

## There's an Endangered Species in Our Neighborhood

Kathy Sidles

To the right is a picture of a rusty-patched bumblebee I saw at Swede Hollow in Dayton's Bluff this summer. See the rusty patch between two yellow stripes on its abdomen? Once common, they weren't being seen in rural natural areas anymore. So in 2016, rusty-patched bumblebees were declared endangered.

But since then, they have been seen in some cities, including Saint Paul. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a map showing where they are being seen. Why are we seeing them in cities and not outstate? There are a few theories. Cities are often built on river bluffs rich, with both prairie and woods natural areas this bumblebee likes. Our parks and watershed districts planted lots of native flowers that bloom from spring to fall along lake edges, creeks, and wetlands. We quit using pesticides on public land decades ago. And there are lots of volunteers like me to look for them – some of us are also looking again in the countryside.

In 2016 I heard that the rusty-patched bumblebee had been declared endangered, and volunteers were asked to help look for them and other bumblebees. So I stopped at the south end of Lake Phalen after work and took pictures of bumblebees. One bumblebee was a rusty-patched!

In five years I have seen 93 rusty-patched bumblebees — 79 of them were in flower patches on the East Side, with

the rest in Saint Paul and nearby suburbs. My pictures for each one have been uploaded to [bumblebeewatch.org](http://bumblebeewatch.org), or during Bumblebee Count Week to [inaturalist.org](http://inaturalist.org). They have all been confirmed by experts, except I am waiting for a positive ID for a rusty-patched queen I saw at a Lake Phalen shore last week. This is a good Citizen Science hobby for people who like to take nature pictures.

A big bumblebee seen in the spring might be a queen. She has come out from staying underground for the winter and is looking for flower nectar and a hole for a nest. A big bumblebee in early fall might be a new queen looking for the flowers to "bulk up" and to mate with a male. Then she finds soft soil to dig into for the winter. The queens of other species look like their workers, but not the rusty-patched. Rusty-patched queens have two yellow stripes but no rusty patch, a spot between their wings instead of a stripe. They look like a half black queen but have black instead of yellow head hairs and shorter fur. A picture helps.

Bumblebees need wildlife corridors to find flowers and to mate with bees from different nests for genetic health. Not mowing in May, and mowing high and less often, allows the flowers that bees like to grow in our lawns. Planting native flowers that bloom from early spring to late fall in our yards helps connect the public natural areas. [bluethumb/lawn-tolegumes.org](http://bluethumb/lawn-tolegumes.org) tells you how to do this.

I hope we keep the native plant areas in good shape and connected here in Saint Paul so rusty-patched bumblebees don't become extinct. We will find rusty-patched bumblebees outside of the Twin Cities again when we understand what habitat they need and put it back. Then they can come off of the Endangered Species list.



Kathy Sidles

The topmost photo is a rusty-patched worker bee taken from Ames Lake. The bottom photo is possibly a rusty-patched queen from Lake Phalen. Kathy is waiting on a positive ID from Bumblebee Watch experts.

## Swede Hollow: A Series

### Interpretive Signs to Be Unveiled

Michael-jon Pease

Park visitors will learn a bit of the Swede Hollow history when new interpretive signs are installed in November.

One of the top 20 projects in the Swede Hollow Park Master Plan, the signs feature short histories of the Dakota, Swedish, Italian, Irish, Polish, and Mexican communities as well as the old Hamm Mansion.

The project, which includes new park entrance and wayfinding signs, was led by the Saint Paul Parks Conservancy, Lower Phalen Creek Project, and Saint Paul Parks and Recreation with input from Friends of Swede Hollow, Ramsey County Historical Society, historians from St. Thomas, Celtic Junction Arts Center, and many others.

Funding was provided by Bush Foundation, Hardenbergh Foundation, and Saint Paul Parks and Recreation through community vitality (CVZ) funds.

With fingers crossed that supply chain or labor shortages don't delay the installation, an event to unveil the signs is planned for **3 p.m. on Saturday, November 13**, in the park with music, food, self-guided tours, and a candle lighting in honor of the indigenous and immigrant relatives for whom Swede Hollow was home.

For more information email [pease@stpaulparks.org](mailto:pease@stpaulparks.org).



Michael-jon Pease

Spectators were able view the designs of the new signs this summer that will be unveiled in November. The event will be Saturday, November 13, at 3 p.m. with food, music, tours, and more



Tom Russ

One late summer evening, Eastern District Saint Paul Police Commander Kurt Hallstrum stopped in a Dayton's Bluff neighborhood to present a new bike to a young man who had recently asked if someone could fix his third- or fourth-hand bike. Commander Hallstrum and an officer from the Eastern District Bike Truck heard of his request and stopped to estimate the repair that was needed and decided it was "unfixable." Instead, a few days later, they surprised the young man with a full-size suspension seat/suspension handlebars bicycle. His "thank you" was appreciated, but his eyes spoke of wonder and appreciation to the generosity of strangers.



## Friends of Swede Hollow

Friends of Swede Hollow watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meetings.

Our next meeting will be on **November 16** starting at **6:30 p.m.** at 668 Greenbrier Street. Anyone interested in Swede Hollow is welcome to attend.

For more information, email [karindupaul@comcast.net](mailto:karindupaul@comcast.net) or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

## Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The *Forum* is seeking writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales – join us at our next meeting on **Thursday, November 4 at 11:00 a.m.**

If you'd like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com) for more information. We are currently meeting at the Dayton's Bluff Library.

## Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Saint Paul Police hosts 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 meetings are intended as a time to learn, listen, and address people's concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Policing meetings are held at **9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.** on the third Tuesday of each month. Bring your neighbors!

Call or email Robyn at 651-266-5580 or [robyn.brewin@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:robyn.brewin@ci.stpaul.mn.us) to ensure the meetings have not been canceled.

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

¿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 neighborhoods. The Mobile Market stops at Parkway Gardens Apartments, located at 1145 Hudson Road, on **Wednesdays, from 2 to 3 p.m.**



THE HISTORIC  
MOUNDS  
THEATRE

**Weekends in October: Real Haunted Tours.** No walk-ins. Tickets must be purchased in advance. COVID-19 safety procedures will be observed.

**Saturday, November 27: MAW Wrestling** returns to the Mounds Theatre.

**December 3-5, 10-12 and 16-19:** The Historic Mounds Theatre brings you our Klingon Holiday Tradition, *It's An Honorable Life: A Star Trek Fan Production*, live and on stage in December. A Klingon fears he is too great a warrior to die in battle and will instead die of old age. Q leads him on a journey through his life in this mixture of Star Trek and holiday classics. Directed by Phillip Henry and featuring a large cast of talented local Klingons, it's sure to be a lot of fun. The show is presented primarily in Klingon with projected English titles. COVID-19 safety precautions will be observed at all performances. Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30 p.m. Sunday performances are at 2:30 p.m. Price: General admission \$20, Table seating \$35.

Visit [moundstheatre.org](http://moundstheatre.org) to purchase tickets and get more information on upcoming events. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; [historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com](mailto:historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com)

## Free Health and Human Services

United Way 2-1-1 provides *free and confidential* health and human services information for people in Minnesota, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, connecting you with the resources and information you need: Alcohol & Drug Abuse; Child Care; Consumer Regulation; Financial Assistance Programs; Healthcare; Money Management; Transportation; Animal Services; Criminal Justice & Legal Services; Employment; Food/Housing/Shelter; Tax Organizations & Services; Utilities (includes phones); Mental Health.

When calling 2-1-1 you will need to enter your ZIP code and then will hear a menu of services. Be patient, please. With COVID-19, lines are busy. You may be given options to waiting on the line.

## COVID Saliva Tests Available

Minnesota is offering at-home COVID-19 saliva testing for any person with or without symptoms, at no cost.

When you take the test, you will log in

to access the the Vault virtual waiting room and do a video visit with a Vault test supervisor. You will then send the test to the lab in Oakdale, MN, using the prepaid package. Once it arrives at the lab, you will get your results by email in 24 to 48 hours.

This saliva test is available at no cost for every Minnesotan.

Go to [learn.vaulthealth.com/state-of-minnesota/](http://learn.vaulthealth.com/state-of-minnesota/) or [health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/athome.html](http://health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/athome.html) to learn more

## Business Classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class program helps startup and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. Class training lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as: operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with creating a successful business, and preparing a business plan, plus eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor.

Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services. Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include graphics, landscaping, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture, art, custom floral design, and exterior and interior painting. The course is 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 sizes are limited, so enroll now. Please call 651-379-8432 for a current application.

## Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program

Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP) funds can help single folks, too.

Here is a list of agencies that help with deposit and/or rent assistance through FHPAP:

Neighborhood House: 651-789-2500  
MN Community Care: 651-266-1290  
American Indian Family Center:  
651-793-3803  
CLUES: 612-746-3550  
YMCA: 763-493-3052  
Face-to-Face: 651-224-9644

## Xcel Phone Numbers

Gas Leak: 800-895-2999. Power Outage: 800-895-1999.

Call 811 Before You Dig: Before starting that roto-tiller or heaving that shovel into the ground for *anything*, call 811. At no charge, Xcel will have a trained technician check the area on your property or on the boulevard to be sure there are no wires, pipes, other hidden surprises in the designated digging area. Usually, someone checks within a day (allowing a couple days is helpful), marking the 'no-dig' area with painted lines...and everyone is safe!

## Need Groceries?

If you are 60 or older, you may be eligible to receive a box of nutritious food every month from Second Harvest.

This box is part of a program called NAPS, and we can help you apply!

Give us a call at 651-683-2326 and someone will assist you with your application.

Help the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging provide one-on-one counseling to Medicare beneficiaries at community partner sites.

Make a difference in your community by becoming a State Health Insurance Assistance Program certified Medicare Counselor. Help people understand their Medicare options.

Visit [Metroaging.org/volunteer](http://Metroaging.org/volunteer) to learn more.

## Financial Assistance

Increased financial assistance is available for Ramsey County residents who lost income due to COVID-19 and need help paying for housing costs.

Residents may be eligible for Emergency Assistance that can help pay for past due rent/mortgage, a damage deposit, or prevent utilities including water, electricity, and heat from being disconnected.

Go to [ramseycounty.us/EmergencyAssistance](http://ramseycounty.us/EmergencyAssistance) an application or call the Emergency Assistance hotline at 651-266-4884.

## Free Legal Services for Low-Income People

Call Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services at 1-888-575-2954 or go to [smrls.org](http://smrls.org) to see if you qualify for free legal assistance with: family law, government benefits, housing, education, seniors, immigration, and farm workers. You can also call if you're behind on your bills, having problems with credit or creditors, or have other civil legal issues, etc.

If an interpreter is needed, SMRL will provide one.

Hours: **Monday through Friday, 9 to 11:45 a.m.; 1 to 3 p.m.**

## Helpful Phone Numbers

Social Security Admin: 1-800-772-1213 — Service available from **7 a.m. to 7 p.m.** on business days. Call to provide notification of death or to inquire about survivor benefits.

