

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"



Photo courtesy of www.marnyxiong.org

Marny Xiong



Photo courtesy of jeannieforkids.com

Jeannie Foster

Two East Siders elected to the St. Paul School Board

Steve Trimble
Forum Staff

For many years the East Side has been greatly under-represented on the St. Paul School Board. But now there are two members to bring special attention to an area that has a third of the city's population. In the November 7 election, Marny Xiong and Jeannie Foster – both East Side residents – were elected.

Foster, 44, won a special election last fall for a one-year term in a seat vacated by a board member who resigned and was easily re-elected in the recent election. She raised two children as a young, single mother who has lived in St. Paul her entire life. She owns a home in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood and serves on the Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council. Foster, an early childhood educator, is a graduate of the district who holds a Master's in Education from Concordia University in St. Paul.

Xiong, 28, is a first-generation daughter of two Hmong immigrants who fled Laos after the Vietnam War. She worked her way through the local public school system, graduated from Arlington High School, and went on to acquire a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. She lives in the Payne Phalen neighborhood and serves on the Payne-Phalen Community Council. Xiong has been a community organizer and is currently employed by Minneapolis Public Schools, where she manages the financial operation of one of the district's schools.

Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Homes needed for the Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour

Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff

The 2018 Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour is just around the corner. Planners are hot on the trail for homes to be featured on the Home Tour now. The tour will take place on **Saturday, April 28, and Sunday, April 29, 2018**. The tour is of occupied homes to show visitors our wonderful homes, people, and community. Visitors from all over the metro come each year to see the lovely homes in Dayton's Bluff.

Three more Dayton's Bluff homes are needed to be on the

tour. Homes can be large or small, Victorians or ramblers, or anything in between. Homes may be works-in-progress or finished products. It's a fantastic opportunity to show off our neighborhood and all the good things about the Bluff. Some visitors like Dayton's Bluff so much that they buy a home here. The tour is also a great way to get new ideas on remodeling and updating your home. You can nominate your own home or talk to your neighbors about getting their homes on the tour.

Neighborhood people are also needed to volunteer during the tour. On Sunday evening after the tour is over, the "After the Tour Supper Party" will be held for the home owners and volunteers.

To learn more about having your home on the tour, to volunteer, or for more information, please email karindupaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550.

Congratulations to Susan Reyes, winner of November's *Where in Dayton's Bluff?*

Susan correctly guessed the location of the sign in the photo on page 4 of the November issue – Indian Mounds Park.

The contest is over for 2017. Watch for your next copy of the Forum to arrive in February of 2018 for more chances to win!

Dayton's Bluff
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Needed: Your talent!

Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff

The 6th Annual CABARET! will take place on Friday, February 2, at the Historic Mounds Theatre (1029 Hudson Road). More East Side talent is needed - singers, musicians, comedians, and dancers for this celebration of talent with East Side roots. If you or someone you know would like to entertain at the CABARET, sign up at www.artinthehollow.com or call Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550.

The evening will include a silent auction of original art, cash bar, and food catered by family-owned Yarusso Bros., an authentic Italian Restaurant with deep roots on the East Side.

CABARET! tickets are only \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Get your tickets now and put the CABARET! on your calendar! The theatre will come alive with an amazing variety of acts. Reserve your tickets now online at www.moundstheatre.org or contact Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 or karindupaul@comcast.net for more information. Don't miss it!

The CABARET! is a fundraiser for this coming year's 9th Annual Art in the Hollow, an art festival in Swede Hollow Park on Saturday, June 2, 2018. The CABARET! and Art in the Hollow are projects of Friends of Swede Hollow, a nonprofit organization that works to restore and protect the park, celebrate Swede Hollow history, and hold events honoring the park and the neighborhood.

Karin DuPaul can be reached at karindupaul@comcast.net.

Thank you Smilin' Cowboys

Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff

The Smilin' Cowboys and Bill Patten did an excellent job of entertaining the audience at the Benefit for Art in the Hollow at the Minnesota Music Café on November 9. Friends of Swede Hollow would like to send a special thank you to

John Knowles for all of his work to make this event a success. The organization would also like to thank the Minnesota Music Café and the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 33 for making this event possible. Friends of Swede Hollow members were able to tell attendees about their work in Swede Hollow Park and their upcoming events including CABARET! on Feb 2, and Art in the Hollow on June 2.

Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike

On the **second Saturday** of most months, the Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike will begin at Indian Mounds Park, located at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, at **10:30 a.m.** **The next hikes will be on Saturday, December 9, and Saturday, January 13.** The hike is approximately one and a half to two hours long and will end at Swede Hollow Park or East Side Heritage Park, depending on the desire of the hikers. Share and learn a little history along the way! Email karindupaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550 for more information.

Friends of Swede Hollow

Watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meeting on **Thursday, December 7, and Thursday, January 4, at 6:30 p.m.** Please note that meetings are now on Thursday. Email karin@swedehollow.org or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

Help with writing, online content, idea generation, and ad sales – join us at our next meeting on **Tuesday, January 2, at 1:00 p.m.**, at Swede Hollow Cafe (725 E. 7th Street). Call 651-776-0550 or email daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com for more information.

Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Saint Paul Police will host their monthly meetings for community members at the Eastern District Police Office at 722 Payne Avenue, on the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues.

The next meetings are on **Wednesdays, December 20, and January 17, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.** Meetings are intended as a time to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

SNAP Food Program at CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio)

¿Necesita más comida saludable para la familia? El programa SNAP le puede ayudar. SNAP proporciona fondos para alimentos que benefician a familias de escasos recursos.

Aún si no es ciudadano, si tiene hijos nacidos en este país ellos podrían calificar. Participar en el programa SNAP no afectará su estatus migratorio.

