

### Rain Barrels for Sale

The Recycling Association of Minnesota is offering a limited number of \$20 discounts for the purchase of a rain barrel normally priced at \$65.

Rain barrels stop water pollution by capturing rainwater where it falls—before it runs across lawns and sidewalks picking up dirt, leaves, and other pollutants. Rain barrels also help reduce your household water use, and allow you to water your garden more naturally with nonchlorinated water. Order at [www.recycleminnesota.org](http://www.recycleminnesota.org).

### Unique Dental Services for Kids in Dayton's Bluff

By Ed Lambert

District Council Executive Director

Since late 2007, and up to the end of 2009, 8,123 low-income St. Paul elementary school kids have received dental work financed, in part, with Invest St. Paul (ISP) dollars. The program began in St. Paul, like so many other innovations impacting city school children, at Dayton's Bluff Elementary School and later expanded to other city elementary schools, libraries, and community centers. 50% of these city schools have dental programs now, and plans for further expansion to all elementary schools by the end of 2010 are already underway.

Services are provided on a sliding scale fee-for-service arrangement, based on family income. All enrolled families receive access to dental care, provided by dentists and dental technicians, on a free or reduced price basis. The idea is to ensure that our kids have the dental care they need so they can more easily focus on their education. Poor dental health can impact one's capacity to sustain focused attention on studies, and can lead to other distracting health problems.

Smiles Across Minnesota (SAM), as the program is known, has several corporate partners whose resources have enabled the program to expand beyond ISP areas. They include Delta Dental of Minnesota and the Greater Twin Cities United Way, which have provided significant local funding, and the 3M company's ESPE program which has donated thousands of expensive sealants to further extend program resources.

The most common chronic infectious disease among children in Minnesota is bacterial infection in the mouth, causing tooth decay, among

other problems. Much of this disease can be linked to changes in habits of parents and child care providers alike, who too often give children more processed foods at earlier ages. These include fruit snacks, juice boxes, sodas and other bottled beverages that do not contain the fluoride found in tap water. These habits are made all the more difficult to cope with when families do not have access to reasonably priced dental insurance. Regular dental care promotes timely check ups, dental cleaning and good dental hygiene, as well as early action on needed dental work.

Delta Dental of Minnesota and Children's Dental Services launched Smiles Across Minnesota in 2006, in conjunction with Oral Health America's Smiles Across America program. SAM is a statewide initiative to address acute oral health needs of low-income and uninsured children. The mayor's Invest St. Paul initiative focuses on bringing needed resources to targeted city neighborhoods, as well as forming new initiatives to address issues related to housing, economic development, education, and community services.

### Ed Szalapski Dies

A memorial service for Edward W. Szalapski Sr. was held on March 9 at the Maplewood Community Center with over 100 people attending. He died of lung cancer on February 4, 2010.

Ed and his family lived in Dayton's Bluff for over 40 years in a house on Margaret Street. He and his wife Judy raised six children and had 14 grandchildren. They spent much of their time with their family and enjoying family activities and events.

Over the years Ed served on a number of boards in Dayton's Bluff including the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhood Association and the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services (DBNHS). He was affectionately called "Community Ed" because of all the time he spent helping out in Dayton's Bluff. Two years ago when they moved to a smaller house, Ed and Judy donated their home to DBNHS to rehab and sell to a family.

Memorials to Ed are preferred to the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Service, 823 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55106.



District Council fundraising dinner at the Strip Club restaurant

### Council Fundraiser a Success

The Dayton's Bluff District Council's fundraising event on Sunday evening, March 14, was a resounding success. 49 people gathered at the Strip Club restaurant on Maria Avenue and East 6th Street to donate to the council's community programs and in the process enjoyed an outstanding five-course meal, paired with wines.

Stephanie Harr, a former council board member, and Lara Merrill, a current member, collaborated with Tim Niver, the Strip Club's owner, to come up with a memorable event that raised \$1,960 for the council. Donations to such council activities are tax deductible and help raise money for its work.