U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA): 1-800-827-1000 — Call for survivor benefits, burial benefits, or to provide notification of death.

United Way: 2-1-1 and Metro: 2-1-1 or 651-291-0211.

Free, confidential, multi-lingual information is offered 24 hours every day.

## Dayton's Bluff Library

The library is hosting plenty of fun activities. Listed below are some November events:

**November 3**—Dayton's Bluff Book Club: A great fit for folks who love reading diverse books by local authors and discussing them, **6-7:30 p.m. via Zoom.**

Visit [sppl.org/](http://sppl.org/)'s calendar for more.



## Kids Corner

Vio Nikitina

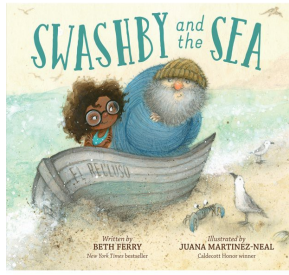
Dayton's Bluff Library Children's Specialist

### Time is a Flower by Julie Morstad.

This picture book is a poetic meditation about time. What is time? It is hair growing and being cut. Time is a seed growing into a flower and then wilting. Time is bread rising and baking and being shared between friends. Time goes slow and fast. Time is a dance. Time is a flower. Time is a sea. This beautiful book uses illustrations to effectively demonstrate time for children and has a sparse but electric color palate. The language is suitable for children kindergarten ages and up, but recommended for all ages — adults too!



— annoying! So he writes a message in the sand — NO TRESPASSING. But the sea interferes with the message, just a bit. This is a warm tale of friendship and caring that's great for elementary school aged kids.



### Battle of Dragons: City of Thieves by Alex London.



Once, dragons nearly drove themselves to extinction, but humans saved them by domesticating them centuries ago. Now, dragons help humans with everything from being school buses and taxis to delivering cargo. Every kid in Drakopolis wants to be a dragon rider, and Abel is no exception. Unfortunately, failing the Dragon Rider Academy Entrance Exam leaves only one other option—ride for a dangerous gang and fight battles. Abel soon finds out that people he thought he knew have secrets, and those secrets can rip a family apart. "Battle of Dragons: City of Thieves" by Alex London is an exciting adventure novel for youth elementary

## Letter to the Editor

### Re-Elect East-Sider Jim Vue

This is a strong recommendation to re-elect East-Sider Jim Vue to the St Paul School Board. From a retired St Paul Public School (SPPS) educator who worked for several years at Murray (both when it was a junior-senior high and then a junior high), whose three children attend SPPS K-12 and as a grandparent with five grandchildren in SPPS.

All four of Jim's children attend SPPS schools, and two have special needs. Before being named (and then elected) to the board, Jim served on district-wide committees with other parents having special needs students, and with other Asian American families. As the only Asian American on the board in a district with an enrollment of more than 30% Asian American, he has pushed the district to hold city-wide Zoom meetings in several languages. This has made it possible for the thousands of families whose first language is not English to understand how the district is responding to COVID-19 pandemic.

Jim understands his first responsibility is to represent students, families, and the broader community — NOT be a spokesperson for the district. He was one of the first to urge one of the first proposals that the district more fully explore solar and other sustainable forms of energy. (The district has just announced it will establish a task force to do this).

He was one of the first to urge the district to require faculty to be vaccinated or have a medical exemption (positions supported by the St Paul Federation of Educators).

Jim Vue is the kind of school board member St Paul needs. Please help return him to the school board.

Thanks for considering this,

Joe Nathan, PhD, parent, grandparent of St Paul Public School students, former SPPS PTA school president.

## Recipe

### Leo's Special Chicken Chow Mein

Provided by Steve Trimble

I was thumbing through some cookbooks and found something interesting in *Cooking With Care* published by Ramsey County Care Center in 2011. For those who don't know about Leo Ng, he was the owner of Leo's Chow Mein. He is now retired but his cuisine is still being prepared. This recipe was submitted by Vicki Weller.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp. oil
- 1/4 C. mushrooms, sliced
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 to 1/2 C. pea pods
- 4 oz. chicken
- 1/2 C. bean sprouts, uncooked and iced
- 1 tbsp. MSG, optional
- 1 1/2 C. chicken broth divided
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 3/4 C. celery, chopped

- 1 tbsp. cornstarch
- 1/2 C. white onion, sliced
- 1 pkg. chow mein noodles
- 1/4 C. water chestnuts, sliced

#### Directions:

To stir fry chicken: Heat wok over high heat. Add oil and salt. Add chicken. stir fry for four minutes or until chicken dries out a bit.

To cook vegetables: Add one ladle of chicken broth. Add celery, onion, water chestnuts, mushrooms, pea pods, and bean sprouts. Add more chicken broth to level of vegetables. Simmer briskly until chicken is done. Dissolve the cornstarch in 1/4 c. of water and gradually add cornstarch mixture to broth, stirring and cooking until sauce reaches desired thickness. Serve over chow mein noodles.

I'm not sure who Vicki Weller was or is, but she had over a dozen recipes in the cookbook. Maybe a staff member or a resident who had a lot of family food favorites. Maybe some of our readers will know something about her.

*If you'd like to submit your favorite recipe, please send it to: [daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com).*

**Sat 11/6 9am - 4pm**  
**Sun 11/7 11am - 2pm**

**HOLIDAY FAIR TRADE SALE**

**Wild Rice, Jam, Chocolate, Coffee Baskets, Jewelry, Scarves, & Much More**

**Proceeds go to Fair Trade Vendors**

**New Life Presb Church**  
**965 Larpenteur Ave W**

*You got somethin' to say? Say it here!*

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* welcomes all opinions and neighborhood anecdotes – send yours to:

[daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com)

Opinions expressed in contributed articles may not represent the views of the *Forum*.