¡Llame a CLUES para saber si califica! 612-746-3500. Nuestro personal bilingüe puede facilitar el proceso para usted y su familia.

Need healthy food for your family? The SNAP program provides funds for low-income families to buy food. Even if you are not a citizen, your children born in this country could qualify. Participation in the SNAP program won't affect their immigration status.

Call CLUES to find out if you qualify at 612-746-3500. Our bilingual staff can facilitate the process for your family.

Twin Cities Mobile Market

The Twin Cities Mobile Market is a grocery store on wheels that brings affordable, healthy food directly into under-resourced neighborhoods. The Mobile Market stops at Parkway Gardens Apartments, located at 1145 Hudson Road, on **Wednesdays, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**



Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20 & 27; January 3, 10, 17 & 24: Free Community Dinner presented by Faith to the Nations. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Weekends, December 1-23: A Klingon Christmas Carol. Come to the Mounds Theatre for our 3rd annual presentation of *A Klingon Christmas Carol*. Directed by Aaron Coker. The classic tale of Scrooge learning the true meaning of courage and honor on the eve of the Long Night. Scrooge has no honor, nor any courage. Can three ghosts help him to become the true warrior he ought to be in time to save Tiny Tim from a horrible fate? Performed in the Original Klingon with English supertitles, and narrative analysis from The Vulcan Institute of Cultural Anthropology. Seating is reserved, and some shows will sell out, so advance ticket purchases are encouraged. Tickets \$18 (reserved); \$35 (VIP – includes a front row table seat and one concession item.)

Saturday, January 27: Battle of the Stars Burlesque.



Visit moundstheatre.org for information on upcoming events as it becomes available. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com.

December at the Dayton's Bluff Library

The following events will be held at the Dayton's Bluff library, 645 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul:

On **Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays**, in December, from **4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**, Dayton's Bluff Library will offer *Snack in the Zone*, along with *Homework Help in the Zone* from **4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Saturday, December 2, 9, 16 and 30, from noon to 2:00 p.m., *Maker Space in the FunZONE!* Play computer games like Minecraft, and enjoy other hands-on fun in the Zone.

Tuesday, December 12, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Teens Know Best!*

Teens have exclusive access to books before they are published! This group meets on the second Tuesday of every month to share opinions and pizza. *Teens Know Best* members are expected to write reviews of the books they read. The reviews are submitted directly to the publishers to help guide their decisions. New members can register at the meeting. Call 651-632-3873 for more information.

New! Check out board games at the library! The Metro State library now has a board game collection available to all! Library visitors can play the games in the library or check them out for two weeks. The full list of games can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/MetroGames> and all are available to the public.

Saint Paul Public Libraries will be closed December 22-26, for the holidays.

For information about these and other events check sppl.org or call 651-793-1699. The Dayton's Bluff Library shares its home with Metropolitan State University at 645 East 7th Street.

December at the East Side Freedom Library

Saturday, December 2, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., the ESFL presents: *In-Visibility: Black Muslim Women in the Arts*.

For Black Muslim women living in the U.S., navigating the arts comes with several caveats. From tokenism to erasure, swerving on anti-Blackness, Islamophobia or sexism, is practically a given if you're Black, Muslim, and a woman in the arts.

Join us for a robust panel discussion centering the voices of such individuals. These local creatives will share their unique perspectives and reflections surrounding their relationship to the arts. Special musical performance by Yaba Gobana.

This event is hosted by Sagirah Shahid and co-sponsored by the East Side Freedom Library. Funded in part by the Minnesota State Arts Board through an artist initiative grant.

This event is free and open to the public, cash donations of \$5-\$20 accepted at the door.

Tuesday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m., the ESFL invites you to enjoy a free screening of the film *Suffragette*.

This recently made feature-length drama, inspired by true events and real historical figures, concentrates on the experiences and roles of working-class women in the British struggle for the right to vote. This movie provides one of the most complex representations of how people are transformed through their participation in a social struggle.

After the film and discussion, Ward 6 (858 Payne Avenue) invites you to enjoy happy hour pricing on drinks (\$4 for draft beers, selected wines, and rail drinks) in the great tradition of labor fellowship and solidarity.

Sunday, December 10, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., the ESFL will host a *Bilingual Writing Workshop* led by Victoria Blanco. Ms. Blanco invites you to join her in a workshop about writing in two (or more!) languages to generate a discussion about the craft of bilingual writing.

Participants will be encouraged to share your own experiences/approaches/thoughts/feelings about the challenges

of weaving together two languages on one page. Participants are welcome even if you speak/write in only one language.

Victoria Blanco is a Minneapolis-based writer who mixes English and Spanish on the page. She grew up in El Paso, Texas, about ten minutes from the U.S.-Mexico border.

This workshop is supported by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. The East Side Freedom Library is honored to host this workshop.

The East Side Freedom Library is located at 1150 Greenbrier Street. Call 651-230-3294, email info@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org, or visit eastsidefreedomlibrary.org for details on these and other upcoming events as they become available.

Business Classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. Classes last eight weeks and include operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with creating 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.

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 scale. Class size is limited. Call Emma Spillman at 651-379-8432.

Let your voice be heard!

Contact WEQY 104.7 FM, St. Paul East Side's Community Reporter Cearah Hamilton of The Eastside Vibe if you have valuable resources you want to get out to the community, would like her to cover your event, or interview your organization! Cearah can be reached at cearah@weqy.org.

