

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 30, No. 8
September 2017
daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"



Greg Cosimini

The Scope is an imposing, 22-foot tall public art installment, featured in the Education Hub of the Beacon Bluff Business Center.

A sculpture grows in Dayton's Bluff

Greg Cosimini
Forum Staff

The Twin Cities has a number of sculpture gardens and although it doesn't receive as much publicity as the others, one of them is right here in Dayton's Bluff. It is located in the Education Hub of the Beacon Bluff Business Center on the north side of East 7th Street at the intersection of Minnehaha Avenue. This is part of the old 3M site, a little west of the East Side Family Clinic and south of the Archdiocese headquarters in former 3M Building 21.

The sculpture located nearest to 7th Street is also the most imposing. It is a 22-foot tall pyramidal structure called *The Scope*. Created by artist Phillip Blackburn, *The Scope* was dedicated on June 20, 2015. It can best be described as a giant wind-powered kaleidoscope which is viewed by standing beneath it and looking straight up.

The Scope is built partly from 3M-re-

lated materials, either salvaged from Building 42 which once occupied the area, such as the bricks used at its base, or from new 3M products such as the dichroic glass (glass that reflects different color light in different ways) used for lenses that spin above the kaleidoscope. Other materials include Corten steel, mirrored stainless steel, taconite, quartzite, rubber porous paving, and granite.

A second sculpture is located near the base of *The Scope*. It was also created by Blackburn and is a stainless steel bench made from staircase railings salvaged from Building 42.

It is nearly impossible to describe *The Scope* and its operation in words. Go experience it for yourself.

The Scope and bench were projects of the East Side Arts Council and the Saint Paul Port Authority with additional funding from the McKnight Foundation and a Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC) Next Step grant.

The Scope is only one of the pieces of art in this sculpture garden. Others will be covered in future articles.

Greg Cosimini can be reached at editor@daytonsbuff.org.

Where in Dayton's Bluff?

More chances to win great local prizes!

Tell us where in Dayton's Bluff the photo on page 4 was taken. Send your guess to editor@daytonsbuff.org. The first correct entry will win a great prize from a local business!



Greg Cosimini

Eric Buck and Pastor Jay Jeong celebrated Pastor Jay's first National Night Out in Dayton's Bluff at the Mounds Park United Methodist Church National Night Out Celebration.

Dayton's Bluff
Community Council
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St. Paul, MN 55106

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Karin DuPaul

On August 2, 2017, Daniel T. Stutzman, Sr. and Leslie Stutzman Salitario stood on the steps of the Stutzman Building on East 7th Street. Tracing their Stutzman family history led them to the building which shares their name and an excellent lunch at Swede Hollow Cafe, which is located in the Stutzman Building. Earlier in the day they were in Woodbury, at the site of the old Stutzman farm.

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 hike will be on Saturday, September 9.** 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, September 7, 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

The *Forum* is seeking help with writing, online content, idea generation, and ad sales. Join us at our next meeting on **Tuesday, September 5, at 1:00 p.m.**, at Swede Hollow Cafe (725 E. 7th Street). Call 651-776-0550 or email editor@daytonsbuff.org 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 **Wednesday, September 20, 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.**



Saturday, September 16: Haunted Overnight Tour. 10:30 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. See website for more information.

Saturday, September 23: Pastor Carl's Big Event - the kickoff for this season's Faith to the Nations Community Meals. This is a time to get to know each other and build new friendships.

Wednesday, September 27: Free Community Dinner presented by Faith to the Nations. Dinners will be weekly on most **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.**, beginning today and continuing through January 2018.

October 14-29, weekends: The return of *Real Haunted Tours*. Tickets go quickly. Make your reservations early so you don't miss out. See our website for more information and to purchase tickets.

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.

September at the Dayton's Bluff Library

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

Thursday, August 31, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., join the library for a casual gathering to practice speaking English for beginning language learners.

Tuesday, September 5, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., don't miss the *Welcome to Homework Help Party!* It's back to school time; start this school year off right!

On **Tuesdays and Wednesdays** in September, 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, September 9, 16, 23, 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, September 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.

Every **Third Tuesday**, the Library holds *Game Night*, an event with free console, board, and card games, snacks, and fun for all ages. *Game Night* runs from **4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** in the first floor student lounge of the Metro State Library.

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

September at the East Side Freedom Library

Tuesday, September 5, at 7:00 p.m., the ESFL invites you to enjoy a free screening of the film *Plutocracy I*. This 2015 documentary provides remarkable visual images interwoven with narratives and analysis provided by an array of contemporary labor historians. This film focuses on the ways that race, ethnicity, and gender have been used to divide and exploit the American working class.

