, dark and lifeless. Only the parish house is being used. It is hoped that someone will purchase the church, restore it back to its former glory. People like the company was St. John’s.

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Friends of Swede Hollow

The next monthly meeting is on Wednesday, November 13, at 6:30 pm. Email karindupaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-6050 for more information and the meeting’s location.

Get rid of your junk car; help Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

Budget Towing of Minnesota, Minnesota’s largest towing company, is owned by Roy Carlson, an active Dayton’s Bluff Community Council board member. Budget Towing will remove any junk car or truck – located anywhere in St. Paul – and dispose of it at no charge to the vehicle owner or the property owner where it is located. The vehicle owner will receive paperwork for a tax donation, and Roy will also make a small donation to the Community Council for each car he tows.

Just contact Karin at karin@daytons bluff.com or 651-772-2075 to get a junk car out of the way – and help clean up Dayton’s Bluff.

Small business classes

The next Dayton’s Bluff Neighbor Microentrepreneur Class is starting in April, 2014. This program helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome.

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

Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include graphics, landscaping, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture and works of art, custom floral design, and exterior and interior painting.

The course is sponsored by the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding fee scale. The next session will be starting soon and class size is limited. Please call Karin at 651-772-2075 or email karin@daytons bluff.org for an application.

Meet the police

The Eastern District Police hosts monthly community meetings at 722 Payne Avenue, at the corner of Minnehaha Avenue. The next meetings are Wednesday, November 20, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, November 15, at 9:30 am. The meetings are intended to address and listen to concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

Join STOMP: StEwards Of Margaret Park

This group is open to anyone committed to taking an active role in ensuring that Margaret Park remains a safe and beautiful green space with recreational activities for everyone. Visit us on Facebook at facebook.com/stompmn for the latest updates and announcements, or to ask questions or share your thoughts.

Community meeting: health care and citizen’s arrests

Our November meeting on Thursday, November 7, 6:30-8:00 pm at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7th Street.

The agenda items include:

1. Police and code enforcement personnel help neighborhood residents work on problem properties, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other issues or concerns.
2. St. Paul Assistant City Attorney John Stechmann will discuss the citizen’s arrest law. It’s very easy for the citizens to become the perpetrator, and the perp to become the victim, of the misguided citizen’s arrest law.
3. Natchee Lee, formerly the Executive Director of the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, is currently working for the state of Minnesota as a MNsure educator. MNsure is Minnesota’s new health care insurance plan.

The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council holds its Community Meeting on the first Thursday of each month. The purpose of the meeting 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, and/or new ideas for improvement in Dayton’s Bluff.

Submit the addresses of problems to the meeting. All problems to the meeting. All problems will be starting soon and class size is limited. Please call Karin at 651-772-2075 or email karin@daytons bluff.org for more information.

Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

The purpose of the meeting is to work on problem properties, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other neighborhood issues, concerns, and/or new ideas for improvement in Dayton’s Bluff. Submit the addresses of problems ahead of time, so police and code enforcement can bring information about the problems to the meeting. 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.

The Forum needs YOU for a Friend

The District Forum newspaper is a nonprofit operation that mails out a free valuable community resource to every address in Dayton’s Bluff. Please contribute to the paper at giving.razoom.com under “Hopewell Communications.” Become a Friend of the Forum today by donating any amount online, or use the form on page 8 of this paper. Email editor@daytonsbluff.org for more information.

How much does an issue of the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum cost? Each issue requires many volunteer hours put in by neighbors writing, taking photos, and editing. The cost of printing each issue is around $960.00 per black and white issue, and $250.00 for editing and layout. Our ad base has fallen off over the years.

Because the Forum is a registered 501(c)(3) organization, your donation also offers the opportunity for a tax deduction. See page 8 to become a Friend of the Forum today!

The Forum is also still actively seeking paid advertisements for every issue. Consider taking out a one-time ad, or commit to a monthly contribution.

Take-a-Hike November 2

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be Saturday, November 2. Hikers meet at 10:30 am in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, and walk to East Side Heritage Park. The hike is about two hours (four miles) with some moderately rough terrain. Return transportation is available, if required. All are welcome.