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Weekly group for parents with a son or daughter battling addiction offers hope through education and support

Robyn Koger Kidd
Parents of Addicted Loved Ones

A new support group is starting in our community at the Mounds Park United Methodist Church, 1049 Euclid Street (corner of Earl Street and Euclid Street) meeting each **Tuesday, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** The group is open to parents of any faith or background who have a child battling addiction.

According to recent research cited by the National Institute for Drug Abuse, opioid/heroin deaths now exceed annual deaths from car crashes. An article in the New York Times notes, "The rising death rates for those young white adults, ages 25 to 34, make them the first generation since the Vietnam War years of the mid-1960s to experience higher death rates in early adulthood than the generation that preceded it," directly tying this rise to drug overdoses. Also, former President Obama in February, 2016, requested \$1.5 billion in spending to combat the issue of opioid/heroin abuse alone, noting it is an epidemic in our country. And as is commonly reported, the vast majority of those in our

prisons are there in connection with drug or drug related offenses.

Years of working as a substance abuse counselor taught Mike Speakman that overcoming addiction isn't just about treatment for the individual; it takes support from the family as well. "A good example is diabetes," Speakman said. "You didn't cause it, but if your child had it you might want to learn about it so you could help better."

Each PAL (Parents of Addicted Loved ones) meeting, which is designed for parents or spouses of loved ones going through an addiction, begins with a prayer, followed by introductions. The group is then presented with one of nine lessons; which include "Healthy Helping" and "The Four Stages of Growth in Recovery." After some discussion of the lesson, the members of the group give an update about what's going on in their lives and then the meeting ends with prayer. The group is designed for each individual to learn at their own pace. The challenge is that much of the education goes against natural parenting instincts.

Speakman had been offering education for families in single weekend sessions. After years though, he eventually realized the change that needs to occur with drug and alcohol addiction is a long-term change for the entire family. They may learn a lot over a weekend, but

repetition and consistency is what will cause the change. Interestingly, although PAL's focus is on helping the family members, it indirectly seems to help their loved one. Mike notes what he began to see was that, "When the parents got help and started making changes in how they dealt with their sons and daughters, I saw the addicted loved ones eventually seeking help." That's why he began the PAL group. Mike is also the author of *The Four Seasons of Recovery, for Parents of Alcoholics and Addicts*.

The first meeting took place in July of 2006, at the Calvary Addiction Recovery Center, and has since spread across Phoenix, the Arizona Valley, and Tucson. PAL also expanded out of Arizona and currently has meetings in California, Kentucky, Indiana, Montana, Ohio, Oregon, and Washington. The PAL group in Saint Paul, along with another in Rochester, is one of the first two in Minnesota.

Jerry Law, a certified interventionist, says it's important for parents or spouses to find a support group like PAL so that they don't feel so alone. "It's critical," he said. "It's the only way to survive. You feel like, 'What did I do wrong?' You didn't do anything wrong. This is reality."

You can learn more about PAL online at PAL-Group.org.

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 multicultural, intergenerational neighborhood congregation located at 1049 Euclid Street in Dayton's Bluff. Sunday worship begins at **10:30 a.m.**

December: After school programming for area youth, sponsored by the McVay Youth Partnership of Hamline University is an after school program for community youth grades 5-12, held at Mounds Park UMC on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** Students participate in environmental classes, Girl Scouts, field trips, and receive homework help and support in learning English. Contact Jane Krentz (612-581-6978) for more information.

Sundays: Multi-Generational Sunday School Class. Class meets every **Sunday at 9:15 a.m.** in the lounge of the church. This class follows an adult curriculum and has a participant age range of 80 years! Youth start in worship at 10:30 a.m. Following kid's time, children aged 0-4 years go to the staffed nursery, grades K-5 go to the upstairs Sunday School room, and children grades 6-12 go downstairs for classes. Breakfast is served during Sunday School. The nursery is staffed for those children aged 0-4 years who do not want to start in worship. Please call the church with any questions.

Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.: Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) Support Group Meetings. PAL is a place where parents with a child addicted to drugs and/or alcohol can find hope in a support group. PAL meetings are open to anyone of any faith or background, as the primary goal is to provide hope through education and support for parents dealing with addicted loved ones. Meetings are led by a trained facilitator. This is an open group to persons 18 years and older. Stop by any Tuesday, ring the doorbell on the Euclid Entrance, and you'll be welcomed in!

Sunday, December 17, 10:30 a.m.: Intergenerational Christmas Play. Join us on **Saturday, December 16, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.,** for rehearsal followed by pizza. There are speaking and non-speaking parts available.

For those who can't join us on Saturday, there will be a second rehearsal on **Sunday, December 17, at 9:00 a.m.** Following rehearsal on Sunday morning, a light breakfast will be served before worship. Following Worship, we will continue the celebration with a "Birthday Party for Jesus." The Christmas play is open to persons of all ages (2016's play had an age range of 50+ years) and everyone in the community. We hope to see you there!

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve Worship. Traditional service at **10:30 a.m.,** family service at **4:00 p.m.,** contemporary service at **11:00 p.m.**



Greg Cosimini

As everyone should know, the TARDIS is the big blue box in which Doctor Who travels through all of time and space. However he rarely visits the United States. Therefore Dayton's Bluff should feel honored that after the TARDIS sat in the conference room of the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services all summer, it recently took a short trip and materialized in the Mounds Theatre where it will stay for the foreseeable future.

What's going on with my property taxes?

Jane Prince
Ward 7 City Council

If you own a home in Saint Paul, you probably noticed that instead of the "Right of Way (ROW) Assessment" you usually receive in the fall, you got an invoice for the "City of Saint Paul Street Maintenance Service Program." And if you own an average-size city lot as my husband and I do, that invoice equaled only a fraction of what you had been paying for your ROW Assessment.