Saturday, September 9, Kids Rising Story Hour: Agitate the next generation of leaders by engaging them in stories more meaningful than the ones they might typically encounter at story time – stories with social justice messages that are intentionally inclusive of writers and themes from diverse and under-represented communities.

Tuesday, September 19, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Neighbors Meet Neighbors: The Karen Community.* Part of a series of forums centered around the stories and experiences of recent immigrants to the East Side.

Wednesday, September 27, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Working on the Railroad: An In-person Oral History.*

St. Paul grew with the country's railroad system. What has it been like to work on the railroad? What roles have unions played in creating a safer working environment and a decent living for railroad workers?

George Joyce, who worked more than 37 years as a trainman and switchman on the BN, BNSF, and Amtrak systems, and served as president and local chairman of United Transportation Union Local 1000, will be interviewed by the ESFL's Peter Rachleff. Free and open to all.

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.

Correction

An article on page two of the August *Forum*, taken from a press release provided by Circus Juventas, featured a photo incorrectly identified as Mariana Thompson. We regret the error.

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.

Picnic Operetta in Swede Hollow Park

Don't miss this year's Picnic Operetta in Swede Hollow Park! Bring your own blanket and a picnic – entertainment will be provided! See you on **Sunday, September 24, beginning at 4:00 p.m.**

For more information call Karin Dupaul at 651-776-0550.

Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery

Beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, September 29, in Swede Hollow Park.

For more information call Karin Dupaul at 651-776-0550.

Take a Tree Trek!

Fall is a great time to take a stroll in Indian Mounds Park. Cultivate the arborist in you and your family by walking the Indian Mounds Park Tree Trek.

The path visits 31 unique trees, all marked, including a beautiful catalpa, a mighty white oak, and a colorful eastern redbud. If you have children, they are often asked to bring in leaves of different trees for school or the scouts. There is even a map of the Tree Trek that you can download and print. Google "Indian Mounds Park Tree Trek."

Be a tourist in your own city

Take a free Saint Paul walking tour

Through September, Landmark Center guides will lead three different walking tours of Saint Paul.

The **second Wednesday of the month**, the Rice Park tour departs from Landmark Center's Visitor Information Desk. The tour circles one of Saint Paul's most iconic parks, and stops in the surrounding buildings.

The **third Wednesday of the month**, the Heart of the City tour departs from inside Landmark Center's 6th Street entrance. This tour travels down St. Peter Street, pointing out some of the most famous landmarks and influential buildings in St. Paul's history, including the Hamm Building and Mickey's Diner.

Finally, the Great River tour begins at Upper Landing Park and walks along the mighty Mississippi. This tour runs the **fourth Wednesday of the month.**

All tours are FREE, operate through September, and begin at **10:00 a.m.** Reservations are required. Call 651-292-3063 or visit www.landmarkcenter.org/visit/walkingtours.html.

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.**

Starting in September: *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.** during the school year. Students will 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.

Sunday, September 3: *Join the Multi-Generational Sunday School Class* for their first class of the school year! Class meets every **Sunday at 9:15 a.m.** in the lounge of the church and is led by two congregation members. This class follows an adult curriculum and has a participant age range of 80 years!

Sunday, September 10: *Preschool Sunday School, Children's Sunday School, and Youth Sunday School Classes* will start during worship. **Every Sunday**, children will begin in the sanctuary with their families, then head to age-appropriate classrooms for further discussion. Each month will focus on a Christian milestone. Kids will be given the opportunity to sign up to light the candles each service! Join us to see what fun we have in store for the Sunday School Year!

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. Founded in 2006 by Michael Speakman, LISAC, PAL has recently become incorporated as a Christian run non-profit. 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!

Wednesday, September 27, beginning at noon: *Community Friendship Gathering Meal and Program.* Join Mounds Park UMC on the last Wednesday of each month for a hot meal and entertainment. Hot lunch of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, veggie salad, rolls and dessert will be served at **noon**. A program featuring Janet Egge and Nancy Hanks on vocals, piano, and violin will immediately follow lunch.

East Side Freedom Library receives Metropolitan Regional Arts Council 2017 Arts Achievement Award

Metropolitan Regional Arts Council

At the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC) Annual Board Meeting, the MRAC Board of Directors announced and presented the 2017 Arts Achievement Awards. This year, they honored the East Side Freedom Library and Minhua Chorus; each group has been given a cash award of \$5,000 for their outstanding achievements and commitment to the arts in MRAC's seven-county region.

