

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 28, No. 3
April 2015
daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"

Dayton's Bluff faces challenges; you can help solve them

Forum staff

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council has recently restructured its committees, with the goal of making them more effective and attractive to community members who have not necessarily been involved with the Council before. It's always been the case that Council committees welcome any interested person, not just members of the Council's Board of Directors, or even residents, but that message may not always have been clearly conveyed.

This month we will focus on the Community Engagement Committee and, next month, look at the other committees.

Chaired by Tong Thao, Community Engagement met for the first time on March 11 and agreed on three goals for its 2015 work plan. One campaign has already been launched and two are pending. The first focuses on the One State, One License Campaign, supporting the bill in the Minnesota Legislature that would return to the law that was in effect about 10 years ago, allowing immi-

grants without documents to apply for and receive drivers' licenses. See the article on page 5 for more information.

The other campaigns involve combating racial profiling by police and forming a collaboration between St. Paul residents and city agencies that directly impact their lives. The Community Engagement Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at Community HQ, 804 Margaret Street. This month, the date will be **Tuesday, April 14, at 6:30 pm** and all are welcome.

WEQY radio update

Carla Riehle, Forum staff

The East Side's new hyper-local, low-power FM station is getting closer to hitting the airwaves. Two recording stations are now up and running in the station's temporary home, along with an Arrakis broadcasting console, an indispensable part of the radio magic.

Near the beginning of this month, WEQY's permanent home in the Rogers Printing building will mostly be finished and ready for the studio build-out. Picture a space roughly 20 x 30 feet containing two small, soundproofed closets with windows on the street side, giving passers-by a glimpse of the broadcasters at work. Expectations are that the antenna will be mounted on one of the 180 Degree buildings soon thereafter. The WEQY website should be up and running by then, and can begin streaming. Look for one of the many free radio streaming apps like TuneIn.com to carry the webcasts, at least initially. Broadcasting will take a little longer as new programming fills the schedule.

Training new announcers is the biggest challenge for WEQY right now, as new individuals and groups step up with programming proposals. Among the candidates are a music program showcasing Hmong youth and another featuring youth from Urban Lens Mentoring. Talk shows will likely include content from students at Metro State, informational segments from the Council on American-Islamic Relations and much more. WEQY is still seeking volunteers; if you're interested, contact Brenda Reid at brenda@daytonsbluff.org or 651-621-2760.

DAYTON'S BLUFF HOME TOUR

This one's a must-see



This beautiful Victorian home at 761 East 3rd Street will be on the Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour on April 25 and 26.

Volunteers still needed

The annual Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour will be held on Sat-

urday, April 25, 10:00 am-5:00 pm and Sunday, April 26, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm. Residents in Minneapolis and St. Paul open their homes to the

public to showcase the great things about city living. Two of the Dayton's Bluff homes with new owners on the tour are 761 East 3rd Street and 860 Mound Street, both beautifully redone by Dayton's Bluff families who choose to stay in Dayton's Bluff because they love our community. Dayton's Bluff has so many wonderful homes that each year we have six to eight homes on the tour. The tour shows off many of Dayton's Bluff great features: the location, Metro State, the parks, the growing business community, the views of the city and the Mississippi River, and the outstanding housing options in Dayton's Bluff.

See "Home Tour," continued on page 5.

What is a CSA?

Forum staff

Have you heard friends or neighbors talk about their "farm share" or CSA, and wonder what they're talking about? Does the idea of fresh, locally-grown produce interest you?

On **Thursday, April 9 from 7:00-8:30 pm**, three local agricultural organizations will discuss how Community Supported Agriculture benefits all of us and how you can participate. CSA shares will be available for sale at the presentation, which will be held at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office at 804 Margaret Street.

Featured speakers will include Robin Major of the Shared Ground Farmers' Cooperative, Summer Badawi of Urban Roots, and Clara Sandberg from Dream of Wild Health.

Shared Ground (sharedgroundcoop.com) is a marketing and distribution cooperative owned by farms in the Twin Cities region. Shared Ground markets sustainably grown produce and grass-fed meats direct to consumers, as well as to restaurants and others. The Co-op represents a diverse group of producers united around a common set of goals. Farmers live in both urban and rural communities and come from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds. A core objective is a strong commitment to making environmentally-sustainable farming a living-wage job for any who choose to pursue it, especially

See "CSA," continued on page 4.

Dayton's Bluff
Community Council
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New Friends of Swede Hollow are welcome

Do you enjoy Swede Hollow Park and care about its history and future? The next Friends of Swede Hollow monthly meeting is **Tuesday, April 7, at 6:30 pm**. Email karin@swedehollow.org or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

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

Budget Towing of Minnesota is owned by Roy Carlson, a former Dayton's Bluff Community Council board member. Budget Towing will remove any junk car or truck – from anywhere in St. Paul – and dispose of it at no charge. The vehicle owner will receive paperwork for a tax donation, and Roy will make a small donation to the Community Council. Call 651-772-2075 to have a junk car removed – and help clean up Dayton's Bluff.

Take-a-Hike April 4

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, April 4**. Hikers meet at **10:30 am** in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, and hike down to Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, then through Swede Hollow Park and winding up at the East Side Heritage Park. The hike is about two hours (four miles) with some moderately rough terrain. Share stories about life in Dayton's Bluff. Return transportation is available if needed.

In May, instead of the usual Take-a-Hike, we'll have a special Bird Watch Walk in Swede Hollow Park on **Saturday May 2, from 9:30-11:00 am**. Meet at Swede Hollow Henge (enter Swede Hollow through the Drewry tunnel on Beaumont Street, one block south east of Payne and East Minnehaha Avenues. A limited number of field guides and binoculars will be available to use. For more information, contact karin@swedehollow.org or 651-776-0550.

Police community meeting

The Eastern District Police hosts their monthly meetings for community members at 722 Payne Avenue, at the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues.

The next meetings are **Wednesday, April 15, at 9:30 am and 6:30 pm**. This is a change; both meetings are now on the third Wednesday of each month.

The meetings are open to all. The intent is to learn about, listen to, and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. The St. Paul Eastern District is committed to maintaining and growing the quality of life for all of our residents. Bring your neighbors for a great opportunity to discuss neighborhood nuisance issues.