For me, my street maintenance invoice was about \$21; much less than the ROW Assessment I have received on my home for the last 15 years: a charge of over \$200 per year.

Assessments never go down! What's up? A decision made by the Minnesota Supreme Court in August 2016 resulted in a big change in the way the City of Saint Paul charges for street maintenance and related services. Under the old ROW assessment in place since about 2003, the City charged property owners - according to their front footage - for street and alley sweeping, street lighting, tree trimming, snow plowing, pothole patching, seal coating and mill and overlay of commercial and arterial streets.

Based on a challenge to that system, the Court de-

termined that the City may charge property owners a direct fee *only* for street and alley sweeping, street lighting and seal coating. Finally, if you live on an arterial street, you will be assessed 50 percent of the cost of mill and overlay. [Read more at stpaul.gov and enter "Street Maintenance Serve Program."]

So who's paying for snow-plowing, patching potholes, and tree trimming? The cost of these city wide services will now be assessed as a part of your property tax, based on the taxable value of your home. For those of us who live on the East Side, where property taxes are lower, based on more modest home values, this is a much more progressive way to pay for these expensive city services. Under the old front-foot charge, whether you lived in Summit Avenue mansion or a bungalow in Dayton's Bluff, the price you paid per front-foot was the same.

So my property taxes are going up? Yes. As most of the former ROW assessments are transferred to the property tax, you will see an increase in your taxes to cover those costs. And this year, because we saw an increase in home values in Dayton's Bluff, we will also see a modest increase in our property taxes based on our increased taxable values.

Let me know your thoughts. With property taxes going up - even as street maintenance fees go down - the City Council has been asked by Mayor Chris Coleman to approve a budget that includes an additional \$5.5 million property tax levy to cover inflation and additional services. Significantly, these funds allow us to hire six more police officers and to offer free and

low-cost parks and recreation classes, programs and services for kids in concentrated areas of poverty - including the East Side. About \$50,000 is targeted to libraries for an early childhood literacy program. There is \$300,000 committed to high tech business recruitment and another \$200,000 targeted to job creation. Go to stpaul.gov and enter "Mayor Coleman Delivers 2018 Budget Address" to read more about these proposals.

While these are all worthy goals, I struggle in weighing the value of new initiatives to our City against the challenge of asking homeowners to foot the bill. **I welcome your advice and counsel.** [You can reach me at 651-266-8670 and jane.prince@ci.stpaul.mn.us]

Looking ahead to 2018, I congratulate Mayor-Elect Melvin Carter and welcome the opportunity to work in partnership with him and the rest of the City Council to find new ways to make our city stronger and safer.

We need to find ways to generate new streams of revenue that relieve the burden on residential taxpayers. We need to wean the City from its reliance on tax increment financing (TIF) that defers tax base growth, while burdening city and county services as well as our school district. Toward that end, I will continue to be a vocal advocate for housing and economic development that creates living wage jobs and grows our city's tax base citywide. This is hard work critical to our city's success in the 21st century.

Jane Prince can be reached at jane.prince@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council Midyear Report - 2017

Editor's note: The following was read at a recent Dayton's Bluff Community Council Board of Directors meeting.

Goal 1: Sustainable Community Council that is effectively governed.

1. We voted to support the formation of a separate non-profit organization to sustain the multiple lines of work of the East Side Enterprise Center.
2. We approved new bylaws and policies and procedures for the Community Council, with a commitment to creating an operating model that better suits the needs of a racially, culturally, and economically diverse community.

Goal 2: Improve quality of life.

Cross-cultural celebrations, public spaces, civic pride.

1. Unfortunately, 7th Street LIVE was cancelled this year due to threatening weather. We instead had a successful Breakdance Battle at the new Cultural Arts Center.

2. We received additional funding to infuse the 7th Street business corridor with multiple arts resources and activities.

3. The vegetable and herb gardens spread awareness of the different foods that have been brought here from many different cultures and countries.

4. DBCC is the recipient of a very prestigious federal National Endowment for the "Arts Our Town" grant for the development of a planning process for the arts that produces an addendum to the City Comprehensive Plan for the Near East Side (Districts 4 -Dayton's Bluff and 5 - Payne Phalen).

5. We hired a full time Director of Cultural Arts and launched the Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center.

Goal 3: Increase community leadership and engagement.

1. DBCC continues to work with local business owners to increase business growth opportunities.

2. We finalized the DBCC Million Will Make it Happen on E. 7th Street Neighborhood STAR loan and grant program that, among other things, facilitated the total rehabilitation of the Roger's Printing building, 776 E. 7th and the East Side Enterprise Center. In addition, two minority business owners purchased buildings and a coalition of small businesses requested that DBCC purchase a lot to expand parking for local businesses.

3. Multiple meetings and individual conversations have led the effort to decide the most effective use of \$350,000 in CVZ funding available for E. 7th Street. Current priorities identified are lighting improvements, Hamm Park revitalization and pedestrian safety, including a pedestrian HAWK light and expanded "safe zones."

4. Land use considerations are regularly reviewed, and multiple local issues were considered, with local leaders taking action to improve outcomes for communities of color.

5. DBCC is part of the East Side Employment Exchange, a coalition of organizations working to expand job opportunities for local residents.

6. Multiple neighborhood gatherings and meetings were supported to facilitate action by local residents and partner organizations working together to improve outcomes for the East Side.

7. We continue to expand our media presence in multiple venues. Social media strategies are informed by young people familiar with the current trends in community outreach. We continue to include print and broadcast media in our communication efforts.