Located in Saint Paul's Payne-Phalen neighborhood in a re-purposed Carnegie Library building, the East Side Freedom Library opened in June 2014, and has been engaging community through theater performances, readings, community events, lectures, arts, and activities ever since. In

addition to their non-circulating research collections on the history of labor, immigration, and diverse Americans, the East Side Freedom Library is the new permanent home for the Hmong Archives. The MRAC board was impressed with the large number of collaborations with local arts organizations, the dedication to culture and the arts for residents of the East Side of Saint Paul, and the innovative programming they have embraced in a short time.

With over 75 chorus members, Minhua Chorus is the largest and longest running Chinese-American choir in Minnesota. Based in Roseville, the choir performs across the metro area each year, including a large annual production and smaller concerts that reach thousands of audience members annually. Founded in 1991, Minhua Chorus has presented over 100 concerts and brought numerous guest artists from China to enrich the artistic landscape of Minnesota. The MRAC board was impressed with Minhua Chorus' commitment to partnerships, dedication to artistic excellence, and the numerous ways they have enriched the artistic landscape in the Twin Cities Metro area.

Bubblicious on the Bluff

*Greg Cosimini
 Forum Staff*

Bubblicious is one of the pieces of public art in the Beacon Bluff Education Hub, located in the Beacon Bluff Business Center on the north side of East 7th Street at the intersection of Minnehaha Avenue. The Hub is a creative place-making, multi-year partnership of the East side Arts Council and the Saint Paul Port Authority. The sculpture garden's focus is the best practices in next generation energy use and storm water management.

Created by artist Gita Ghei in 2014, *Bubblicious* is a rain garden structure constructed of steel and aluminum that includes a solar panel to provide power for lights at night. It is also a rudimentary time marker or sundial.

According to artist Ghei, the three-legged structure topped by an aluminum dome is supposed to invoke images of lifeforms whose bodies are comprised of 90% or more water such as jellies, rays, mushrooms, and seaweed. To others it might conjure up images of a Martian fighting machine from H. G. Wells' *The War of the Worlds*. After all, isn't art, like beauty, in the eye of the beholder?

Bubblicious was commissioned by the East Side Arts Council and the Saint Paul Port Authority and funded by the McKnight Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts Fast Track.

Greg Cosimini can be reached at editor@daytonsbluff.org.



Greg Cosimini

***Bubblicious*, one of the pieces of public art in the Beacon Bluff Education Hub, located in the Beacon Bluff Business Center on the north side of E. 7th Street.**

Hmong Arts & Craft Fair!

SEPTEMBER 16, 2017
 11AM-4PM
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Elder Café

Thursday, September 14th, 2017
 12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM
 463 Maria Avenue
 St. Paul MN 55106

Mail Fraud, Postal Scams and Identity Theft – Oh My!

Jeff Long, US Postal Inspector, will provide information on things that show up in your mail box (and e-mail inbox) that should cause you concern. Inspector Long will talk about how to identify and prevent yourself from becoming a victim of mail fraud and identity theft schemes.

Hope you can join us for a nourishing meal and great conversation!

Call (651) 683-2326 to make a reservation* or to request a free ride!

Event is **free** for seniors 60+ who reside in the Dayton's Bluff, Payne-Phalen and Conway-Battle Creek areas of Saint Paul. All others are welcome to make a \$10 donation to East Side Elders.

*We cannot guarantee a meal without a reservation.

Trash talk from your city councilmember

Jane Prince
Ward 7 City Council

Since becoming your city councilmember last year, the subject of Organized Trash Collection has generated a tremendous response from Eastsiders. Everyone generates trash – some more than others – and we all have to find a way to get rid of it.

Saint Paul property owners are required by ordinance to contract with a private hauler to have our trash removed. With 15 haulers providing service in Saint Paul – from small and family-owned local businesses to mega multinational corporations – there are dozens of trucks crisscrossing our city to serve individual households. This has resulted in lots of complaints about noise and disruption with so many trucks serving the same streets and alleys.

But that isn't the only problem with our private hauler system. While the city requires that we all have trash service, Saint Paul has no way to confirm those arrangements or to enforce the failure of property owners to contract for service. We know that this failure leads to illegal dumping in our alleys, parks and vacant properties – including large items like couches, TV sets, mattresses and tires.

Early in 2016, the City launched a process to study what it would take to bring all the current haulers together to coordinate consistent, high-quality service to every 1-4 unit residential property. The idea is to have each hauler serve a segment of the city, corresponding

to the number of households it now serves citywide, ensuring that each street and alley would have a single hauler – making it easier to ensure that every household is served.