**Deadline for the December edition of the *Forum* is November 10, 2021.**

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BEEF		COMBINATIONS	
Quart size serve with pint rice		Serve with fried rice or white rice, 1 egg roll or 1 vegetable egg roll or 2 cheese wonton or 3 fried dumpling	
Pepper Beef	\$12.50	Sweet & Sour Chicken	\$8.50
Pepper Tomato Beef	\$12.50	Sesame Chicken	\$8.50
Beef w/ Broccoli	\$12.50	Orange Chicken	\$8.50
Beef w/ Pea Pod	\$12.50	General chicken	\$8.50
Beef w/ Mix Vegetable	\$12.50	Szechuan Chicken	\$8.50
Beef in Garlic Sauce	\$12.50	Kung Po Chicken	\$8.50
Kung Po Beef	\$12.50	Curry Chicken	\$8.50
Szechuan Beef	\$12.50	Chicken w/ Garlic Sauce	\$8.50
Mongolian Beef	\$12.50	Chicken w/ Mix vegetable	\$8.50
		Chicken w/ Broccoli	\$8.50
		Chicken Pea Pod	\$8.50
		Pork w/ Broccoli	\$8.50
		Pork w/ mix vegetable	\$8.50
		Pork w/ Garlic Sauce	\$8.50
		Kung Po Pork	\$8.50
		Sweet & Sour Pork	\$8.50
		Beef or Shrimp w/ Garlic Sauce	\$9.50
		Szechuan Beef or Shrimp	\$9.50
		Kung Po Beef or Shrimp	\$9.50
		Mongolian Beef	\$9.50
		Shrimp w/ Lobster Sauce	\$9.50
		Shrimp or Beef Broccoli	\$9.50
SHRIMP		NEW ITEMS	
Quart size serves with pint rice		Kung Po ToFu	
Shrimp w/ Broccoli	\$13.50	ToFu Mix Vegetables	\$8.50
Shrimp w/ Mix Vegetables	\$13.50	Str-Fry w/Vegetable	\$8.50
Shrimp w/ Lobster Sauce	\$13.50		
Shrimp w/ Garlic Sauce	\$13.50		
Kung Pao Shrimp	\$13.50		
Szechuan Shrimp	\$13.50		
Shrimp w/ Pea Pod	\$13.50		
MEI FUN			
Singapore Mei Fun	\$11.95		
Shrimp/Beef Mei Fun	\$10.65		
Chicken/Pork Mei Fun	\$9.60		

## Leo's Chow Mein

Take-out Menu

TEL: 651-771-0305  
FAX: 651-778-2888  
1061 Hudson Road  
Saint Paul, MN 55106

Business Hours  
Mon-Sat 11:00 am - 7:30 pm  
Sunday Closed

All You Can Eat Hour  
Mon-Fri 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

*Leo's Chow Mein*

Leo's Chow Mein's curret menu. The restaurant is located at 1059 Hudson Rd, St Paul.



## Happening at the Dayton's Bluff Library

**More Hours At Your Library.** Starting **November 6**, Dayton's Bluff Library will be open for longer hours. This restoration of library hours allows us to welcome community members to connect, learn, discover, and grow more often in our library spaces.

**Storytime** at Dayton's Bluff Library occurs on **Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.** Join us for a special storytime on **Thursday, November 18 at 10:30 a.m.** with special guest reader, Councilmember and Library Board Chair Jane Prince! Storytimes are geared toward toddler- and preschool-aged children. We will read stories, sing songs, practice American Sign Language, and have a lot of fun. We are undergoing an assessment of the best day and time for storytimes. If you are a caregiver of children of or near storytime age, please visit the library to vote for the best time for this program, or vote online here: [rb.gy/rwpyjr](https://rb.gy/rwpyjr).

**FunLab** is STEAM for school-age kids. These events happen **every other Saturday** on a drop-in basis from **2 to 4 p.m.** The crafts and activities in this event will vary from arts and crafts, to math, engineering, and science, to taking a break with boardgames and movies! Keep up with what we have going on by checking out our online calendar at [sopl.org/location/daytons-bluff-events/](https://sopl.org/location/daytons-bluff-events/).

**Reading Together** is a free program that pairs students with volunteers to work on grade-level reading skills. To participate, students must be in grades first through fifth, read below grade level, and live or attend school in Saint Paul. Students and trained mentors will meet weekly at a regular time to work one-on-one in a fun, supportive environment to improve their reading. The online application opened in mid-September at [sopl.org/reading-together/](https://sopl.org/reading-together/), or you can pick up a paper application at the library. Once an application is received, library staff will work to partner a student with a mentor.

**Volunteer** with the library! We have several volunteer opportunities available at Dayton's Bluff- whether you're interested in shelf reading, helping keep the library looking nice, working with kids at our FunLab programs, or giving your time as a Career Labs volunteer. We invite you to be a part of our team as we connect, learn, discover and grow with our community. Learn more and find applications at [sopl.org/volunteer/](https://sopl.org/volunteer/).

**Catch Up with a Councilmember** on **Thursday, November 18** from **11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at Dayton's Bluff Library! Join Councilmember and Library Board Chair Jane Prince for a drop-in community event for constituents that occurs at various locations around Ward 7. Find out what's going on in Ward 7, what Jane Prince is working on, share concerns, or just say hello.