Forum seeks new editor

This *Forum* newspaper is looking to hire a new editor. Proofreading, copy editing, and layout skills required. Small stipend offered. The *Forum* is also seeking help with writing, editing, online content, idea generation, and ad sales. Join us at our next meeting: **2:15 pm on Monday, April 6** at 804 Margaret Street – or we can schedule it around you! Call 651-776-0550 for more information.

Business classes

The next Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class starts this spring. This program helps startup 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, art, custom floral design, and exterior and interior painting. The course is a partnership between 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 in the spring and class size is limited, so get enrolled now. Please call Emma Spillman at 651-379-8432 for an application.

Ramsey County offers discount on compost bins

Ramsey County residents looking to compost this year can get a discounted bin while supplies last. The Recycling Association of Minnesota is selling compost bins for \$55. The first 300 Ramsey County residents to order a bin by late April can buy one for \$40.

To receive the discounted price, pre-order online before April 24 at recycleminnesota.org and enter the promo code: ramsey. Or call 651-641-4589 and mention that you are a Ramsey County resident. The bins will be available for pickup April 17 in Roseville, April 18 in Maplewood, or April 25 in St. Paul.

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)

The St. Paul chapter of the DAR is open to any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal descent from a Patriot of the American Revolution. We meet at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 674 Johnson Parkway on the fourth Tuesday of each month at **12:00 noon**.

Our next program, on April 28, will be on *Shadows of Time – Minnesota's Surviving Train Depots* with author Bill Schrankler.

Plant Swap May 9

Spring is coming! Do you have plants you would like to swap? The Dayton's Bluff Plant Exchange will happen **Saturday, May 9, from 9:00-11:00 am** at the corner of East 7th Street and Bates Avenue in the gardens outside Swede Hollow Cafe. Bring plants you no longer want, and take home something new! No orange day lilies, please. For more information, call 651-776-0550 or email karindupaul@comcast.net.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Egg Hunt April 4

An East Side community Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for **Saturday, April 4 at 12:00 noon**. The hunt will be held

rain or shine. The event is sponsored by and held at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 674 Johnson Parkway. The event is designed for children age 3-12 and is totally free. For more information, contact the church at 651-774-2396 or oursaviourslutheran.org.

New barber school on East Side to award \$30,000

St. Paul International Barber School, the first such institution licensed in Minnesota in 35 years, will give away a \$30,000 Business Start-up Package to one of its lucky graduates. Applicants must have graduated from the school and agree to hire barber school graduates to qualify.

Aspiring barbers who speak Spanish are especially encouraged to apply. For more details, stop by 990 Payne Avenue and speak to Alex Garcia, instructor for the new barber school.

Saturday, April 18 Citywide Spring Cleanup

Join forces with family, friends and neighbors to clean up the garbage that has recently become exposed due to the melting snow. We invite everyone to come together to help beautify the city of St. Paul.

Participating is easy! Register your group for the 29th Annual Citywide Spring Cleanup at stpaul.gov/parks/environment (click on the red REGISTER link). On **April 18, any time between 9:00 and 11:30 am**, drop by your selected Cleanup Site to pick up bags, gloves and snacks and meet your neighbors and community members. Then head out and clean up your park or neighborhood of choice. The drop-in cleanup site for Swede Hollow Park is at Greenbrier and Margaret Streets. The site host is Mississippi Market.

Plots still available at Skidmore Park Community Garden

Applications are available for download on the Skidmore Park Community Gardens Facebook page or you can pick one up at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office at 804 Margaret Street. Plots are assigned on a first come, first served basis so get your application in today! Questions? Call the Dayton's Bluff Community Council 651-772-2075.



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April at the Dayton's Bluff library

Forum staff

The Dayton's Bluff branch of the St. Paul library shares its home with Metropolitan State University at 645 East 7th Street. It has recently lengthened its hours and is open until 8:00 pm Monday through Thursday. One-hour parking is available in the lot, and the 61, 63 and 73 bus routes serve the location.

The library provides special services for kids: free snacks after school, baby and family story time and Sing, Play, Learn with McPhail are just a few. Teens may be interested in the video game workshop on **Saturday, April 25 from 2:00-4:00 pm**.

For adults, the Dayton's Bluff Book Club meets monthly. The April book selection is *Soda Shop Salvation: People and Stories From the Sweeter Side of Prohibition*. The author, local food historian Rae Katherine Eighmey, gives us a taste of the Roaring Twenties with tidbits on the times and over 125 recipes for imaginative drinks, decadent sundaes, and more. The meeting – including a free light dinner – is scheduled for **Thursday, April 9 from 6:00-8:00 pm** in room 306. Pick up your free copy of the book now at Metro State's Institute for Community Engagement and Scholarship, and call 651-793-1285 or email community.engagement@metrostate.edu to register.

Computer classes are also available, and there will be a "Tech Petting Zoo" from **10:00 am-2:30 pm on Tuesday, April 14**.

Best of all, the services are free! A complete schedule of hours and events is available at sppl.org or by calling 651-793-1699.

April at the Mounds Theatre

Forum staff

Saturday, April 11: The stars of Minnesota Pro Wrestling's IWI (Independent Wrestling International) return to the Historic Mounds Theatre for a night of exciting pro wrestling action. Bell time is **7:30 pm**; doors open at 6:45. General Admission tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for kids, and are available at the door. VIP Tickets, for table seating on the stage overlooking the ring, are available in advance by purchasing online. For pictures of previous IWI events, see page 5.

Friday, April 24: The Creepshow with Penske File will be playing at the Mounds Theatre. Doors open at 8:00 pm with the show starting at **9:00 pm**. This show is for ages 18+. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. The Creepshow is a psychobilly band with great female vocalists.