All 15 haulers, coming together to negotiate as a single entity, did just that. In July they presented a proposal that reflects the terms and values that we policymakers were seeking based on public input.

Their terms reflect the feedback I've gotten from people who have contacted me – you value having a direct relationship with your hauler – and that's what they are proposing. Each hauler will serve a neighborhood, will bill customers directly and provide direct customer service. If you can't wheel your cart to the street due to age or disability, the haulers will continue to collect the cart. Under the base price, haulers will remove three bulky items per year, from appliances to mattresses and tires. And a holiday tree will be collected at no cost.

Creating living wage jobs in this citywide endeavor was a goal of policymakers, and the haulers agree, offering to guarantee living wages for drivers and workers.

From an environmental standpoint, all haulers have agreed to use Ramsey County's highly energy efficient and clean trash recycling system. Many of the haulers currently use landfills, creating an environmental impact harmful to our state and region.

You can view the hauler's proposed monthly rates at www.stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/garbage/organized-trash-collection, and then click on "Current Proposal from Haulers."

What we learned when we published these rates is that for many Eastsiders the costs are both higher and lower than what you currently pay. From seniors and others on fixed incomes, we've heard that many of them

have been able to negotiate even lower rates than these, and special arrangements like shared service or on-call pick up. For those of you who produce very little trash, the city needs to find a way to provide rates that reward your good habits.

An additional cost of organized hauling is the city's estimate of \$52 per year added to your property tax to cover program administration and the cost of new carts. Eastsiders have told me this city charge is unreasonably high.

As a result, my city council colleagues and I have asked city finance staff and the haulers to sharpen their pencils: for the city to find a way to lower the administrative costs, and for haulers to lower the price of small and every other week pick-up. As of this writing, both parties have agreed to do their best.

Finally, ruggedly independent Eastsiders have explored: KEEP THE CITY OUT OF MY BUSINESS! I know that lots of our neighbors – maybe you – don't appreciate any more government intervention – especially in your relationship with your private trash hauler.

To these neighbors, I want to point out that Saint Paul is one of the only remaining large cities in America without coordinated trash collection. A city of our size cannot continue to leave property owners to their own devices, which includes illegal dumping at a cost to our city of nearly \$300K per year. Under the city of Minneapolis coordinated collection system, the cost of illegal dumping is a mere \$13K per year.

The city and the hauler consortium continue to negotiate terms that will come back to the city council for final contract approval this fall. I want to hear what's most important to you before I have to vote on this. Please call me anytime to talk a little trash – at 651-266-8670 or ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

View from my porch: Our hands are tied

Sage Holben
Forum Staff

"Our hands are tied," the responding officer informed me. He suggested I contact my city council person and the mayoral candidate whose election sign is displayed in my window. I had called 911 because I saw the Cadillac burst up the street from the west, make a left turn, and park on the cross street. After a few seconds, a second car pulled up across the street from the Cadillac. The Cadillac driver got out of his car, left it running, hopped into car #2 with the driver. Seeing the Cadillac left running and empty, I called the police. About nine minutes later, the pickup car returned, dropping off the Cadillac driver who got into his car and drove away.

The officer arrived, took the information, looked at my photos of the individual and the vehicle, and indicated 'our hands are tied.' The officer indicated that going after this person would likely result in an accusation of profiling. I could understand that, and the history behind it, but I wondered then what the relationship is between the mayor's office, the city council, and the police...how much is politically-based; the tensions between elected officials and law enforcement; and then citizens. Do citizens give up, too?

I feel like giving up sometimes. How many more times do I break up a physical fight or argument in the street? Ignore the loud 'noise' of the church a block away, or of the neighbor next door? Care that a kid steals a bike out of a neighbor's yard; a youth threatens to 'cap' an adult; do I stop caring about cars running the four-way? What about the stranger who stops to clean out his car, dump all his fast food trash onto our street and drives away? The 'adults' who drop their panties, open their flies to pee and defecate on our boulevards? And it is getting worse. These quality of life indignities eat at a person's sanity...but I am digressing.

How tied are officers' hands? As of this writing, I didn't get an answer when I called the Eastern District office (someone would call me), and I didn't get an answer at the monthly community/police meeting. There was talk about compiling and tracking information; continuing making calls to Ramsey County Dispatch, and not being able to move simply on assumptions of the caller; I know all that. But who is tying the hands, what policies are in effect, and how is it affecting law enforcement? When hands of the law are tied and a resident feels treed, what are our options? Does the system simply stop working and hold citizens hostage? Damn right, I feel frustrated! I certainly can't be the only one.

Sage Holben can be reached at editor@daytonsbuff.org.