Upcoming opportunities at Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center

- Free Rec Check program: 1st-5th grades; registration is open to the public.
- Self Defense: Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 pm (there is a fee for this program).
- Dayton’s Bluff Family Center Parenting Group: every Friday, 9:00-11:00 am.
- Early Heads up! Dinner With Santa: Tuesday, December 10, 5:00-7:00 pm.
- Want something to see? Come out and watch Rugby! Every Tuesday and Thursday, 6:00-8:30 pm.
- Parent & Tot Time: ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 am-12:00 noon.
- Judo: Mondays, 6:00-7:30 pm.
- Free Zumba! Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 pm in the dance room.
- Seniors “500” card playing: every Friday, 12:00 noon-4:00 pm.
- The Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center is located at 800 Conway Street.

Stop by and check us out!
Dayton’s Bluff Burger King Fundraiser
Nov. 20
by Karin DuPaul
Community Organizer

Dayton’s Bluff Seniors is a living-at-home block nurse program, helping seniors stay in their homes. Some of the services include rides to doctors’ offices or the grocery store, nurse home visits, help finding chore services, and so on. Dayton’s Bluff Seniors has two part-time employees: Executive Director Rhonda Battisto, and Service Coordinator Carolyn Heim.
The organization recently received a grant, but funding remains a challenge. We invite you to our Burger King fundraiser on Wednesday, November 20, 5:00-8:00 pm, at Burger King at 695 East 7th Street at the corner of East 7th Street and Maria Avenue. Dayton’s Bluff Seniors will get 20% of the in-restaurant and drive-in sales when customers mention “Dayton’s Bluff Seniors.” You must present a Dayton’s Bluff Seniors Burger King flyer at the time of the purchase, and purchase things on the flyer, to benefit the group. Email Karin dupaul@comcast.net and she will email you a flyer, or call 651-776-0550. Your help is desperately needed to help the Dayton’s Bluff Seniors.
To learn more about the group, call 651-776-7210 ext. 303.

Where is the American Legion stained glass window?
Forum staff
We received a call from Jim Harmon from the American Legion Post #515, which was located here in Dayton’s Bluff for many years and is now located in Dayton, Minnesota. Jim is looking for a stained glass window that says “Dayton’s Bluff American Legion Post #515.” He saw it in a house here in Dayton’s Bluff about 25 to 30 years ago. If you have information about this window, please email karin@daytonbutterfly.org or call 651-772-2075.

Community Sing with Women Against Military Madness
by Carla Riehle, Forum staff
Join your peace-loving neighbors at the Minnesota Music Cafe for the third annual Community Sing with WAMM (Women Against Military Madness). It will be led by “resident songwriter” Bridgid McDonald, who will award a prize for the best verse about peace, set to the tune of “Do Your Ears Hang Low?” Send your entry to wammongodb@gmail.com by November 8. This musical event is part of Minnesota Community SINGS, a group that's trying to bring back the tradition of community singing. More information at www.mnsings.com.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church
from a MPUMC release

Sunday Schedule
Adult Sunday School: 9:15-10:15 am
Pastor’s Class: 9:15-10:15 am
Kids’ and Youth Sunday School: 9:15-10:15 am
Worship Service: 10:30-11:30 am
Fellowship: 11:30 am-12:30 pm

Happy Halloween Party/Hallelujah Harvest
All are welcome to this event on Thursday, October 31, 6:00-8:00 pm. Dinner, games, candy and pictures.
The pastor of MPUMC is Dennis Alexander. Call 651-774-8736, email secretary@mpumc@yahoo.com, or visit www.moundsparkumc.org for more information.