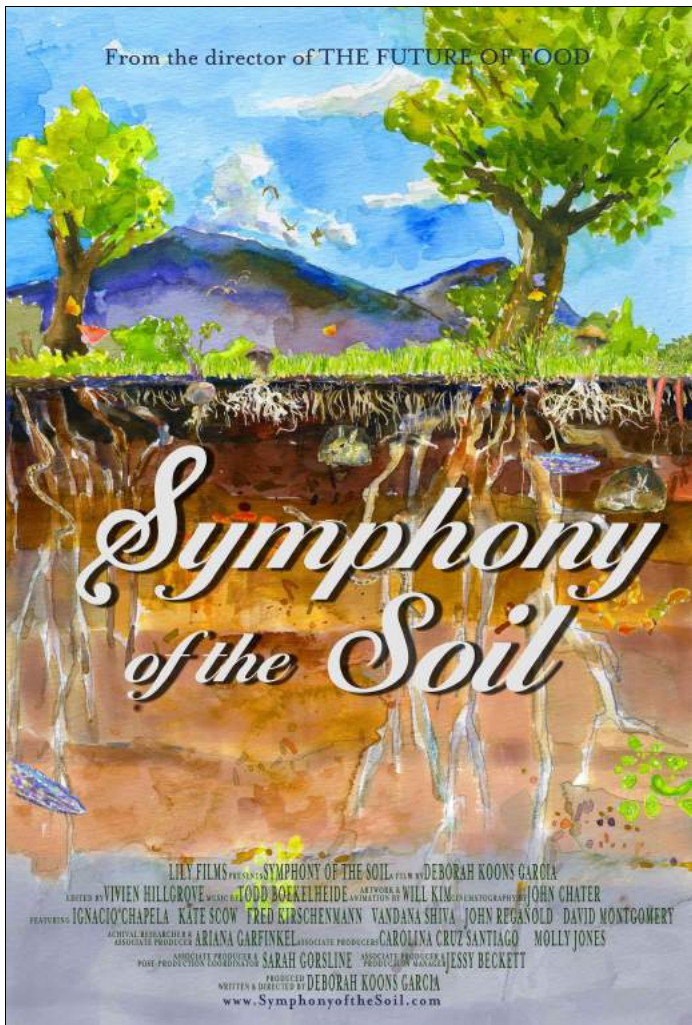
Saturday, April 25: The Miss Star Mission USA 2015 Fashion Show will take place at the Mounds Theatre from **2:00-6:00 pm**. Tickets are \$20.

Friday April 30: The ESABA Pub Crawl, **4:00-11:00 pm**. There will be sangria and some light entertainment.

Visit moundstheatre.org for more information about upcoming events. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106. 651-772-2253.

Urban Oasis celebrates soil on Earth Day

An award-winning documentary and healthy food reception anchors an Earth Day event on the East Side.



lic. *Symphony of the Soil* was produced and directed by Deborah Koons Garcia and features leading food system visionaries, including Dr. Fred Kirschenmann, Distinguished Fellow at The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Vandana Shiva, physicist and environmental activist, and acclaimed chef Dan Barber.

The film has received high praise from critics. Jeannette Catsoulis of the *New York Times* said, "Unfolding with gentle joy and an unexpected beauty, this ode to the miracle of the Earth's topmost layer gives us a new-found respect for the ground beneath our feet."

Before and after the event, attendees can visit, learn, and share with organizations doing inspiring work in St. Paul around food, gardening, and soil, including Eureka Recycling, Shared Ground Farmers' Cooperative, Gardening Matters, Frogtown Farm, Family Values for Life, Growing West Side, Urban Roots, Twin Cities Mobile Market, and Urban Oasis.

"A healthy food system needs healthy soil," says Sides. "We're excited to share this film and engage in conversations about how we can do a better job in Minnesota to create sustainable practices that ensure the long-term health of our bodies and our communities."

The local, zero-waste nonprofit, Eureka Recycling, will help make Urban Oasis' second annual film screening a zero-waste event. All appropriate event waste will be collected and composted into soil.

For more information and to register, visit urbanoasismn.org and click on the Events tab.

Jacquelyn B. Fletcher, Urban Oasis

The United Nations has declared 2015 the International Year of Soil. On Earth Day, Urban Oasis and several other local food-system advocates are marking the occasion with a screening of *Symphony of the Soil*. The awe-inspiring film explores the complexity and mystery of soil through the eyes of scientists, farmers, and activists on four continents.

"Our food and our health are closely tied to the life-giving soil beneath our feet," says Tracy Sides, founder and executive director of Urban Oasis. "Soil is intricately linked to our health and survival and this film shows just how important sustainable agriculture is to the future of our world."

Urban Oasis, along with Metropolitan State University, the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, and Eureka Recycling, will host the screening and reception on **April 22 from 6:30-9:00 pm** at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul in the Great Hall. Doors open at 5:30 pm. The event is free and open to the pub-

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

1049 Euclid Street (corner of Earl and Euclid); 651-774-8736
Mounds Park United Methodist on Facebook

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is a community-based cross-cultural congregation. We strive to build on the positive assets of Dayton's Bluff; working together as neighbors improving our community. All are welcome to the following community events:

Sunday morning service starts at **10:30 am** with fellowship time following. Come join your neighbors in worship.

Community Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 4, 2:00 pm

Mounds Park Church will host a community-wide Easter Egg Hunt at Indian Mounds Park South Pavilion (Earl Street & Mounds Boulevard). There will be treats, games and activities for all ages.

Holy Week Services:

- Holy Thursday, **April 2: 7:00 pm** at Mounds Park UMC – Pastor Tschue Vang of Wheelock UMC on the theme "Something Good."
- Easter Sunday, **April 5: 10:30 am** worship.

Community Friendship Gathering with hot lunch – **Wednesday, April 29, 12:00 noon** – We begin with a hot lunch and followed by live entertainment. All are welcome to come; the focus of this event is on persons age 55 and over.

Urban CROSS can help!

Urban CROSS (Christians Reaching Out in Service in St. Paul), a ministry of Mounds Park United Methodist church, is ramping up for its sixth year. Will you be in need of some help with a project around your home or property this summer? Whether you are a homeowner or a non-profit in the Dayton's Bluff area, we will have teams of volunteer youths available during the week of June 15-19 to assist you. If you have a project that you need help with, such as painting, yard work, landscaping, cleanup, simple construction or repair, please contact us. We invite other youth from churches all over to join us for a week of an "Urban Makeover." Please go to our website and fill out a form. The deadline for requests is May 15.



Urban CROSS

An Urban CROSS crew works on a neighborhood project last summer. Do you have a project that could use the help of a youth crew? Contact Urban CROSS before May 15.

Urban CROSS is also in need of donations. We always need tools, supplies, paint, painting equipment, printing, staff t-shirts, food for the team/staff and even scholarships for youth to come and to join us. To make a financial donation, please contact Mounds Park Church at 651-774-8736.