A view from our porch

Pat Prinzevale
Sue Glissendorf
Special to the Forum

This letter is being offered in response to an article which appeared in the July 2017 edition of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*, written by Forum staff member, Sage Holben.

Apparently, Ms. Holben was not too excited to have the Cambric built in her neighborhood. We are responding on behalf of the majority of residents at the Cambric Senior Apartments. While we understand the reality of community living, Ms. Holben clearly misrepresented the majority of our neighbors by only speaking for a disgruntled few. There were many inconsistencies and untruths about certain issues and in the future we invite Ms. Holben to hear our opinion before publishing such a derogatory article about us and our home.

Ms. Holden discussed the need for on-site staff during the evenings and weekends. The Cambric is not a nursing home but rather an independent living residence. If residents command the presence of staff for assistance, perhaps independent living is not suited for them.

Next, frankly, it is no one's business unless it's management, whether a family member or friend stays with a resident for more than the lease agreement allocation of 14 consecutive calendar days. We believe that most residents en-

sure that their guests are quiet and respectful of others.

In addition, the fact that one of our caretaker residents (he cares for his mom) is available on the weekend to provide nondenominational services for those residents who may be unable to attend their prior place of worship, is a privilege. Providing these services has nothing to do with HUD (Housing and Urban Development). Our large, beautiful community meeting room is an ideal place for such a gathering.

We disagree with the comment that we were notified to contact the staff at home in case of an emergency. This is simply not true. Cambric provides one phone number for emergency maintenance after hours and on weekends. Our lease clearly outlines what constitutes a maintenance emergency. There is also no fine assessed. Personal issues such as ones health, a fire, or police matter necessitates a call to 911. At no time have we been instructed to contact the "cleaning crew" for emergencies (really!) That is blatantly incorrect.

In closing, we would like to let our Dayton's Bluff neighbors know how many of us really appreciate the efforts, kindness, and competency of our property manager, Erika, and her maintenance supervisor, Scott. They demonstrate a fair and compassionate response to our needs. Many of us wish to make certain that our neighbors are aware of how grateful we are to be part of this beautiful, clean, and secure home.



Mandy Okonek

In response to "Listening House" opinion pieces published in the August *Forum*, "I've been collecting signatures of neighbors who are in favor of the relocation of Listening House," said Mandy Okonek. Pictured above is the "Google Map I created of the 111 signatures I've received from neighbors so far." Okonek continues, "I think the photo makes a really important point that the neighbors who live on or near Swede Hollow Park are not in favor of Listening House continuing their services at their current location of 464 Maria Avenue."



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Opinion: Listening House will improve Dayton's Bluff

Cassandra Moe
Special to the Forum

Good thing or bad thing: A non-profit organization that serves the needs of the community, including people without housing, moves into your neighborhood.

Some people say bad thing! They say it attracts undesirable people – people who play guitars, litter, shout, drink alcohol, fight, urinate in public, sleep in their cars, and inject drugs intravenously with needles. The solution is to get rid of “those people,” and the way to do that is to get rid of the attracting organization. They say this neighborhood has its own problems, it doesn't need any more. This neighborhood cannot absorb the costs of these “extra” needy people – we have needy people who live here right now, and it's all we can do to support them.

I say this is a GOOD THING! People in our community can benefit from the services of this organization. People can be connected with access to housing, jobs, food, health, body, soul, community, dignity, and humanity. The organization provides our community a place to go, to connect, to find support, get a hug, use a private bathroom, have a resume reviewed. When these connections are made, then people who are in distress – chronic or acute, long-term or temporary, emotional or financial – have a better chance at finding their

way out of that distress. And our community gets stronger because the individuals who make up that community can do better for themselves and their families.

In Dayton's Bluff, this is not a hypothetical situation. We are presently debating the merits of Listening House staying in our community. Has Listening House created (since opening in June) a homeless hellscape vortex that will pull Dayton's Bluff into oblivion and crash our fragile housing market? Or has it begun addressing difficult issues that have existed in our community for a long time? I say it will address issues, and in doing so, improve the neighborhood.

People have lived without housing on the margins and fringes of Dayton's Bluff before Listening House – in their cars, in tents in the woods, sometimes on the front stairs of First Lutheran Church for a few rainy nights, sometimes at the Motel 6 on White Bear Avenue when they can scrape together \$50. They will continue to do so even if Listening House is forced out. Some Listening House visitors have felt “disposed of” by society, but Listening House works toward reversing the process of that disposal. Listening House works toward making our community whole by embracing the ENTIRE community, including those without housing. Sweeping homelessness and all of its associated issues under the rug as we move through an era of escalating housing challenges will hurt Dayton's Bluff in the long run. The quick fix of eliminating Listening House from Dayton's Bluff, in the hopes that this will push the homeless population to some other location, is not only heartless, it is also foolish.