Home Tour in Dayton’s Bluff
Forum staff
We are looking for 6 to 8 homes to be on the Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour, which is partners with the Minneapolis-St. Paul Home Tour, that will take place on Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and April 27, 2014. This will be the eighteenth year that the Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour has been part of the larger tour. The tour has been successful in getting visitors to the neighborhood. They regularly like what they see here, and some move to Dayton’s Bluff.
“I would recommend to others that they open their homes. It’s an amazing ego boost,” said one of last year’s participating homeowners. Others said they liked the push to get their home improvement projects done in time for the tour. You can nominate your own home, or talk to your friends and neighbors about having their homes on the tour. For more information, email karin@daytonbutterfly.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

November and December at the Mounds Theatre
by Racann Ruth, Executive Director, Mounds Theatre

“A Christmas Carol – Radio Broadcast Show”
Live on Stage
“A Christmas Carol - Radio Broadcast Show” is back for the third year at the Historic Mounds Theatre.
Back before television, a holiday season tradition in America was listening to “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens as performed on radio by Lionel Barrymore and narrated by Orson Welles with the Mercury Theatre group. The music was composed and conducted by the legendary Bernard Herrmann. Few actors ever gave more meaning to the character of miserly Ebenezer Scrooge than Lionel Barrymore, who first took the role on the radio in 1934.
Originally aired live on Christmas Eve in 1939, this radio broadcast will live for a lifetime in the memories of those that heard it. If you remember listening and want to recapture those magical days of your childhood Christmas, or have never heard it but want to experience the magic of live radio theatre and create new memories for you and your family, this show is for you. It will become a treasured part of your holiday listening enjoyment for years to come.

“Night of the Living Dead” Live on Stage
From the same creative team who brought you the spine-chilling “War of the Worlds – A Live Theatrical Radio Drama” and based on the legendary film by George Romero and John Russo comes “Night of the Living Dead.”
Forty-five years ago, on October 1, 1968, an independent horror film astonished and scared audiences everywhere as droves of the undead filled the silver screen. And now it’s hurling its way to YOU.
Experience the tension and horror like never before when it’s your turn to be part of the action! Trapped along with the rest of the survivors hiding from the living dead menace outside – will you fall prey to becoming one of the zombie flesh eaters?
Or will you survive this Night of the Living Dead? The only way to find out is to be there!

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Page 3
A decade of destruction: the Minnesota RollerGirls celebrate 10 years

Above: Three Minnesota RollerGirls are proud to call Dayton’s Bluff home. From left, “Myrna Ploy,” “Stacy Wreckt,” and “Salvador Brawlie” take a break after a tough practice. The Minnesota RollerGirls opened their tenth season of competitive women’s flat-track roller derby on October 19. Their next game is Saturday, November 2, at 6:30 pm at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium in downtown St. Paul. Tickets for this action-packed evening of entertainment are available at the door.

The Minnesota RollerGirls are unpaid athletes who have donated over $70,000 to charity over the league’s history. The league is comprised of 80 female skaters, 20 referees, and countless volunteers who all work to put together a full evening of entertainment for upwards of 4,500 fans.


Preparing to watch the glow

Pictured, above, are many of the people who attended the annual “Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery” event on September 21 in Dayton’s Bluff. Historian Steve Trimble, far right, shared some Swede Hollow history with the visitors.

Kathy Lantry reminds you to VOTE

Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2013

Vote for Mayor and School Board Members

Register to vote:
You may register before Election Day or on Election Day at your polling place.

Polling places will be open from 7:00 am-8:00 pm.

Paid for by the Lantry for Council Volunteer Committee, 25 East Sandra Lee Drive, St. Paul, MN 55119
10 years with Centromex Supermercado

article and photo by
Mark Gallagher
Forum Editorial Assistant

Centromex Supermercado, on the corner of Arcade and 7th Streets, celebrates its 10-year anniversary in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood by offering special deals for the whole month of November. This month-long celebration is offered as a thank-you for the neighborhood for its support over the past 10 years.

As the name Centromex Supermercado implies, the supermarket offers specialty foods and products from Central America and Mexico. The dream for this store is to continue the tradition of providing the neighborhood with fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, good meat cut to any taste, and all kinds of products imported from Central America and Mexico, as well as from local suppliers. A big part of that dream is to help people save money when they shop – to provide good products at affordable prices close to home – and to be available for special orders if customers need something that is not immediately on the shelf.

Centromex Supermercado originally opened its doors in November of 2003. All through November 2013, customers who visit the store can ask about daily specials.

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

Dellwood Gardens announces new administrator

from a Dellwood Gardens release

Sia Lo was recently named the administrator for Dellwood Gardens Assisted Living and Memory Care. Sia brings a variety of experience from a background in law, nonprofits, and working with minority communities.