The chef got lots of praise for the meal, and the efficient staff put on a stellar performance as well. The club seats up to 60 people, so there was a virtual full house of council friends.

Many board members were there as well as other residents and businesspeople from the community. Conversation was lively as people renewed neighborhood friendships and met new acquaintances. A welcome addition was the number of people involved in organizing the new Dayton's Bluff Business Association (DBBA).

State representative Sheldon Johnson said, "the meal was wonderful and the people just plain fun."

Susan Teitjen, initial president of the developing DBBA, said, "I met some very interesting people there, including some businesspeople I had not met before."

Another feature of the event (which everyone seemed to appreciate) was the complete lack of speeches and long-winded storytelling, although Ed Lambert, council director, gave a brief acknowledgment of the effort that went into the dinner. The club may be expanding its seating in the near future, so the event could be reprised next year with a bigger crowd.

Look for more event photos on [www.daytonsbluff.org](http://www.daytonsbluff.org) later this month.

### Deacon Terry Schneider Dies

Deacon Terry Schneider passed away suddenly on February 11 in Cape Coral, Florida where he was spending the winter with his wife of 49 years, Sue Ann. He was 71 and lived in Plymouth.

Deacon Schneider was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis of

the Catholic Church in 1997. He served at St. John of St. Paul in Dayton's Bluff for the past five years as both deacon and business administrator. He also served as deacon at Holy Name of Jesus in Medina and St. Anne in Hamel.

Deacon Terry is survived by many children, foster children and grandchildren. His death came as a shock to his many friends at St. John's. He will be greatly missed by them all.

### Dayton's Bluff District Forum

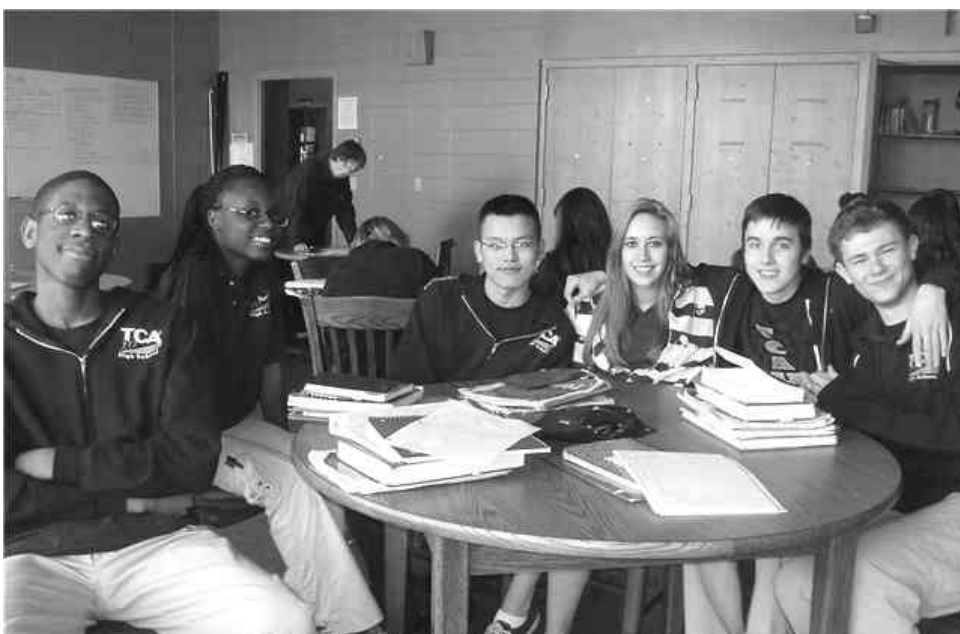
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Twin Cities Academy High School seniors working on their senior class project—Art in the Hollow: Plein Air Art Fest in Swede Hollow Park, Saturday May 22, from 10 am to 3 pm. Call 651-206-7508 for more information.