2017 Roger Tetu Award winner

Steve Trimble
Forum Staff

In 2011, the Dayton's Bluff Community Council established the Roger Tetu Award in remembrance of a beloved community member. The 78 year old man was killed near his home at Earl and Margaret by a hit and run driver. According to the Council, the annual award "celebrates the good works of community members who offer kindness without hesitation on a daily basis." It is less about leadership and recognized accomplishment and more about "the daily expression of caring for community and all its members."

Barry Frantum was given The Roger Tetu Award for 2017. Frantum, an enrolled member of the Pine Ridge reservation, currently teaches Lakota language and American Indian history at Harding High School. A nominee described him as a man who "loves his

community and family" and a "hard working, one of the most selfless individuals" they know. He is a great neighbor "is always ready to help and even takes initiative without being asked." A father of four children, "he often lifts up kids' spirits even while he was battling a cancer which is now remission. He always gives time and understanding words."



Submitted photo

Barry Frantum, the 2017 winner of the Roger Tetu Award.

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Local author publishes new book about Airbnb hosting

*Trudy Ohnsorg
Special to the Forum*

Would you let a complete stranger stay in your home? That's the decision East Side resident Trudy Ohnsorg faced nearly three years ago when she made her guest room available on the Airbnb platform. Airbnb is the popular home-sharing platform, used around the world, which allows people to rent out part or all of their homes to travelers.

"Frankly, I was nervous at first," says Ohnsorg, who is ranked as a "Super Host" by Airbnb for getting consistently outstanding guest reviews. "But then I discovered that my guests were just wonderful, regular people. Quickly, this became much more about meeting the people than about making the extra income. I've had guests from all over the world stay with me, and now I have standing invitations to visit many of them!" Says Ohnsorg, "This has been life-changing."

Ohnsorg went on to say, "I started writing a blog about my experiences, which has now grown into a book. I've interviewed other Twin Cities hosts about their stories, and found that they, too, have made unforgettable connections with people they otherwise would never have met." Ohnsorg's book – *Air Be & Me: How being an Airbnb host can reaffirm our faith in the essential goodness of humanity and bring the world to our doors* – will be available in bookstores and on Amazon in December 2017. "I'm participating in the Highland Book Fair on **December 9**, a special author event at the East Side Freedom Library on **Tuesday, December 12, at 7:00 p.m.**, and I am planning a publication launch party to be held somewhere

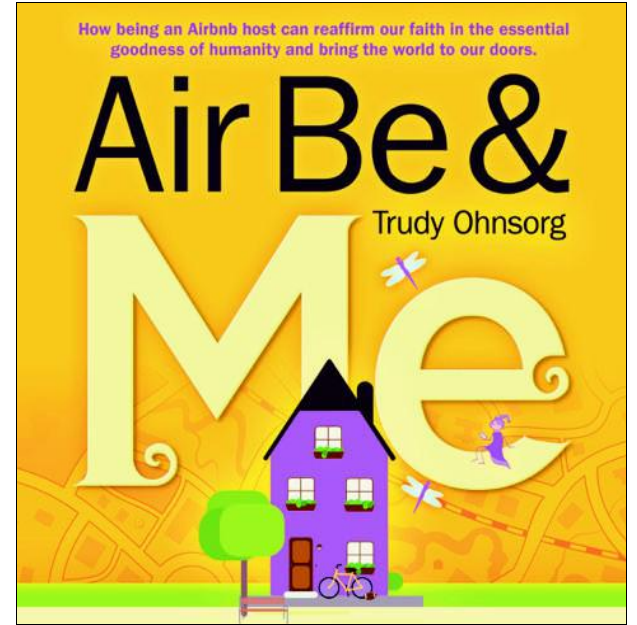


Trudy Ohnsorg

Dayton's Bluff resident, Trudy Ohnsorg, has written a book about her experiences as an Airbnb host.

on the East Side!"

In addition, Ohnsorg is collaborating with Inclusivi-Tees, a Twin Cities-based organization that creates and sells wearable merchandise with the goal of distributing 100% of profits to nonprofit organizations that promote inclusive diversity. Says Ohnsorg, "My goal



is to spread the message that all people - regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, or nationality - are essentially good. We all fear the unknown, and lately there has been increasing distrust and disconnection between people. However, when you can let go of your instinctive distrust and invite someone in to share your home, they change right in front of you. You both change. You used to be strangers, but now you're friends. This process - this home sharing through Airbnb - it's not just transactional, it's transformational."

Says Ohnsorg, "Most people now either know someone who has stayed in an Airbnb, have tried it themselves, or are just plain curious about this new way of traveling. Through my book, *Air Be & Me*, people can learn about the magic of home sharing from the insider's perspective." Ohnsorg's book and related merchandise is available through her website: Airbenme.com.

Tales from the Bluff: When Purple Met Green

*Carlyle Slade
Special to the Forum*

I'll begin by stating that moseying around Indian Mounds Park is one of my favorite pastimes. It stands right up there with drinking Long Islands at airport bars. In all earnestness, these pastimes bring me joy. Although, because an airport bar story is unwarranted for this outlet, I will be sharing with you a tale from the bluff: "The Tale of When Purple Met Green."

It was a wonderful summer day, and I woke up with an excessively lenient agenda. I had no matters to tend to, and the only goal I had was to consume pots of coffee. I drank so much coffee that it felt like static was coursing through me like a snowy picture on an old tube television. I was charged and became antsy. So, I grabbed my guitar and my neon green notebook, and I set course for my favorite bench on the bluff - the bench dedicated to Ruth M. Thompson.