Dellwood Gardens, located at 753 East 7th Street, will open in early 2014. This facility provides care to older adults with a focus on a multicultural setting, state-of-the-art amenities, and affordability. Sia will have a special focus on developing relationships with the community to best meet the needs of older adults.

Tim Meyer, Dellwood’s management team lead, said, “We are thrilled to have Sia Lo joining us in this exciting new adventure providing affordable care. Sia’s many longstanding relationships and leadership experience will be assets to Dellwood Gardens.”

Transit Equity Town Hall

Join this historic opportunity for Eastside voices to be heard!

Gather with your fellow Eastside neighbors as we build the groundwork for community recommendations to ensure we receive equitable transit.

Where do YOU need to go?
Transit Equity Town Hall, where EVERYONE’s voices are heard.

Time: 6pm - 8 pm
Date: November 7
Location: Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center
800 Conway St.
Saint Paul, MN 55106

*Please respond if you require child care, translation, or transportation.

Hosted by FESEP
For more information or to RSVP, contact Tony Thao @ 763-746-5095 or tonythea@gmail.com
For Spanish translation, contact Jose Mireles @ 651-328-0985 or angiehot@hotmail.com

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565 Earl Street    Open 11 am – 9 pm
10 Dilly Bars for $7.67   All-beef hot dogs $1.25
Buy one Blizzard, get the second (same size) for $1.59

Bring in this ad and buy one malt or shake, get one free!
Expires 12/10/13

CENTROMEX SUPERMERCADO
816 East 7th Street
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK, 7:00 AM TO 8:30 PM
Celebrate our 10th anniversary in November!
10% off in credit on purchases up to $30.
Many specials between Nov. 1 and Nov. 10: milk, eggs, tortillas, cheese, and many other items. Please come in and ask!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE – GRACIAS POR SU COMPRA

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-772-2075   Fax: 651-774-3510   E-mail: editor@daytonsbluff.org
Monthly circulation: 7,500

Also available online at www.daytonsbluff.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 or photographs that are not attributed are the work of Forum staff. Articles and letters to the editor are welcome and may be emailed to editor@daytonsbluff.org or faxed to 651-774-3510. The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum is delivered to every home and business in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood. Outside this area, subscriptions cost $15 per year and may be arranged by calling 651-772-2075.

Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Carla Riehle, Steve Trimble
Editor/Layout: Meg Gronau                      Editorial Assistant: Mark Gallagher

Metro State construction update

by Jennifer Herman
special to the Forum

Recent community meet- ings regarding the pending parking ramps cohen's campus at Metropolitan State University (MSU) have proven very disappointing to resi-
dents of the Dayton's Bluff neigh-
borhood at Bates Street. We have always
been assured that the importance of pro-
ducing a landmark quality and es-
sion process and the current
ramp design... met at least one level above ground where
there are no view lines, but MSU hasn't
been assured that the importance of pro-
ducing a landmark quality and es-
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ramp design... met at least one level above ground where
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ducing a landmark quality and es-

I am in support of plans for a $66 mil-

lion investment at Metropolitan State University (MSU)...

In my opinion, the student and resi-
dents both respect existing com-
munity interests, and ensure the de-
velopment represents a significant com-
munity opposition to... Resolved, that all involved parties (public/private) work tirelessly...
Three troublesome tales
by Steve Trimble
Forum historian

While working on the group of articles that will be up online soon, I did find some interesting items that I had trouble fitting into the text. But they were too interesting to not share with others, so here they are:

Margaret Connelly’s troubling story
The first is a sad story I found when researching the old Phalen Creek that ran through the northwest section of today’s Dayton’s Bluff. The St. Paul Globe in 1897 had a small series of articles on a young girl named Margaret Connelly. She lived at either 81 or 87 Phalen Creek—the paper used both—and was seven years old. Either address put her in Commera Patch, an area mostly populated by Irish immigrant families.

She was playing with two other girls “about the banks of the creek at the foot of 5th Street.” Here the creek is still open, but nearby there was a large sewer that took it under the railroad tracks to the Mississippi River. There was a stone arch that went over the creek, crossed daily by nearby residents. That is where little Margaret fell.