Opinion: Re: “Slumlords for Jesus”

Wade “Chip” Monn
Special to the Forum

Most mornings for the past 16 years, I've walked my dogs in my neighborhood, Dayton's Bluff. On those walks, I have observed homeless people – sleeping in their cars, camped in the woods in Indian Mounds Park, and elsewhere. I have worked as an engineer for a local switching railroad, also for the past 16 years. I have observed homeless people while on the job – along the railroad tracks all over the Twin Cities. In the past five years, I have observed an increase in the number of people in these situations. I feel a moral obligation to help these people in need.

When my family sought out a place of worship a few years ago, we found a home at First Lutheran Church. You may notice when you walk by our church the large banner in bold, red, all caps text: ALL ARE WELCOME. This church lives this phrase in an ethic called Radical Hospitality. I am proud to be a congregant, proud of the way this church lives out its mission, and proud of the difficult and humbling work that this church has fearlessly embraced since its founding in 1854.

I am also proud to serve on the church council since 2013, including a couple of years as president. Members

of the church and the church council have ongoing discussions about how to serve the community – who is that community? What are the needs? What issues are we best suited to address? How can we address these issues? Creating a space within our sanctuary building (built at this location 100 years ago in 1917) to reach out to and serve the homeless population has been part of that discussion for many years. When Listening House approached First Lutheran about partnering, it was a prayer answered. The Church Council thoroughly discussed, dissected, and deliberated over the proposal. We sought counsel and approval from the congregation. We moved forward by involving Jane Prince, our Saint Paul City Council representative, and by gaining all the required permits and approvals from our city.

Our partnership with Listening House is absolutely and perfectly aligned with our mission and with the activities that we have very publicly pursued for decades. We host Wellness Wednesdays in which a meal is served and the Block Nurse program, Ministering Angels, and a variety of other organizations serve the community. We share our space with many others: El Santo Nino Jesus Episcopal Church, Hmong Elders, Young Artists Initiative, Elder Café, Head Start, East Side Market, Alcoholics Anonymous, and so many more that I can't keep track.

I want to thank whoever came up with the headline, “Slumlords for Jesus” (*Dayton's Bluff District Forum*, August 2017) – I am proud to be that Slumlord for Jesus. I wish more of my neighbors would join me, and maybe there would be fewer people homeless.

Opinion: Motivated by Mission

Chelsea DeArmond
Special to the Forum

I would like to offer a counterview to the opinions expressed about First Lutheran Church (FLC) as a “slumlord” in the August issue of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*.

Besides its most recent tenant, the Listening House, the church hosts many organizations that enrich my community, like Urban Roots, East Side Elders, Young Artists Initiative, Fire on the Bluff, Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICA), and others.

First Lutheran Church has been the recipient of many neighborhood awards for its “Love Grows Here” Wellness Center, including Metropolitan State University Presidents' Community Partner Award for “a community-based organization that has enhanced the quality of life in the community in meaningful and measurable ways.” Lutheran Social Services “Servant of Christ” award for “Expressing the love of Christ through service and making your community a better place to live.” MICA's “Community Hero” award for “your years of steadfast and passionate advocacy for equity, racial and social justice for all.”

Earlier this year, Dayton's Bluff Community Council added FLC to the Neighborhood Honor Roll for “improv[ing] the community of St. Paul by providing wellness checks, health education, referrals to health providers and pastoral support through a collaboration of providers.”

I was present at the meeting where FLC's pastor referred to her grandmother living in Swede Hollow in the early 1900s. Many East Siders are descendants of the immigrant families who settled in the Hollow. There is no shame in this. In fact, Friends of Swede Hollow hosts an annual event (Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery) where people who still remember living in the Hollow share and celebrate their stories. I understood the point of the pastor's reference to her grandmother as being that her roots in this community go back generations.

Both opinion pieces suggested that FLC kept the news about the Listening House's arrival a secret from the neighborhood. I remember discussing it with neighbors when I found out about it in November of 2016. It didn't seem like a

big deal to anyone at the time, because FLC has a very long history of reaching out to the homeless. This oversight about doing a more formal neighborhood notification has been acknowledged and apologized for by all involved, including FLC's pastor, the Listening House's Executive Director, and our City Council person (who also knew about it and expressed early support for the partnership). Much work needs to be done to restore trust. Steps that I have observed so far include moving the Listening House's main entrance, scrapping plans to do a courtyard for Listening House guests in view of the neighbors, and conducting daily trash clean up on the grounds and bi-weekly neighborhood clean up.