As I crossed into the park at Mounds and Mclean, I noticed someone painting at the edge of the bluff, and I mean, on the edge of the bluff. The artist was beyond the tiny chain-linked fence on the grass flat - the grass flat with the exceptional view. Regardless, I could not see the artist at that point. I could only see the backside of a canvas that was resting upon an easel, an old-timey lace umbrella perched above it, and a pair of black boots beneath it. Just as I absorbed this spectacle, I

knew instantaneously that I was going to approach this artist and engage in a conversation.

Some people don't engage in conversations for the fear of where it might lead. From my experience, this should apply doubly toward artists. One never really knows what sort of a temperament an artist might be presenting, and, also, some artists love to lead conversations down rabbit holes of filth and purity. Truth be told, on this wonderful summer day, I encountered neither of these caveats, and, instead, I met Jeanne Ross.

Jeanne Ross had an ardent constitution and was easy to speak with. She spoke of the pleasantries of painting and how her father had inspired her. Her father was a photographer who captured photos of St. Paul during "The Spectacle of Lights." Jeanne described this spectacle as a nighttime event when all the lights were turned on within all the buildings within all of downtown. Unfortunately, this is a spectacle that has ceased to exist. Nevertheless, Jeanne used her father's pictures as inspiration, and she decided to paint them. The combination of her father's photos and her experience painting them was a springboard for Jeanne's ambitions, and it led her to the love of painting urban sites throughout St. Paul.

It may even be said that "The Spectacle of Lights" led her to an admiration of light itself. Jeanne loves how light reflects off of water. She loves the way it reflects off of the mighty Mississippi as well as the way it reflects off of a small puddle. There is no body of water too small or too mighty, and, no matter, because light, relatively speaking, is always so quick to reflect. Nonetheless, her love for reflections and her dazzling sentiments on the matter vibrate within her paintings.


Jeanne is a forever-blossoming artist and she appreciates the ability to continue to understand new things.

She paints. She weaves. She makes bookmarks. She aspires to paint ceramics and new urban scenes. Jeanne also loves the notion of creation, and she summed it up well when she said: "Do you know what I think is just the most wonderful thing in the world? There is nothing. Then, something is envisioned. Then, it turns into something, and it exists, you know? A week and a half ago, it didn't exist and now it does. I always feel grateful about it." This is an outstanding perspective, and it is my understanding that when thoughtful people juxtapose artistic components - notes, chords, and melodies to the minstrel as paints, colors, and strokes are to the painter - ideas begin to formulate, and, with fortitude, those ideas become tangible artistic entities. It's simply incredible when you really think about it.

My time with Jeanne was short, yet potent, and as we exchanged information she pulled her phone from out of her boot. This amused me greatly. She graced me with her art and her perspectives, and I graced her with a song, and, personally, as soon as I began to play *Let it Be* by the Beatles my nerves started jangling and the caffeine static in my skin peaked. My nerves were difficult to reign in as they surged, but I was able to and I played the song well. She thanked me and I thanked her.

As our time together came to an end, she gifted me with one of her handmade bookmarks - a small laminated rectangle with a long purple ribbon attached to it. It's a wonderful bookmark and certainly unique, and as I walked away I admired how beautiful the vibrant purple ribbon looked as it draped over my neon green notebook.

Carlyle Slade can be reached at carlyleslade2@gmail.com.



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Photo courtesy of Carlyle Slade

St. Paul from Dayton's Bluff, painted by Jeanne Ross.

You got somethin' to say? Say it here!

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* welcomes all opinions – send yours to daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com. Deadline for the February 2018 issue of the *Forum* is January 10, 2018.

Opinion: View From My Porch, November 2017

*T. Strong
Special to the Forum*

Dear Sage,
Terrific article. I feel the same about the Listening House. Sadly, the Listening House is just another dead end for people suffering from homelessness.

You are right and the Listening House isn't listening to or administering to the basic needs of people in crisis. It is a harbor for criminal and toxic behavior. It astounds me that they do not provide, at least, one meal a day. That place is useless. What in the world do the people running this place think that they are contributing to their fellow man? Beats me. Thanks again, for an honest view from your porch.

Best Regards,
T. Strong

View From My Porch

*Sage Holben
Forum Staff*

People talk about community in so many terms. A few weeks ago a friend and neighbor, who had sold his family home several years ago and moved west, recently returned. He had lived in the same house since he was 12 or 14 years old. Eleven of us neighbors had a potluck to welcome him 'home.'

It was an evening of catching up, and laughing; the kind of memories and laughter that return at unexpected times and make me laugh aloud and smile...and leave others to wonder. This camaraderie existed long before I moved into the neighborhood about 14 years ago. I am thankful to have been accepted into it. Over time we have seen children grow into competent young adults; we have seen directions of lives change as naturally and progressively as our gardens through various seasons

'Eastside Pride' signs publicly set a tone of community respect. The tone of people is set by looking after and out for each other; reaching out and making time, thinking beyond ourselves. This particular neighborhood has become to me what a birth family never has. Like family, we have come through challenges and disagreements, birth and death, celebrations of success. I was thinking of this after our guest of honor left. I felt as if I were enclosed in a cozy, soft blanket...with the capacity to accept others into its warmth.

We will soon make the transition into a new year; we'll make new promises. Life offers enough challenge and ugliness; how will we react? Will we waft, or take a stand? If we say we are a friend, will we be dependable, worthy of trust? Will we attempt to be more empathetic? Will we become inured to the violence in our world? We can't change others, but we can model the change we want to see.

Sage Holben can be reached at daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Opinion: Rec Center Tennis Courts

*Hugh Armstrong
Special to the Forum*

As a frequent dog-walker in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood, I often do a quick pass through the Rec Center area off of Conway both for the scenery and the fact that it shaves five minutes off of my walk home. It's nice to see the neighborhood children playing outside and making the most of the available equipment. Although and area of the center that appears to be infrequently used are the tennis courts.