The water is usually only three feet deep there, but after heavy rains it had soared to ten feet. She slipped from the abutment at the mouth of the sewer and “in an instant was swept out of sight.” PoliceSewer and officers rushed to the scene, and took boards, placing them in the manholes “with the hope that the body might have lodged before it reached the river.” About an hour later she was found at 4th Street manhole. Medical assistance was unsuccessful in saving her.

Residents said that they had been trying to get the city to plug the sewer and put a rail over the point the creek emptied into the sewer to prevent such accidents, but they had not been successful. In November, the matter was taken to court for $5,000.00 in damages, but it was dismissed on in a claim that was possible.

A troublesome flag placement
The last item was found while researching the history of Indian Mounds Park. An important 1896 national gathering, called the “grand en-campment” of Union Civil War veterans, was held in St. Paul. There were parades and events, one of which was held in Dayton’s Bluff. It was one that would be troublesome today, but which reflected attitudes of the times.

On August 2, 1896, a flag-raising ceremony to honor those who perished in the war was held at Indian Mounds Park. According to a newspaper, the St. Paul Fire Department had provided a flagpole for the ceremony and the “ladies of Dayton’s Bluff” presented a flag to Fire Chief Jackson. The “mast,” the paper reported, was “erected at the summit of the middle mound,” which they considered the highest point in St. Paul. The crowd was estimated at 4,000 and included music that was said to have been provided by a “1,500 member children’s chorus.”

I knew that early attitudes toward the Indian Mounds were lamentable—destruction of the burial sites, paths up the remaining mounds, people standing on them and sightseeing—but this was the first time I knew of someone actually sticking a pole into one. Well, almost. For a long time during my lifetime, there were electric poles running through the park, one of them was partially placed in the side of a mound. This remained the case into the 1990s, until the electric company was forced to remove them by a state law. And that really was troublesome.

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The last item was found while researching the history of Indian Mounds Park. An important 1896 national gathering, called the “grand en-campment” of Union Civil War veterans, was held in St. Paul. There were parades and events, one of which was held in Dayton’s Bluff. It was one that would be troublesome today, but which reflected attitudes of the times.

On August 2, 1896, a flag-raising ceremony to honor those who perished in the war was held at Indian Mounds Park. According to a newspaper, the St. Paul Fire Department had provided a flagpole for the ceremony and the “ladies of Dayton’s Bluff” presented a flag to Fire Chief Jackson. The “mast,” the paper reported, was “erected at the summit of the middle mound,” which they considered the highest point in St. Paul. The crowd was estimated at 4,000 and included music that was said to have been provided by a “1,500 member children’s chorus.”

I knew that early attitudes toward the Indian Mounds were lamentable—destruction of the burial sites, paths up the remaining mounds, people standing on them and sightseeing—but this was the first time I knew of someone actually sticking a pole into one. Well, almost. For a long time during my lifetime, there were electric poles running through the park, one of them was partially placed in the side of a mound. This remained the case into the 1990s, until the electric company was forced to remove them by a state law. And that really was troublesome.

Three troublesome tales
by Steve Trimble
Forum historian

While working on the group of articles that will be up online soon, I did find some interesting items that I had trouble fitting into the text. But they were too interesting to not share with others, so here they are:

Margaret Connelly’s troubling story
The first is a sad story I found when researching the old Phalen Creek that ran through the northwest section of today’s Dayton’s Bluff. The St. Paul Globe in 1897 had a small series of articles on a young girl named Margaret Connelly. She lived at either 81 or 87 Phalen Creek—the paper used both—and was seven years old. Either address put her in Commera Patch, an area mostly populated by Irish immigrant families.

She was playing with two other girls “about the banks of the creek at the foot of 5th Street.” Here the creek is still open, but nearby there was a large sewer that took it under the railroad tracks to the Mississippi River. There was a stone arch that went over the creek, crossed daily by nearby residents. That is where little Margaret fell.

The water is usually only three feet deep there, but after heavy rains it had soared to ten feet. She slipped from the abutment at the mouth of the sewer and “in an instant was swept out of sight.” Police officers rushed to the scene, and took boards, placing them in the manholes “with the hope that the body might have lodged before it reached the river.” About an hour later she was found at 4th Street manhole. Medical assistance was unsuccessful in saving her.