For more information about Urban CROSS, contact MPUMC Youth Director Eric Buck (612-559-2369 or urbancross.stpaul@gmail.com) or visit moundsparkumc.org/urbancross.html.

Hazel Park United Church of Christ

1831 East Minnehaha Avenue; 651-735-2555
hazelparkcongregationalucc.org – Hazel Park UCC on Facebook
hazelparkchurch@q.com

"Our faith is 2,000 years old, but our thinking is not," says Rev. Sara Morse of Hazel Park UCC, a neighborhood church on the East Side of St. Paul. "We are a forward-looking congregation, and we seek to embrace and carry out the mission of the church in our community and in the wider world. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

Save grocery money with Fare For All Express

Hazel Park United Church of Christ is a distribution partner for Fare For All Express, which offers fresh produce and quality meats at up to 40% off retail prices. The cooperative buying program is open to everyone, with no qualifying requirements or pre-registration. The next drop-in purchase opportunity is **Wednesday, April 8, 4:00-6:00 pm** at the church. Items available include produce, meat, and combination packs ranging in price from \$10-30. Cash, credit cards, EBT cards or debit cards accepted; checks not accepted. Visit fareforall.org for other Twin Cities locations, or contact the church.

The Bauman Fine Arts Series' next performance is at **4:00 pm on Sunday, April 19** by the Metropolitan Boys Choir. The Twin Cities favorite is an organization of young men from the 12-county Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. Multiple choirs of boys, whose ages range from 5 to 15, and a men's choir make up the MBC, which was founded in 1971 by Music Director Bea Speed-Hasselmann (mbchoir.com). Admission is \$8 for adults/seniors and \$5 for youth age 12-17; 11 and under are admitted free.

The above events are all open to the public. Events and schedules are subject to change.

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Forum staff

Last year there was some rain during Art in the Hollow. This year we expect a beautiful day, but a rain site is planned, just in case.

Calling all artists for Art in the Hollow

Karin DuPaul
Forum staff

June 6 is only 2 months away. The sixth annual Art in the Hollow will be on **June 6 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm** in Swede Hollow Park. Currently we have some openings for artists, artisans, and performers. Sign up on Facebook or artinthehollow.org. Admission to Art in the Hollow is free for visitors.

The fee for artists to display is \$15 and tents are required. There is no fee for performers, who will be selected based on talent, variety and local roots. As a community festival set in the heart of the neighborhood, this is an "unplugged" event.



Forum staff

Mississippi Market was at Art in the Hollow 2014 and will also have a presence this year.

Art in the Hollow will include a temporary environmental sculpture contest. Entry is \$10, and, concepts meeting safety criteria will all be erected the day of the festival. The three sculpture prizes are \$300, \$200 and \$100. This is a chance to make a statement with public art! There is no previous experience or credentials required. Deadline is June 1; apply at artinthehollow.org.

There will be artists in a variety of media demonstrating and selling their works, and performers from around the globe on our stage in the heart of magical Swede Hollow Park. Scores of community members come together to make this happen, and volunteers are rewarded with a breakfast at the beginning of the day and a party with the artists afterward. For more information on volunteering to be a part of this wonderful celebration of talent contact Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 or karin@swedehollow.org. To exhibit, perform, or enter the sculpture contest, sign up at artinthehollow.org.

Everyone is welcome to come to Art in the Hollow and it is FREE. There will be all kinds of art for sale, and entertainment all day.

We Are Hmong: History Center exhibit draws crowds



Hmong Minnesota

Large crowds filled the We Are Hmong exhibit opening at the Minnesota History Center March 7. November 2015 marks the 40th anniversary of the Hmong migration to Minnesota following the war in Southeast Asia. Today, the Twin Cities metro area is home to 66,000 Hmong, the largest urban Hmong population in the United States. The exhibit is open to the public through November.

Continued from page 1:

CSA: April 9 event at DBCC

minority and immigrant farmers. Shared Ground views its marketing and farm skill training as an instrument of social justice, and a way for farmers with few resources to gain more stable income, training, and leadership development skills through participation in a member-owned and member-governed enterprise.

Urban Roots (urbanrootsmn.org) is a St. Paul-based organization whose mission is to build vibrant and healthy communities through food, conservation and youth development. Urban Roots has three programs: a Market Garden Program, Conservation Program and Cooking & Wellness Program. Each program contains three components:

youth internships (ages 14-18 residing or attending school on St. Paul's East Side), education for the community and action projects that engage youth in improving the community's health and environment.

This Native-owned, Native-

grown farm (dreamofwildhealth.org) offers a unique CSA geared towards Native American families living in the area. The farm grows many of the standard veggies but is also working to bring back traditional Native foods to the urban Native community. Weekly boxes typically include 5-15 varieties of vegetables, herbs, and fruit, based on what is in season at the farm. As the season goes on, it may also include honey, our heritage dried beans, wild rice, maple syrup, and wild gathered foods. There will also be monthly opportunities for members to participate in cooking classes, wild gathering days, or to come out to the farm and pick their own produce.

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Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Monthly circulation: 7,000; also available online at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org. This publication of Hopewell Communications, Inc. 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 editor@daytonsbuff.org. 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 651-776-0550.

Board of Directors:

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Next issue: May 2015. Deadline for material: April 15, 2015.

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Community Council calls on legislature to pass One State, One License bill

Forum staff

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council adopted a resolution at its March 16 board meeting that calls for the Minnesota Legislature to pass a bill permitting undocumented immigrants to apply for and receive driver's licenses, returning the law to what it was about 10 years ago. Several reasons were cited for supporting the change, including public safety and the failure of Congress to pass legislation addressing the plight of the millions of immigrants working in this country who remain in legal limbo.

The Council also gave its support to the May 1 immigrant rights marches that will take place in both Minneapolis and St. Paul, focusing on the need for the One State, One License legislation.

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Home Tour April 26, 27

The tour is hosted by the Minneapolis/ St. Paul Home Tour, the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and Dayton's Bluff Community Council.

The tour brochures can be picked up at the Dayton's Bluff Library on East 7th Street in mid-April. Dayton's Bluff tour brochures can be picked up at any of the homes listed above during the hours of the tour. Many people come here year after year to see what's up in Dayton's Bluff. They like the variety of homes, the parks, the neighborhoods and the neighborhood people they meet in the homes. Some of the visitors like it so well that they have made Dayton's Bluff their home.