**Career Labs** are in full swing **Monday through Thursday, 1-5 p.m.** Career Labs offers access computers, Wi-Fi, printers, and one-on-one help from knowledgeable staff. If you're looking for a space to job search, interview, work, on your resume, and more, stop by or make an appointment. Walk-ins welcome. Appointments recommended for one-on-one computer assistance: [sopl.org/career-labs/](https://sopl.org/career-labs/).

**Book Sale** is back! Stop by Dayton's Bluff Library to see what we have on our sale cart. Hardcover books are \$0.50, paperback books are \$0.25, media (CDs, DVDs, and audiobooks) are \$1.00, and magazines are \$0.10. We accept cash or check only. All sales are final.

**Suggest A Title for Purchase** for the library. We want our collection to reflect the needs and interests of our community. If there is a title you'd like to see on our library shelves, you can suggest up to four titles per month by using this link: [sopl.org/suggest/](https://sopl.org/suggest/).

*All Saint Paul Public Library locations will be closed Thursday, November 11 in observance of Veterans Day and Thursday, November 25 in observance of Thanksgiving.*

### Dayton's Bluff Library Hours

Mondays & Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m.  
Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Fridays & Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The outdoor book drop is open all the time. Current hours are available online at [sopl.org/locations/DB/](https://sopl.org/locations/DB/) or call 651-793-1699.



Steve Trimble

Above shows one of the framed pieces of artwork that was on display at the **SOLIDARITY ART FEST** held in St. Paul in September. The festival focused on Native sacred sites, history, and traditions, and contemporary identity of local Native people.



Dayton's Bluff Library

Councilmember Jane Prince (top photo) will be at the library **Thursday, November 18**, to talk about what's going on in Ward 7. The lower photo shows a librarian working with a community member during a Career Lab.

### Welcome Home to 732 Margaret Street!



#### Own a piece of Dayton's Bluff History

Designed by architect Herman Kretz and built in 1890 for Henry & Hilda Defiel, this brick Queen Anne Victorian features stained glass windows, natural woodwork, four bedrooms, three bathroom and boasts over 3800 total finished square feet.

\$475,000

732 Margaret Street  
Upper Swede Hollow  
Dayton's Bluff  
Saint Paul, Minnesota



Proudly Marketed by Brad Griffith, Realtor® - Edina Realty  
(651) 263-2830



### St. Paul Farmers' Market November Dates

The St. Paul Farmers' Market (SPFM) allows only fresh, locally grown produce to be sold, directly from the grower to the consumer, making it unique among many farmers' markets. The baked goods, artisan foods, confections, and other products offered are produced locally as well.

The Saint Paul Farmers' Market is an extremely popular attraction in downtown Saint Paul. Free street parking (on Sundays only) as well as paid parking locations are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The Saint Paul Farmers' Market is located at 290 5th Street East in downtown Saint Paul.

The market will run **Saturdays and Sundays** from **8 a.m. to 1 p.m.** The last day of the season will be **Sunday, November 21.**

### Dayton's Bluff District Forum

668 Greenbrier St., St. Paul, MN 55106

hone: 651-776-0550 E-mail:

[daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com)

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## View From My Porch

Sage Holben

"What happened?" Tommy looked confused as I lifted my right hand and groaned. I awoke because my hand, my favored hand, felt as if it had been stomped on with a heavy work boot and wrapped in layers of live embers. The back of my hand was swollen to the size of half a grapefruit, the skin taut and mottled. Two streams of bright blood were flowing from two punctures at the base of my index finger, above the knuckle. A dried drizzle of blood also lay on the finger.

It was 12:35 a.m. The reading light and the ceiling lights were on, my book somewhere in the blanket. I wondered if I had hit my hand on a bookshelf beside my bed. No, nothing would match the punctures. I got up and placed an ice pack on the swelling. Disturbed, but tired — sleep had been minimal lately with yelling and parties at 342 Bates, loud early morning, late night music at 321 Bates, and screaming and yelling at 701 Fourth. After talking with the online nurse, early Thursday morning, I drove to Regions Hospital emergency where three doctors looked at the punctures and dug around in the wound.

I assured them it wasn't my cat. Tommy weighs 35 pounds, has a huge head and wide jaws. IF he were a biting cat, I'm sure the puncture spread would have been greater, the puncture deeper, and I definitely would have been awakened by the actual biting — NOT by the resulting swelling. Ultimately, it is not in Tommy's nature to bite or even hiss. The doctor asked why I would think it might be a bat (beyond the two mythical punctures).

Because I had stunned and taken down two bats in my apartment in the past; stunned five flying bats with my tennis racquet when I lived upstairs and took one off the bathroom curtain (all released alive outside with the night insects). Upstairs neighbors had told me of at least four bats over time in their apartments. The night before, I heard a rustling in the forced air register; I hadn't thought of the size of holes on the register as a bat route into my bedroom; and I was too exhausted from

the neighborhood activity to care.

"Experience," I told the dubious doctor, "tells me bats come into the house." I understand that science wants something known, a bat in hand, but perhaps I will find a decomposed bat, a pile of dust one day when I deep clean.

It had been years since I had a hospital stay. I came in exhausted, received shots in emergency, was beginning to feel disoriented with bright lights, typical hospital background sounds, and so much pinging and metal. What had changed because of COVID-19, because of staffing, availability of anything?