Now, the exception to this may come in the form of random skateboarders or pre-tweens snapping selfies with the wintergreen backdrop. Other than that, it's often a ghost town.

So why the lack of interest from children and families to use the tennis courts to actually play...tennis? Now in full disclosure, I'm not a tennis player, nor is this an attempt on my part to put Dayton's Bluff in running as a location site for the 2018 US Tennis Open. I just want to put that out there. But could the decreased interest come from the possibility that the children in our communi-

ty are not given the opportunity to learn more about the sport?

In my attempt to gain more insight into my questions, I called the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center to ask if they had tennis rackets for individuals to check out to use. I also inquired if they offered tennis courses for interested individuals. Unfortunately, the answer to both questions was no.

Considering the median household income for Dayton's Bluff has actually declined from 1999 to 2015, and our income below poverty rate for Dayton Bluff sits at 31.9% as compared to 22.3% of the remaining population of St Paul, I think it's safe to say that for some, purchasing tennis equipment may be a bit of a financial hardship. (Information retrieved from <http://www.mncompass.org/profiles/neighborhoods/st-paul/daytons-bluff>).

If tennis isn't something the majority of children in our neighborhood enjoy, how can the Dayton's Bluff team and board gather the collective voice of our community to determine what type of outside equipment would be more enjoyable? At the very least, I think having tennis rackets available to check out or offering tennis courses for those that may be interested may not be a bad idea in the future.



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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Nick Duncan, Karin DuPaul, Sage Holben, Steve Trimble

Editor: Jennifer Gascoigne; Associate Editor: Mark Gallagher

Next issue: February 2018. **Deadline for material: January 10, 2018.**



Heavenly Thrifts opened in October at 369 Earl St. (next to Debbie's Doghouse and across from Leo's Chow Mein.) It is described by its owner Madarene (pictured at left) as a boutique and more store. All items are new and sold at a discount price. These include clothing and accessories for men, women and kids as well as household items. Heavenly Thrifts is open Monday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Follow Heavenly Thrifts on Facebook and Instagram for new merchandise arrivals. Photo by Greg Cosimini.

Growing up at 109 Bates

Bev McEwan
Special to the Forum

Editor's note: The following letter was sent from a reader in response to Steve Trimble's article "The Story of 103 Bates Street," which appeared on page 7 of the September 2017 issue of the Forum.

Regarding your story in the September 2017 issue of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum: The Story of 103 Bates Street*. A friend of mine from the East Side just gave me the September issue of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* to read because I lived at 109 Bates Ave. with my Dad, Mom and four of us girls. It was a very interesting article because that house was right next door. I live in the woods up in Northern Minnesota now. My sisters are still down by the Cities.

Our house (109 Bates) was built in 1874. It was called a bungalow (small - one level with a basement). My Mom and Dad bought it in 1939 and lived there for 62 years. It was a small house for all of us but we managed. We didn't know the difference.

We entered at the kitchen door on the side of the house. I remember the little 'ice box' door on that side of the house that the "Ice Delivery Man" would put blocks in weekly to keep the fridge cold - back in the day.

The kitchen was very small. It had a sink with a little cupboard above, stove, white top table that had two drawers and cupboard space below where Mom did all her food preparing on. There was a cupboard built into the wall on the right side of the stove. We'd have to use a stool and bend over the stove to get into it. Pots, pans, mixing bowls, cereal, etc. were kept in there. My Mom loved to cook and bake. I can't imagine how she handled doing all that she did in that tiny space. There was a big dining room with wainscoting and wallpaper (Mom loved wallpaper). It had French doors to the living room and a small bedroom off to the side.

The living room was nice. We had a fireplace with built-in shelves on both sides and a long mantle with a wind up clock that chimed. There was a sun porch off the back larger bedroom which was turned into a bedroom when we girls got older. Can't imagine how the six of us handled that TINY bathroom. It also must have been so difficult for Mom when we were babies. The basement was old and dark. It had a big monster furnace and the laundry was down there. There was a door we never wanted to open. It was spooky. It was a coal bin - back in the day.

We had a huge backyard. All the houses around the block on Urban, Maria and McLean circled our property line.

It was the 'best neighborhood ever' because we had lots of friends. And such imaginations. We were always busy and quite creative. Most of it happened at our house because we had such a big backyard and a garage to

play in. Our parents always let us have pets of some sort. They'd come and go...cats, rabbits, ducks, and birds, but we were never without a dog. We'd have carnivals, make spook houses, pretend doctor and hospital, had plays, dances, and liked decorating the garage with crepe paper and balloons.

Dad would take us to Phalen Lake and Tanners Lake, drop us off to go swimming, then come back to pick us up. I think I was still playing with dolls in the 8th grade. I remember walking with the buggy and hiding so the paper boy wouldn't see me. We played hopscotch, jumped rope, rode our bikes everywhere (and in those days you could ride your bikes up and over the Indian Mounds in the park). I really liked climbing the cliffs. (Mom and Dad didn't know when we were doing that). Rule was we had to be home by 5:00 for dinner. We'd take turns doing the dishes and then could go out to play until the street lights came on.

We spent a lot of time at the Bluff Playground, and in the winter we were there all the time ice skating - if we weren't sliding down McLean Hill. When we got older we were allowed to go to the Mounds Theatre on Hudson Road. Some times when we'd get out late Basta's Bakery next door would be doing their baking for the next day and would let us come in and get fresh warm glazed doughnuts. We attended Mounds Park Grade School and then Harding High on 3rd & Earl. We had to



JULY 1954

Photo courtesy of Bev McEwan

109 Bates in July of 1954.

WALK to school - no buses - and sometimes it was very cold! Dr. Stolpestad was our doctor, also, back then ... Oh My It was definitely "The Good Old Days."