Volunteers are still needed for the Dayton's Bluff home tour. Tasks include greeting people at the door, giving out brochures and information about Dayton's Bluff, and helping the homeowners for a few hours either day. This is a chance to help market Dayton's Bluff to visitors. If you are interested in helping out, please email karin@swedehollow.org or call Karin at 651-776-0550. For more information on the MSP home tour, visit msphometour.com, and visit daytonsbluff.org for more information about the Dayton's Bluff tour.



Joni Woitas



Karin DuPaul

Far left: Flat Earth Brewing Company's new sign, as seen from Swede Hollow Park.

Near left: Dayton Bluff residents Tyler and Chelsea DeArmond (and an anonymous photo-bomb) at the Flat Earth Saint Paddy's Customer Appreciation Day.

What is happening at the oldest of the Hamm's brewery buildings?

Forum staff

In Hamm's Brewery building #17, Urban Organics has been very successful on the first floor growing organic vegetables and tilapia fish. Now they are planning to expand into space at the old Schmidt Brewery. They are not leaving their building at Hamm's. When they raise enough funds they plan to construct another stairway in their Hamm building #17 so they can expand upward into more floors in their 75-foot tall building.

Flat Earth Brewery hosted a Pre-St.

Paddy's Customer Appreciation day on March 14 starting with donuts and Black Heli beer in the morning. At noon it was hot dogs and brews. Hundreds of hot dogs were served at the noon to two event. Flat Earth has started putting some of their beers in cans and you can still get it in growlers. Flat Earth Brewery has a new sign on their buildings in the Hamm's Brewery campus. The sign faces Swede Hollow Park which reads "Saint Paul's Brewery." The St. Paul Brewery is the company that brews

Flat Earth beers.

11 Wells Distillery is named that because the old Hamm Brewery had 11 wells on their property. 11 Wells is in the old blacksmith and pipe shop buildings of the Hamm Brewery buildings. They are producing gin, whiskey, and rum. According to their website 11 Wells is the first distillery in St. Paul since prohibition.

All three of these businesses are using some of the old Hamm's land of sky blue waters wells for their product water.

IWI WRESTLING AT THE MOUNDS THEATRE

Pro wrestling takes center stage in front of a full house

The Historic Mounds Theatre at 1029 Hudson Road is a great place to hold an event – from a cabaret to a movie screening; even professional wrestling! Pictured below are some exciting scenes from Minnesota Pro Wrestling's event in March. More IWI wrestling will be held April 11 – see page 2 for details.



Lou "The Photo Guy" Michaels

Get Involved and Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Want to Make a Difference in Your Community?

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One vote matters: the fascinating caucus and convention process

Editor's note: Dayton's Bluff resident Tim Herman is an active voter who had never participated in the caucus and convention process before. We'd like to share his first-time experiences with Forum readers.

St. Paul is strongly Democratic, especially on the East Side. Republicans have little support here and seldom challenge DFL candidates, while the DFL nominated candidate on the November ballot is almost guaranteed the election. This means that the little-understood caucus and convention process essentially elects the candidate. This is also why some people strongly support "no endorsement" (when the DFL decides it cannot agree on a candidate and so does not endorse anyone) at conventions, so that all candidates can appear on the November ballot and every voter gets a chance to choose – not just those who show up at the caucus and convention.

The political machine revved into high gear last fall after Council President Kathy Lantry announced she would not seek reelection for her Ward 7 seat. Lantry has had a firm hold on this seat for 17 years and would-be candidates have been unwilling to challenge her popularity. Her decision to walk away from the City Council opened the door to five DFL candidates eager to seek a seat on the Council: Elliott Nickell, Jane Prince, John Slade, Paul Sawyer, and Steve Frazer. This unusually large slate of candidates motivated Ward 7 residents to get involved in the multi-step process of electing Lantry's successor – many for the very first time. Additionally, Caucus for Change rallied a large group of dissatisfied residents to caucus for DFL nominations of the new St. Paul school board candidates, and many of these folks had also never caucused.

The first step in getting a DFL-nominated City Council or school board candidate on the November ballot is the February caucus, in which delegates are selected to attend the nominating convention. The caucus was held at Harding High School, where each Council and school board candi-

date had a table with flyers, buttons, and t-shirts for the taking. Attendees' passion about candidates and issues brought high energy to the evening. Tables were assigned to each precinct of Ward 7 and there was a map available to help folks identify their precinct. The rules for the night were explained, with experienced caucuser Eric Foster making several points of order asking for rules clarifications so that new folks could clearly understand the process. Brief speeches were given by the candidates but the lack of a microphone made it hard to hear, especially over the various translators stationed around the room. Finally, the precincts began to select delegates.

It seemed like each precinct was using its own selection process to try to select a group with a balance of men and women. Some residents came to support a particular candidate (Tim Herman, for example, supported Paul Sawyer) but it is estimated that at the end of the night about 1/3 of the selected delegates remained undecided about which Council candidate to support – setting up interesting dynamics for the upcoming convention. Only 16 of the people who turned out in Herman's precinct were interested in being delegates – ideal, because they were only allowed 16. Other precincts with a larger turnout had a more challenging selection process. Alternates also had to be selected in case a delegate was unable to attend the convention. Several people unable to attend the caucus had submitted written letters expressing a willingness to serve as delegates or alternates, so the alternates for Herman's precinct were chosen from these letters.

One of the last steps of the caucus was to create committees to take care of a variety of the details leading up to the convention. Herman joined the Rules Committee. Over the course of three meetings, this committee made many decisions regarding the rules of order for the convention, including rules about the drop-off rate and calling for "no endorsement." The drop-off rate determines when candidates will be dropped from the caucus ballots. The committee decided that the first

candidate(s) would be dropped if they had less than 10% of the votes after the second ballot. The drop-off rate increased by 10% for each subsequent ballot. The committee also determined that a precinct chair could call for "no endorsement" only after the eighth ballot. Herman had no idea how crucial these two rules were until he was in the midst of the convention.