My grandniece had just been released from a California hospital and was told oxygen she needed was limited and she was given instructions for emergency if she ran out. What was the case here? The staff: with everyone wearing scrubs, how does one tell a nurse from, say, housekeeping (who came into my room shortly after I was admitted, saw the news on TV and disgustingly commented in my direction, how "we" should not allow "them" [Haitians] in. "They should have to follow the process like I did." Not appropriate, I thought, but all I could muster at that point was to say, "you spent time in a refugee camp?"

Earlier, the male staff who processed me for my hospital stay, when I was done in emergency, asked the usual, "anything in your purse that could be used as a weapon?" "Then, I will need to look in your purse." OK. Then, he took out my wallet. I was feeling "out of it", but was wondering why? Yet too stupefied to say anything. I was in a trusted hospital, after all. But I was glad I had only my bright purple (easy to keep track of) Affinity card and no cash in my wallet. Then he took out and shuffled through my collection of cards (why?). "Interesting cards", he commented. (numerous police contacts? ACLU, SPLC?) Was that necessary? I later thought it was a moment when a third person would have been helpful or reassuring — a patient advocate, perhaps? Perhaps driving alone to emergency is not the best thing.

Because of COVID-19, shortage of beds and staff, I kept in mind to be aware of all staff had to do and to not make unnecessary requests. This was largely based on a suggestion by my sister who had recently, expecting to have surgery

one day, home the next, ended up spending a month in the hospital. I had come in expecting to have someone look at my hand, treat the swelling, and release me to do my errands. Now I had been told I would be in the hospital for a couple days. Overall, I have no complaints about staff. They came, usually giving me their name, and leaving. Sometimes they would ask if I wanted/needed something. It was annoying only when twice they suggested something (a warmed blanket or a cup of hot tea) and never came back. They enticed me, but sidetracking happens.

Friday, my second day, I had hand surgery, some "crud" removed, swelling going down. Then, at about 10 p.m. I was faced with eviction! I couldn't label the trigger until later. A couple staff came into my room, saying they had to move me out. One person bagged my meager belongings; the other prepared my bed and attached to my IV tree. Apparently, Friday is a busy night and since I was to be released the next day, I would change wards. I would have felt less emotionally jolted if someone had spoken to me face to face and said it. Instead, as I was able to identify later, I was emotionally taken back to 10 years old when my parents came home, packed us five kids and a few belongings into the car and drove off in the middle of the night, from one apartment to our new "home", leaving once again, friends and "the familiar" behind, with no notice, no preparation, no explanation. I did call customer/patient services and comment about the eviction and the wallet incident. I still basically like Regions, but I was left feeling less like a human and more like a "thing". The calls I was told to expect never came (to explain the series of rabies vaccines and other shots I received, and test results — yes, I receive them online in my account, but it helps to have them explained in context).

The infectious disease doctor was helpful, but because I couldn't come up with an actual bat body, I am sure they will always suspect Tommy. Later, thinking back that the emergency room doctors said they had not worked before on bat bites, and it appeared the same at the hospital, I called a professor at University of Minnesota and asked if he might help me in narrowing down and pinpointing a definite suspect. Though no

one at the hospital apparently measured the distance between incisors, I did when I got home, regretting that I hadn't when I first saw the bite, as no one at the hospital apparently measured. The professor was very gracious and referred to a few skulls he had on hand, measuring the distance between the incisors on a cat (it had weighed 10 pounds and he established it very likely wasn't Tommy, considering the size of Tommy; he measured the bat — I can't remember if it was the little or big brown bat he measured — the little brown is all but gone because of the white nose disease, and the big brown is more normal in our area. And he measured a short-tailed shrew, which he indicated is often found in older homes...more aggressive than mice. Nothing conclusive.

Though the bat remains the obvious suspect, I want to say I hold absolutely no animosity toward "my" bat. When I stunned them in the house and had a close up look — I found their eyes, wings, and feet are amazing. Though the bacteria they carry on their feet causes infections, much like mice do, they are fascinating — the size, how little space they need to enter a house, a vent; the toughness of their wings, yet how delicate they sound — like a taffeta skirt swishing, yet they have an appearance of exquisite leather. Their faces have a sweetness to them — cute. Creatures swooping around in the evening dusk, catching insects; they see a tiny crevice, climb into a wall, a vent; in an older house with less packed into the walls, they move further down and find more crawl space. They find space, a room to fly around, then, by chance they fly into a lighted hallway (where I stunned most bats flying crazily back and forth) or a bedroom where someone fell asleep while reading, and the bats circle. They become startled when people move or when they see a house pet and go on the defensive. My hand is still tender...the incisions below the bite are healing, not pretty, but I'm not a hand model, after all. Rabies vaccines are done (my hand had an infection, but no rabies).

Be kind to bats. They are not vicious, and they devour hordes of bothersome insects.

*A special thanks to Nurse Jodie, who compiled from many pages, a lucid post-discharge follow-up list for me and had an actual conversation with me on next steps.*



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## East Sider, Darla Garvey, Publishes Memoir:

### An Interview

Mandy Okonek

#### Did you grow up in Saint Paul?



Yes, I grew up on the East Side of St. Paul in the 1970s. I'm a graduate of Harding High School and attended college at Hamline University.

**Are there any particular memories raising your family in Saint Paul that worked to shape your family's narrative?**

I've always had strong ties to the East Side, even after I moved from my childhood home. For a time, I lived on Mounds Blvd. and I got married at First Lutheran Church in the Dayton's Bluff area where my parents were members. After I married, we built a house not far from where I grew up and I continued to spend time in familiar places on the East Side of St. Paul.