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View from my porch
Consider the whole child
by Sage Holben
President, Dayton’s Bluff
Community Council

I had never seen him before. He was dressed in a neatly-kept but older, long overcoat and a brimmed dress hat; odd and out of place for the time. He seemed to be in his forties, but then it was almost 15 years ago that I first saw him. He remains a stranger to me, but I’ll never forget him...and the tears that streamed down his face.

When I saw him, he was standing at a bin of some sort—I thought he was sorting through old LP records. I saw this nameless man not in a dream and not in reality, but as I opened my eyes, between sleep and the day, 15 years ago.

Recently, I finally made the connection. For years I had wondered why he was crying. Finally, the mystery revealed itself and I understood. He was silently lamenting all the children we could not reach.

Who are these children we can’t reach? They are youth trying to swim from the “island of childhood” to the “island of adulthood.” Some youth seem to make the distance effortlessly; some need an adult calling encouragement from the shore. Others need one or two adults to swim alongside—perhaps only partway, perhaps all the way onto the shore of “adult island.”

When I was a foster parent for teens in crisis, a speaker from the Children’s Defense Fund used the island example and a diagram of youth development to illustrate why adults need to come alongside children as they “swim.” This diagram could be applied at any age (obvious from the degenerate social actions we witness on our streets). If we recognize this in our youth, we can give them a boost, a memory, an adjustment, a step up. Picture a human head of a 15-year-old. Now fill it with abstract proportions. We might have a 15-year-old with the mentality of a 32-year-old, social skills of a 12-year-old, general intelligence of a 14-year-old, and the decision-making skills of a 10-year-old.

When a teen can form a relationship built on trust and stability with an adult he or she will have a better chance of becoming a responsible adult equipped with appropriate social and critical thinking skills. We need to ask ourselves, and then act on the challenge: Who is the child I am helping to adulthood? Am I teaching the skills he or she needs?
Midwest Karate turning out black belts

Midwest Karate on East 7th Street is turning out Black belts of all ages! Midwest Karate has 120 current adult and children students at their dojo (karate school). In business since 1975, instructors Joel Ertl and Anita Bendickson have created an environment that empowers youth ages 5 and up to focus and hone their skills, allowing them to move up the ranks of colored belts, earning their skills, allowing them to move up the ranks through tough testing requirements. There is a lot of talent in all ages at this dojo, including adults up to age 70.

Two of the youth students, Leona DeRango and Yukino Nakamura (pictured above), went to the US National Tournament in St. Louis, Missouri this year, placing first and second in the Brown belt division. After returning to Minnesota, both champs passed their test for Shodan, earning their first-degree black belts. They earned this honor by passing through 10 different levels of colored belts, the same sequence used by both youth and adults. They were required to demonstrate their performance of punching, blocking, kicking, as well as non-contact sparring and kata. At each level, finesse of control, flexibility and muscle tone is required to show the student's level of skill. The sport unites many of St. Paul's diverse cultures through its essence of self-reflection, determination, and camaraderie, and is a fun, functional activity for all ages. Midwest Karate encourages family participation – discounts are offered when parents and kids join the dojo together.

Where in Dayton's Bluff?

The obelisk pictured last month, which is located at 225 Earl Street, was exceedingly popular – we received nine correct responses. The first responder, and winner of a pack of Dayton's Bluff postcards, is Mary Brager. Thank you to Jan, Linda, Mallard, Peter, Ella, Dennis, Jenni, and Eric for also playing!

If you have ever wondered what karate is all about, go check out a class. Call Sensei Joel Ertl at 651-771-7901, or visit www.mwkarate.com.

Dino-What!

The text of the cartoon reads: Compusognathus is not supposed to be eating a banana. Stop shoving that thing in your greedy mouth. You’ve done it now, phone. You could just pick up the phone. The Forum encourages young artists and writers to submit their work for publication in our paper. Please email your creations (or photos thereof) to editor@daytonsbuzz.org.

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Thank you!

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum thanks these generous donors.

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Consider joining them; fill out the form at left.