The convention took place at Battle Creek Middle school. Upon arrival delegates were issued official credentials and again proceeded to their precinct area. The rules were presented for approval, with an unsuccessful motion to change one rule. The candidates made brief speeches again, then ropes were set up to designate "the floor." During each ballot (round of voting), the floor was "frozen," meaning nobody was allowed to enter. Once the paper ballots were collected the floor was "unfrozen." During these unfrozen times, while ballots were being counted, the school board candidates gave speeches. These were also good times to visit the classroom assigned to your candidate and get some munchies. For each round of voting, delegates were issued a ballot on a small colored slip of paper. Each round had a different color. Delegates wrote the name of their chosen candidate on the front of the paper and signed the back. Votes without signatures were "spoiled" and were not counted.

A selection of Tim Herman's texts help summarize the day:

11:44 am: "1st ballot is almost counted. 2 more school board candidates to speak then announcement of 1st ballot. 2nd ballot will be quickly after."

12:35 pm: "Elliott just stepped off after the 1st ballot and before the announcement of the 2nd ballot. Here is order. Jane, John, Paul, Steve."

12:39: "Now doing 3rd ballot. Paul is at risk of not making the cut with percentage points."

12:48: "Steve's people are dropping to support John Slade and a no endorsement."

12:58: "Paul is saying he may get bounced from next ballot and I will have to choose between Jane and John

or a no endorsement"

1:10: "So, Paul is dropping. Final 2 will be Slade and Prince and are aiming for a non endorsement."

At this point there was much discussion about no endorsement. Before the convention, Paul Sawyer and Jane Prince had pledged that if they weren't endorsed they would not run in the general election and would support the DFL endorsed candidate, but John Slade had pledged to run in the general election regardless of nomination. However, if the convention resulted in no endorsement, all candidates would be free to run in the election. A non-endorsement was now the only way Herman would be able to vote for his candidate Paul in the general election.

2:12: "Jane is in the lead after 5 ballots with 53% of the vote." (60% is needed to claim the nomination)

2:50: "Ballot 6 had Jane at 58%. Slade said will not run in a general (election). Steve Frazer will. Could be Jane and Frazer in the general."

3:13: "OMG. 7th ballot Jane 59.6% to John 40.4%. After 8th we can vote for non endorse. This is now a pep rally with the floor cheering back and forth like a high school."

3:42: "Ballot 8 was just cast. Jane 59.4%. John 40.6%. John moved to non-endorsement."

4:17: "Slade just conceded."

The dramatic day concluded with Jane Prince receiving the DFL nomination for Ward 7. The voting was so close at the end and Herman felt like his vote absolutely mattered. Finally, 54 delegates and 54 alternates from Ward 7 were selected to attend the city convention where 4 candidates will be endorsed for school board. When asked to summarize the caucus and convention experience, Herman called it absolutely fascinating. His advice to other first-timers is to get to know about all of the candidates before the convention in case your favorite candidate gets dropped and you have to decide who to then support. Tim Herman will be a delegate to the city convention on April 19, so look for his report in next month's *Forum!*

Low voter turnout in Dayton's Bluff is a community issue

Nicole Pressly, Dayton's Bluff Community Council

"Buy local"- you see the signs in the store fronts of small businesses or the advertisements on in your Facebook feed. The benefits: injecting money back into the local economy, protecting the character of your neighborhood, reducing your carbon footprint. The list goes on. American Express launched their "Buy Local Saturdays" campaign and residents in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood have done well with reinforcing the spirit of buying local. From the independent coffee shops to the niche reuse store, it is clear that St. Paulites love local.

Well, except when it comes to local elections, or elections in general. Minnesota prides itself on having the best voter turnout in the country, with nearly 71.4 %

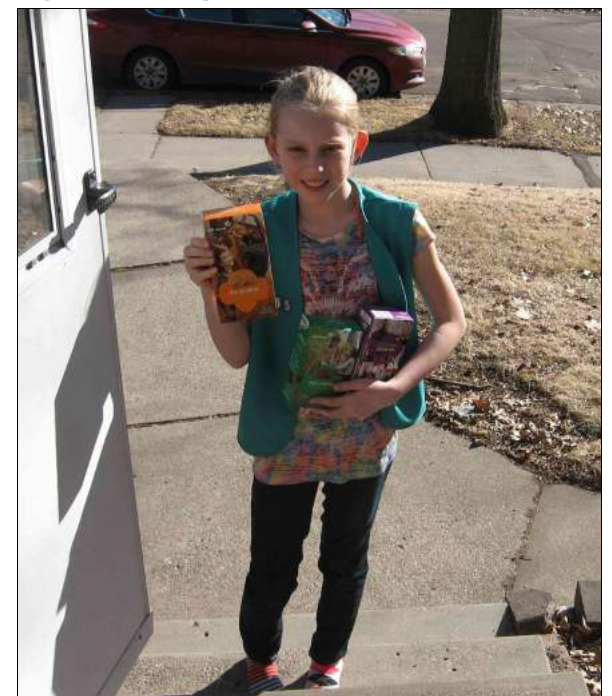
of eligible voters voting in the last presidential election. But when we look closer there may be more cause for concern than celebration. In 2012, only 38% of Dayton's Bluff's eligible voters made it to the polls. This percentage fell to between 22% - 35% for the 2010 midterms. Mayor Coleman's 2013 landslide win also marked the lowest voter participation St. Paul had seen in 40 years. And voter turnout takes a steep plummet into the single digits for city council primaries. These numbers only get worse when you look at the participation disparities by income and race.

It's election season again. Maybe we will see a few signs, and most candidates have attempted some social media presence. Unlike the "buy local" ethos that has swept through the

East Side, there seems to be an absence of engagement and enthusiasm when it comes to local elections. We know residents care about public safety, schools, roads and parks; these quality of life issues have immediate impacts on our lives. Still, voter turnout in these local elections is disturbingly low.

So where are the initiatives to fix our local voter participation problem? Dayton's Bluff Community Council is participating in a joint effort with several other district councils to work on this issue. This effort is in the beginning stages and we will need community support to make measurable impacts. If this issue interests you, please join us at our next Community Engagement Committee meeting on **April 14 at 6:30 pm** at 804 Margaret Street.

Sugar and spice, and determination



Steve Trimble

This Junior Girl Scout was knocking on neighborhood doors, selling seven varieties of cookies for her East Side school's troupe. The girls earn badges, valuable experience, and prizes. Cookie season officially ends March 26.