**I know your memoir is a story of survival and grief, but it is also a love story and now that it has been published and shared with the world, in a way it could be anyone's story. I'm curious how you feel storytelling works to process sometimes difficult emotions and create empathy? Was writing this book therapeutic for you?**

I'm glad you recognize that *Muddy Thursday* is essentially a love story. The pain and anguish of losing a loved one is real, but in the absence of love, that pain is often less intense. That is why I refer to *Muddy Thursday* as a love story. Not only does it center around a mother's love for her son, but it also speaks volumes to the love others had for my son, Ray Garvey. I think people were drawn to Ray because Ray loved people so much. He didn't like being alone.

I think it is a natural assumption that writing about a tragic event in one's life would be cathartic, but for me the writing

process was brutal. In order to write with any sort of depth and honesty, I had to see it, hear it, feel it — basically relive the darkest moments of my life. Now that I'm published, I feel a sense of accomplishment for sure, but the journey getting to this point was a huge challenge. Yet, in the end, I am honored to share my family's story and to honor the memory of my son. I believe storytelling serves a purpose in how we connect and learn from other people's stories — whether different or similar to our own life experiences. My hope is that readers of *Muddy Thursday* will gain empathy and insight into the challenges of living with cystic fibrosis, get an inside look at a family's struggle in the aftermath of the death of a child, and ultimately be inspired to embrace (and never waste) the time that we have here.

**I think the fact that you drowned in Lake Phalen and were saved is a story in itself. How did this near-death experience shape your identity as a writer and a person?**

I never thought I would write about that traumatic experience, but by doing so, I discovered many parallels of that fateful day at Lake Phalen to that of later parenting two children with a respiratory illness. The medical treatment I required to simply survive — to fight off a lung infection, rid my airways of fluid, and avoid my lungs from collapsing — was similar to the respiratory treatment my children had to do to fight cystic fibrosis. I don't pretend to know what it is actually like to have cystic fibrosis myself, but there was a time in my life when I knew what it was like to not be able to breathe easily. I believe that experience heightened my understanding and empathy for what my children had to endure each day.

**What are some of your favorite/iconic East Side haunts, restaurants, events, or memories?**

Many of my favorite stomping grounds on the East Side are no longer there. Like Serlin's Cafe, the Minnehaha Dari-ette Drive-in, and the iconic Arcade Street Theater. Those were some of the places I remember going to when I was younger. I'm glad that some memorable places I spent with my parents are still in business. Like Yaruso's Italian Restaurant. It was their favorite restaurant for spaghetti and hot dagos.

**One of my favorite things about the genre of memoir is the idea that through our family we learn to tell our first stories that in many ways serve to shape who we are to become. What stories does your family like to share about you?**

Ironically, I write about that in my book. I believe there is a thread that weaves it-

self from childhood into adulthood. Piece by piece our early experiences — the good ones and the bad ones — shape us into the person we were meant to be.

Sadly, I lost both of my parents years ago. With their parting, some family stories were also lost. But I still remember things my parents and grandparents shared about my early years. Like walking down to Battle Creek ski jump when I was three or four years old, to cheer on my father, who competed in ski jumping tournaments with the St. Paul Ski Club.

My family reminds me of being a tomboy and always, always getting dirty. My father, who was a bricklayer, often laughed about what a grubby nuisance I was following him around while he built our home on Upper Afton Road.

I remember my parents teaching me to downhill ski at the old Battle Creek ski hill. I skied so often that in order to make my mittens last through the winter, my dad wrapped duct tape around them so I didn't wear holes in them from grabbing onto the tow rope.

Many of my family stories took place during a simpler time and they are innocent enough. But there are just as many stories that include "misadventures" when I pushed the envelope and ignored my parents' better judgment. For some reason they liked to remind me of those stories. I guess over time, they were able to look back and laugh about the error of my ways.

**What was your creative process like writing your book? What motivated you to keep going? Are there any particular places in Saint Paul that inspire you to write?**

Much of my book was written out of fear. The fear of a mother forgetting the memories of her son. After Ray passed away, I didn't set out to write a book. I set out to write short stories, special memories that I could later share with his younger sister. I didn't want her to forget her brother either.

Having never written a book before, I took a few writing classes at the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis where I honed my writing style and learned from expert instructions there.

I also had the great fortune of working with Steve Thayer, a fellow St. Paul East Sider and *New York Times* bestselling author. A couple times we met at Swede Hollow Cafe on 7th Street to go over my writing together. That began a writing habit of finding a quiet corner in a coffee shop to work. But to be honest, I had to abandon this project many times over the years. Mostly to protect myself. Sometimes, looking back on my life was a bit dangerous, especially when I was just trying to get through the day. I couldn't afford to hole up in a room, or in a coffee shop to write, because my daughter needed me to be present. But in the back of my mind, I knew I had to finish my story.

My motivation was to reach a wider audience, beyond family and friends, so others would also know my son's story. While publishing *Muddy Thursday* has been a long time coming, in my opinion, the release of my book is right on time. I needed some distance in order to reflect.

**Are there any local Saint Paul bookstores where folks can purchase *Muddy Thursday*?**

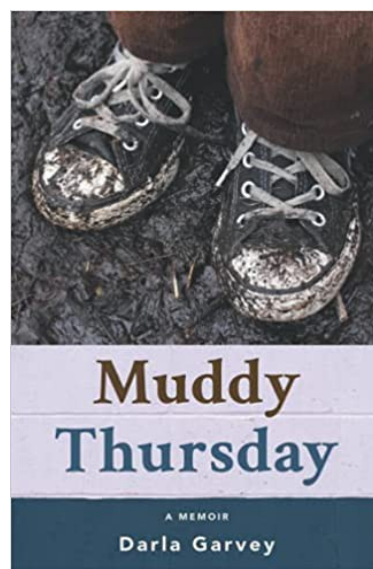
I think it's important to support our local independent bookstores, so I have included a link to [indiebound.org](http://indiebound.org) on my author website ([darlagarvey.com](http://darlagarvey.com)). Readers can click on that link to find an independent bookstore near them and ask their favorite bookstore owner to order a copy of *Muddy Thursday*. The memoir is also available on Amazon.