My Dad died in 1997 when still living there. He was 92. My Mom stayed in the house for 4 more years and then decided it was time to move and went to a senior community, then assisted living and now memory care. She is 105-1/2 now, doesn't take any medication, but has dementia. She is in amazingly good health and doing her best. When I read her the article about 103 Bates, she did remember some of the things mentioned, and said "Dr. Stolpestad was our doctor."

My sisters and I have many fond memories of the years at 109 Bates - our childhood, school days, dating, and then moving on...returning with our own children. Mom's favorite time of the year was Christmas. The bunch of us filled the whole house. It was a special place at that time of the year. Mom has many picture albums filled with our life at 109 Bates Ave.

East Side Eating – Trimble's Taste Trek

Forum contributor Steve Trimble has set out to eat at every locally-owned, sit-down restaurant on the East Side. He hopes to get the word out to Dayton's Bluff about the eating options here on our side of town.

There are more restaurants than there is room for in the monthly paper, but at least 59 may now be found online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org: click on "East Side Eating" at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

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www.eastsidepizzeria.com

Facebook: East Side Pizzeria

Sunday-Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Thursday-Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

I had visited East Side Pizzeria in 2015 during the original Taste Trek when it was located at a small spot at Maryland and Earl. But since this Spring, the restaurant is located in a newer, larger site on Payne Avenue. I arrived on a recent Saturday night around 7:00 p.m. I ordered by the entry and went to a booth. They were a little backed up, but I only had to wait twenty minutes or so before getting my meal.

The room has five booths big enough for six people, and seven small tables for two. The décor features black ceilings, blinds, and wainscoting, with red walls decorated with some large art pieces of classic cars and motorcycles. A medium-sized flat screen TV was showing women's kick boxing at the time.

Starters (appetizers) are chicken wings in eight different flavors, garlic cheese bread, nachos, onion rings, French fry baskets, sweet potato fries, and cheese curds with marinara sauce. Chicken wings are listed under the heading of "Flavor Zone" and a few of them are plain, buffalo, barbecue, and Cajun plum sauce.

There is a small side salad, a large chef salad, and a cob salad. Pasta dishes come with beef or cheese and are served with garlic bread. There is also baked ravioli and spaghetti. The section named "Entrees" is partly made up of golden shrimp baskets, sloppy dagos with cheese (a somewhat unique name for one of our local ethnic dishes) and barbecue ribs, half or full rack. All entrees come with fries.

A favorite event of the locals is "Taco Tuesday" when there is a special price for the deep fried flour tortilla beef tacos accompanied with little containers of lettuce, tomatoes, salsa, sour cream, and cheddar jack cheese.

There are several sizes of cheese-based pizzas with a choice of more than two dozen possible toppings. There is a Taco Pizza and an "Eastsider Pizza" featuring sausage, onion, mushrooms, banana peppers and pieces of pineapple, as well as a Chicken Alfredo pizza with an Italian white

sauce. The possibilities are mostly what one might expect, but there are a few more unusual choices, such as spinach, artichoke hearts and asparagus. Gluten-free pizzas are available for an extra cost. All of the pies come out square-cut.

There are hot sandwiches and one-third pound burgers: grilled cheese, Philly Steak, and an East Side Melt with two meats (you choose), sautéed mushrooms, onion, and green pepper on a seven-inch French roll. There is even a veggie burger.

The Kid's Menu has a corn dog, grilled cheese, chicken tenders, an eight-inch pizza or an "I-Fry," a pizza crust smeared with garlic butter and a mixture of four cheeses melted on top. They are served with fries, a cookie, and a small drink.

Some of the desserts are milkshakes and vanilla, chocolate, banana, or strawberry malts. There are hot fudge sundaes, brownies, cheese cake, chocolate chip cookies, or hot fudge brownie sundaes.

I decided to have the barbecued chicken pizza. It was something I first tried a month ago on a visit to Lamoni, Iowa. This one contained chicken, jalapeno pickles and cheese. I think a beer is great with pizza, but the restaurant does not serve alcohol. There are soft drinks, tea, and coffee. I also decided to have a vanilla milkshake. I was somewhat surprised to see ice cream treats at a pizzeria but the owner said it was an American/Italian place.

The guaranteed delivery area is bordered by 35E, Larpenteur Avenue, White Bear Avenue, and I-94, however he might be able to get to the Mounds Park area unless they are very busy. There is a \$2.00 charge and you need to have a \$10 minimum order. No checks, but they accept Visa and Master Card.

I had the chance to chat with the owner, Richard Finch, who bought the building two years ago. He has been an East-Sider all his life. He was one of five kids raised by a single mom for most of his childhood. He played sports at recreation centers and attended Johnson High School. Richard relies on a close friend, Yolanda Menchaca, to serve as the manager and one or both of them are there every day.

The Pizzeria strives to have the freshest ingredients possible. They cut their own cheeses, slice their own meats daily, and search out the best wholesalers. Because of this they have a sign on the wall that says "Next To Home, This is the Best Place to Eat." You'll have to make a visit to the East Side Pizzeria to see if you agree.

Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.



Steve Trimble

Richard Finch, Owner of the East Side Pizzeria, behind the counter of his establishment.

Have Forum, will travel...



Jamen Parkey, Tabbie Day, and the Forum, in Polynesia! Samoa, Vanuatu, Fiji, and Tahiti have all enjoyed the Forum!

Several readers send us pictures of themselves reading our newspaper on their travels. If you'd like to do the same, please email photos to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

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