History corner

Minnesota's Helen Keller: The story of Vera Gammon

Steve Trimble
Forum historian

When you are looking for something, something unexpected might lead you down an entirely different path. I was recently scanning a microfilm of scrapbooks at the Minnesota Historical Society and a photo caught my eye. It was a photo of a young girl under a headline that said "Minnesota's Helen Keller." To my surprise, it said she lived at 964 Reaney Avenue, in our neighborhood. I am still gathering material about her, but here is some of her story so far.

Vera Mabel Gammon was born on November 22, 1895. Her father, a painter, came from England and her mother arrived from Germany. At the age of four Vera lost her sight and hearing due to an illness. The family developed ways of communicating with her through touch. Hoping to better her life, they decided to send Vera to the Minnesota School for the Blind in Faribault.

She made remarkable progress, learning three signs on her first day of study. Within three years, she had a 3,000-word vocabulary was able to use a typewriter and had written a 5,000-word essay. She learned to knit and could sew garments for her dolls. Vera also had a remarkable sense of smell. She could find her own clothes unaided and knew people by their aromas. The State Legislature even made a special appropriation to pay for a teacher – Blanche Hansen – as her constant companion.

Vera lived in Faribault during the school year and stayed in Dayton's Bluff during the summer. In August of 1910, 13-year-old Vera was teaching sign language to neighborhood children. That summer, she fulfilled a long ambition to have a party for her friends from Faribault and St. Paul. So in August, 30 people – both seeing and blind – came to the Gammon

lawn to have a good time.

Vera learned about Helen Keller at school, read one of her books in Braille, wrote to her for help and guidance and exchanged letters. In 1914 the word came that Keller would be in the Twin Cities and wanted to meet Vera. She and her mother bought a piece of fine linen and hemstitched it as a gift handkerchief. "Where is Vera?" Helen said after entering a local hotel.

with her mother, but little is currently known about her later life. According to the 1930 census, a second full-time companion, May Gritzmaker, lived with the Gammons. Vera made several return visits to Faribault.

Vera, who was still at the family home on Reaney, appeared in the local newspaper in 1941. This time it was a small article with photo saying she was aiding the local Red Cross

by making garments for war sufferers. "Miss Gammon follows directions accurately," it stated, "and her finished product usually becomes an exhibition piece."

Starting in the 1950s there were some major changes in Vera's life. Her mother died in 1957 and Vera then lived for a short time at 858 Tuscarora Avenue (in the West 7th Street neighborhood). In 1960 she was residing at the Minneapolis Hotel for the Blind. In 1962 there was a notice in a publication of the blind community about her activity at the new home. A man kept Vera and a companion "up on the news that he gets from the newspapers and he also reads their letters for them, giving these two blind women the message through their hands."

Perhaps because she had led a quiet adult life, no Twin Cities newspaper carried her obituary. But a School for the Deaf publication remembered her in a short notice: "Miss Vera Gammon, the well-known deaf-blind resident of Minneapolis, died September 7, 1964. Miss Gammon... lived an interesting life. Her double handicap did not prevent her keeping up with events of the world, and visiting with her many friends."



Minnesota Historical Society

Vera Gammon, left, pictured with her teacher Blanche Hansen.

The two embraced and kissed and their fingers began to move over facial features. They sat down and talked, a meeting Vera called "the greatest in her life." A newspaper said she "went back home so full of hope and confidence" and she told her mother that she was "going to try ever so hard to do all the wonderful things that Helen Keller has done."

Vera graduated from the school in 1919 and gave a major address in sign language. Called "Three Doors to Knowledge," it explained how she utilized taste, smell, and touch to understand the world. She returned to live

View from my porch

Mental illness devastates lives, families

Editor's note: Jerry Jackson, a former U.S. Marine who suffered from mental illness and was homeless, was found frozen to death in Mounds Park in February. He was 58.

Sage Holben
special to the Forum

Jerry Jackson, I can't claim to have known you; but when you died, so did a piece of my soul.

You represent people who have led challenging lives and then disappear from my life. Some people staying at Dorothy Day or Gospel Mission, I see almost daily and then they leave for weeks or months at a time. Some never reappear. Whether they go out of state, find permanent housing, are admitted to a hospital...or have died...I seldom know. One man gave me a few of his books for safe-keeping while he shuttles between sleeping outdoors and at a shelter; another's Vietnam jungle hat hangs on a hook in my home, waiting for his son, perhaps, to claim it. David was afraid it might disappear while he was in an unstable living arrangement.

Some, like you, Jerry, have chosen to remain more solitary, encamping in one of the many woody areas of our urban neighborhood. Branches snapping in the icy cold, or the familiarity of squirrels, seem easier to be around than people hungry for attention.

Jerry, you are a reminder of a younger sister who remains lost to me. Mental and emotional illness began carving out a distance in our family from the time my sister was about seven years old. With the mix of domestic violence, child abuse, parental alcoholism and sibling drug use, Beth (not her real name), fourth of five children, didn't stand a chance; she was least able to safely find her way out.

Reality hits, and I am aware that most anyone I meet on the street has family somewhere, though perhaps not able to maintain a

healthy or stable relationship. It doesn't mean that there is not compassion, empathy or pain; just not the ability to deal with – as in Beth's case – severe mood swings, suicide attempts, death threats and emotional upheavals whenever she enters our lives and just as suddenly, leaves.

Until recently, not knowing where she was, only vaguely that she would be in Illinois, I would call shelters or police and they would give me sketchy info: "her son had contact with us," or "she had been in," or a shelter might take my name, number and message to pass on if she came in. For me, she is one of the missing. Someone else may have had a closer relationship with Beth. Ours was one of turmoil, strained by years of lack of knowledge and resources. She was came into my care for a couple months when she was 16. Six or seven years later, her kindergarten-age son, compliments of social services, joined my family for a year. A few years later, her oldest child, my 15-year-old niece, was released from a mental hospital into my care. From time to time someone would tell me they saw her living on the street; or that she had attempted suicide again. She would call me in the middle of the night and ask if something in her head had really happened or if it was not reality. In and out of hospitals... never at peace.

This View is as much for Beth as it is a thank you to Jerry...for opening lives that otherwise might stay hidden; for touching me deeply. This is for Beth, who managed to hold full-time jobs, to write poetry and give her love so freely, but so limited in who would accept her as she was.