Both opinion pieces also suggested that the partnership between FLC and the Listening House is about money. The church has been reaching out to the homeless since its founding in 1854 by Eric Norelius who was known as a “friend to the homeless.” If these decades of service are not enough to convince someone that FLC considers helping the homeless to be part of its mission, I don't know what will. No one is getting rich from this deal. But some people (who otherwise wouldn't) might get access to a clean bathroom, to a mailing address, to guitars and other instruments, to a chance to “get away from the men” for a while, to a listening ear.

Many of my neighbors have lived here for decades and dedicated much of their lives to making this community a better place for everyone. I am truly grateful to them and I try to live up to their examples. I can testify to their compassion and I share some of their concerns about the Listening House. First Lutheran Church has also been here for a very long time—and by very long, I mean more than a century—and contributed many good things to this neighborhood. This controversy has driven a wedge between two powerful forces for good. I still believe it can be worked out, though for now I don't see how.

My church and my neighbors are facing an enormous challenge with the increasing homeless population in our city. They are also members of our community and they will continue to seek shelter in Swede Hollow and at the church even if Listening House is forced to close. I hope that we can work together to urge city, county, and state officials to dedicate significant attention and resources to this public health crisis on our doorsteps. Thanks for listening.

Opinion: Listening House

Julianne Anderson
Special to the Forum

Hello, my name is Julianne Anderson. I am in support of having Listening House at First Lutheran Church on 7th and Maria in St. Paul. I have been a member of First Lutheran for over 35 years. I have only known Pastor Chris to be caring, compassionate, humble, and so many more good things. I have known Chris since she was a camper at our beloved Bay Lake Camp.

Of course we at First Lutheran Church want revenue for our church, with one purpose and one purpose only – to keep our Christian community alive and to have a place to do God's work. I see Listening House as a place for the low-income neighbors to come and have a place to connect with others, get resources from the counselors for jobs, schooling, health issues, housing, food etc. Listening House's purpose is to help create solutions for those less fortunate in our neighborhood.

I myself have been sober for over 13 years due to the support of groups like Listening House.



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The Story of 103 Bates Street

Steve Trimble
Forum Historian

I was at the recent National Night Out gathering at Indian Mounds Park when Dean Johnson came up to me and wanted to discuss the history of Dayton's Bluff. He was not from our neighborhood, but some of his ancestors lived here and many had resided at 103 Bates. I could almost spit across the street from my house and hit the place. He said his great aunt had written a booklet about her life there, and I was hooked. The result is this article.

Dean's great aunt Elaine wrote a book titled "The House That Charlie Built" shortly before her death. It started with German-born Charles William Kampfer coming to Minnesota as a two year-old. When he married Minnie Kuck, he and his father built a small house at 79 Urban Place which stood in what is now Indian Mounds Park. They were Lutherans, but soon became members of the German Baptist Church at Fifth and Mendota.

With the birth of a son and a daughter, they needed a larger home and in 1904 built one at 103 Bates on the corner of Urban Place. In her book, Elaine wrote about a "peek into the kitchen...and its huge oak table with the thick post legs and three extension leaves nailed together to serve our family of nine." There was a "big black-iron stove in front of which we dressed for school on the cold winter mornings...The lower portion of the walls was covered with wainscoting, a narrow wood paneling, placed vertically. The plastered walls were protected by the paneling, but the grooves were dirt catchers... The sink was not large but it had an enamel cast-iron drain board on the right side and a roller towel on the left... Papa's razor strap hung next to the roller towel and he used it to strop his razor and it was also a deterrent for rebels and mischief makers. Behind the stove wall was a pantry where Mama prepared the meals."

The family had an outhouse for a time and "had no central heating but had to depend on the warmth of the furnace to rise up through the open stairway and into our rooms." Her mother "made heavy patch-work quilts, made from old coats and blankets that we used on our beds."

Elaine wrote mostly of happy times, but tragedy struck the family in the fall of 1912 when her mother Minnie was ill from inflammatory rheumatism and was hospitalized. She seemed to be getting better when a nurse entered the room "to administer some medicine but she had mistakenly entered the wrong room and injected Minnie with the medication resulting in her death."

Charlie was now a widower with four children. Minnie's widowed mother

Augusta moved in to help out. As was often the case in those years, Charlie remarried quickly and it was to Minnie's sister Emma. Little Gertie was just shy of nine when her mother died and "it was decided that Gertie would be needed at home so her formal education came to an end." For the next ten years she did domestic chores and "she became her new mother's chief helper at home."