Perhaps one day, when my doorbell rings, it will be Beth. Can you, the reader, understand that the thought brings with it dread as well as the possibility of love and dreams fulfilled? There is always so much more to any one person's story.



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Judy Lee

East Side Eating – Trimble's Taste Trek

Forum contributor Steve Trimble is attempting to eat at every sit-down restaurant on the East Side in 2015 (chain restaurants will only be included if they are small and local). He hopes to get the word out to the Dayton's Bluff community about the eating options here on our side of town. Steve isn't going to pretend to be a food critic, but will give readers a little insider knowledge about the experience of eating at each place. A longer version of each month's article is available at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org; click on "East Side Eating" on the top of the home page.



Steve Trimble

Pictured is Hur Feng, owner of H F Cafe, behind the counter and ready to serve.

H F Cafe

1010 Payne Avenue
651-776-9179
Monday-Thursday: 11:00 am-9:00 pm
Friday & Saturday: 11:00 am-9:30 pm
Sunday: 12:00 noon-8:30 pm

January 31, 2015: It was a Saturday night and I wanted to be sure to do a fifth eat-in during the first month of my Taste Trek. I decided to try out what was new at the old Sui Yep Restaurant. It looks a lot like what it used to. Small, clean, featuring Chinese dishes with about eight booths and two tables, one of them a large round one. There is no liquor available. Large photos of lunch dishes on the wall. There is a different special each day of the week. You can also do take-out and they deliver for orders of at least fifteen dollars. They will take reservations and can offer special family style serving for large groups. I was there around 7:00 pm and was alone for twenty minutes or so. Apparently this is more of a lunch spot.

I did give me a chance to find out a few things. I found out that the Initials of the place comes from the name of the owner Hur Feng, a Mandarin speaker, who came to Minnesota from northern China around twenty years ago. Her husband, who does the cooking, had been a chef at several restaurants and wanted to have a family business. I had my usual sweet and sour chicken. The sauce was thin rather than thick and sticky. Little red pepper icons are added on the menu to warn that some dishes are pretty hot. There are vegetarian dishes and other things that looked interesting, such as Korean Style Beef Ribs, Szechuan Duck and Thai style fish.

Roadside Pizza

296 Larpenteur Avenue
651-778-8786
roadsidepizzastpaul.com
Saturday-Thursday: 11:00 am-9:00 pm
Friday: 11:00 am-10:00 pm

February 7, 2015: Roadside Pizza is just east of the 35E exit at Larpenteur in a small strip mall. With more than 60 years in business, they are one of the older establishments in the city. They were on Snelling Avenue for many years and catered to the classic car crowd, which explains why there are numerous signed photos of autos on the wall. They also have sports mementos. It's not huge but is clean and has room for more than a dozen booths and a few tables.

They feature pizza and wings, but the menu also includes "gourmet salads," wraps, and hot entrées, including the classic "hot dagos." There are soft drinks but no beer or liquor. I decided to try their Special Deluxe Pizza, said to be the most popular choice. It featured Italian sausage, pepperoni, fresh mushrooms, green pepper and onions. I ordered the 10-inch small and, as I suspected, took half of it home.

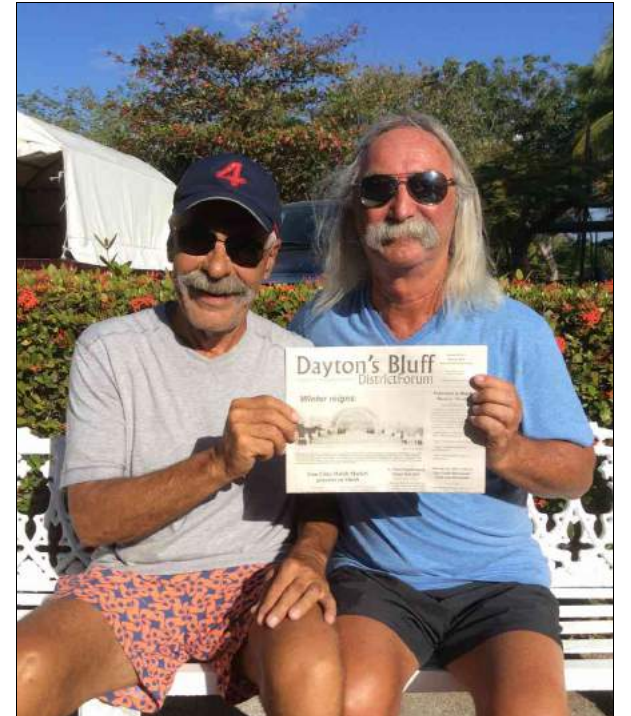
I was there on a Saturday night and was the only seated patron, but several folks came for take-out. I had a conversation with a man who said he used to be afraid of the East Side, but now thought it was generally getting better. My only regret was not trying out the cinnamon fries made out of pizza dough, but I was full. They do have free WiFi and coloring sheets for kids, some of which decorated the walls. Roadside Pizza will deliver and do catering.

The Forum heads south



Several readers sent us pictures of themselves reading our newspaper on their travels. If you'd like to do the same, please email photos to editor@daytonsbuff.org. Above: Dayton's Bluff residents (from left) Cliff Carey, Carol Carey, and Stephanie Harr brought the Forum with them to Mexico.

Right: Steve Gammon (on the left) and friend David spent a warm day reading their favorite local paper at Puerto Aventuras, Mexico.



Jane Prince and her husband Dave Murphy enjoyed the Forum at Big Bend National Park in Texas, just a few miles from the Mexican border.

Many thanks to our 2015 donors:

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The Dayton's Bluff District Forum has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1970s, and has always operated on a minimal budget.

For the past two years we have been soliciting donations through our Friends of the Forum program. Thanks to the donations of readers like you, we have been able to keep the paper up and running.

If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out the form at right. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations, or include the Forum in your legacy planning.

If you have been our Friend in the past, please renew your membership with a donation in 2015.

Our goal for the year is \$2,000; as of this printing we have raised \$480. Won't you help us?

Sincerely,
The Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Board: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Jennifer Herman, Carla Riehle, Steve Trimble
Editor: Meg Gronau; Editorial Assistant: Mark Gallagher

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