"Papa was away so much of the time, on the road selling the plans he had drawn for creameries in many milk and cheese producing towns in Minnesota and Wisconsin." He had become a contractor and even received at least two patents for some of the equipment he designed. Many late nights Charles "sat at his drawing table in the dining room of the family house on Bates Avenue, wrestling with layout enigmas."

Elaine also wrote about how the children and the family entertained themselves. In 1907, "Papa bought a brand new piano..." that "brought much joy and entertainment to the whole family for many years." Her brother Herb built the first radio "in our home with a big coil and a lot of copper wire. It really worked great but every one had to gather close to hear."

During the winter and spring, the children all attended Mound Park School on Pacific Street. The boys spent the summers climbing the cliffs, playing baseball, hiking, and swimming. The girls "learned how to roller skate and enjoyed gliding along the sidewalks and probably around the block and down McLean hill," and for much of the spring and summer months her sister's "knees and legs were decorated with huge scabs." Sometimes Papa would give them nickels for Saturday matinees at the Mounds Theatre.

"Every summer we would hear a familiar whistle as the Pop-Corn wagon toured our neighborhood. In the front window of the wagon was a sign that read 'Here Comes Gus' and as it drove away we read the words 'There Goes Gus.'"

103 Bates was also the site of several births. "It was spring and Mama's bed had been moved to the dining room in preparation for the birth of the new baby," Elaine wrote. "Doctor Stolpestad had been called and was soon to arrive." The children were hurried into a car and were driven around until the baby was born.

At the start of the book, Elaine said that she had written it because many family members wanted her to put down her memories so they could read them. She agreed to and now you have been able to see some of her writing. Perchance it might inspire some of our readers to do the same so future residents could understand some of what it was like to grow up in Dayton's Bluff.

Steve Trimble can be reached at editor@daytonsbluff.org.



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Monthly circulation: 7,000; also available online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org. This publication of Hopewell Communications, Inc., a nonprofit organization, 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. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the *Forum*. Material from this paper may be republished if it is attributed to the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and to the author, if any. Articles and letters to the editor are welcome and may be emailed to editor@daytonsbluff.org, or mailed to the address above. 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: Greg Cosimini, Nick Duncan, Karin DuPaul, Sage Holben, Steve Trimble
Editor: Jennifer Gascoigne; Associate Editor: Mark Gallagher
Next issue: October 2017. **Deadline for material: September 10, 2017.**

Have Forum, will travel...



Henry Johnston and Peyton Espley-Jones, both University of Texas students, sailing through the Forum newspaper in Newport Beach, California.

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 editor@daytonsbluff.org.

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Dear Reader,

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1980s, and has always operated on a minimal budget.

For the past three 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 below. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations, or include the *Forum* in your legacy planning.

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Thank you for your support!

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 editor@daytonsbluff.org.

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A few kind folks sometimes accompany me on the East Side Eating adventure. This day it was Ashlee Olds, who is the founder of Sweet Science Ice Cream, a gourmet dessert with many unique flavors. She favors Asian food, and since it was noonish, we decided to go to a spot with a buffet, so onto Ho Ho Gourmet.

They actually offer two separate buffets: one from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and another from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. There were around ten different choices when we were there, including fried rice, lo mein, beef with broccoli, chicken wings, and pork dishes. There was a selection of fruit and cookies for dessert.

Appetizers include pot stickers, cheese puffs, and fantail shrimp. Ten soups are available, including corn soup, hot and sour, and noo-

dle soups.

There are pan-fried noodles and different kinds of chow mein and chop suey. There are also a dozen "chef suggestions." Other offerings are Hot Pot seafood—mostly shrimp—but one of them had lobster sauce. There were twice-cooked pork, shredded chicken, various kinds of lo mein, stir-fried vegetables with chicken, beef, or pork, and Szechuan style family dinners for two to four. Combination plates including a "new style American menu," featuring shrimp with French fries and fried chicken wings.

I did notice that a majority of customers were Asian, suggesting that the food was seen as close to the traditional fare. We talked with one of the owners, who was born in China. She wondered how we liked some of the new things, such as enclosing the old sun-room area and adding a high ceiling so the name could be seen from the freeway.

I said I liked the changes but was somewhat disappointed that the soft serve vanilla that I liked was gone. I was told that because of a technical problem, it had been eliminated. But being that I was with a creator of fine ice cream, perchance I can convince her to deal with my ice cream craving in the future.

Steve Trimble can be reached at editor@daytonsbluff.org.



Steve Trimble

Ashlee Olds selecting items from the Ho Ho Gourmet noon buffet.

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