**What's next? Are you taking a break or moving right into another writing project?**

The most challenging thing in my life was writing about the loss of my son. And to be honest, it was initially terrifying to

put my personal story out there. I felt like I was handing over my diary to complete strangers. But Steve Thayer was instrumental in pushing me to write with more intensity, reminding me that the more personal the story, the more compelling it would be to the reader. So I dug deep and didn't cushion any blows. *Muddy Thursday* is a raw and honest look at the kind of tragedy that can destroy a family. Yet, it is also sprinkled with humor, strength, and hope.

I think I have another book in me. I'd like to try my hand at writing a novel. I think it would be a different kind of experience to write a work of fiction where I have the creative freedom to take the characters in any direction I want.



Greg Cosimini

After a year without trick or treating, these fun inflatable decorations were seen in front of a house while kids got to trick or treat in their neighborhoods.



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# “Swede Hollow, Then Up on the Street” Part Three

Steve Trimble

This is the third article featuring some of the booklet that was experienced and written by Gentile Yarusso and published in September, 1968. It's a personal recollection of life on the East Side. Any of his words are in quotation marks. The booklet is out of print but can be found in the Minnesota Historical Society's library where you could read it there or have a copy made.

“As I walked on viewing our old haunts, I stood before the old settlement house...When I grew up I was a staff member at that Center and know how much it helped to build better citizens. I remember many happy days with the children there, the parties, the basketball games, craft classes, and dances. I direct-

ed many activities, but I enjoyed dramatics the most. I worked with children, who are the best actors in the world, I never had trouble getting people to play parts. Musicians — we had them by the dozens. There were three or four in every family.”

Yarusso then started remembering more about Swede Hollow and the trains that ran though the edge of the community.

“The giant locomotives would come puffing up the track, their headlights glowing like the eyes of a serpent, winding around the curves of the hollow. What noise, what thunder as the engines passed us! Cinders and sparks fell all around us, on our head, on our shoulders. Windows in the homes would rattle. Mothers would call for their children. Some of the smaller kids would become frightened and start to cry. Fathers would be cursing the whole spectacle in general.”

His memory returned to the neighborhood Up on the Street. He continued his walk until he came to the old church ground of St. Ambrose. “How cold the

church was in the winter. How we children would be packed like sardines in the pews. We didn't mind; we kept warm that way. The only time we were uncomfortable was when in the spring our pockets were full of marbles... once in a while a few marbles would drop to the floor. Then Father Pioletti would stare in our direction.”



Photo found on Ancestry.com. It is a photo of the Damiani Grocery truck.

Keeping along, Yarusso walked down by Woodward Street past the Cocchiarella house. “I recalled the many kite contests we used have here. We all made our own kites, we made our own paste, too, out of

flour and water. ‘Take it easy’, my mother would say, ‘flour cost \$2.98 a sack.’” Then he tells about a man named Mike who came through the neighborhood in his horse and wagon and would buy pop bottles, rags, and iron. “It was Mike who made it possible for us kids” to earn enough to pay for tickets for the movies. He came at the same time every morning, punctual as a clock... He watered his horse many times at our house... Sometimes he would be talking to my dad in the shed that housed the outdoor oven, or he would share a glass or two of red wine with him.

He walked along the side of the Damiani grocery store on Payne Avenue at East Seventh Street where there were two houses. “One was the house of where Mike Pizzella lived... Mike played the accordion. Little Mike played at every wedding, baptism, and party that was ever held by the old folks years ago. How they loved to dance the Tarantella to his music.

It was at some of those parties though, in this atmosphere of fun and laughter that I witnessed the crying of older men and women. I saw the tears and almost felt the ache in their hearts. They were thinking of the relatives and friends left behind in the old country.”

## Solidarity Street Gallery

Mandy Okonek

Solidarity Street Gallery is an art and cultural festival that provides voice and venue to the array of creative thinkers and activists that envision Saint Paul's potential.

Justice and Equity through art and community building is the collective vibe of the Payne Ave. art celebration and this year's focus was centered on Indigenous Sovereignty and Environmental Justice. From bars to coffee shops to barbershops, visual art embodying the theme of culture and environment was on display.

A myriad of events including performing artists, an Eco Fair, and many family-friendly community activities filled the weekend of September 23rd through the 25th. If you missed it this year, no worries because it's likely to be a reoccurring event. The success of the Solidarity Street Gallery's second year is sure to only build in momentum, and it will be exciting to see this event grow.

This year's festival was timed perfectly to occur in tandem with Swede Hollow Art Fair and The Saint Paul Art Crawl. Let's hope this is a reoccurring theme because it worked out perfectly for a fun weekend on my favorite side of the river.

For more information on the Solidarity Street Gallery visit their website at [solidaritystreetgallery.org](http://solidaritystreetgallery.org).



Steve Trimble

Above is one of the photos that was on display at the Solidarity Street Gallery that was held in September. This year's focus was centered on Indigenous Sovereignty and Environmental Justice.



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## Some St. Paul Trivia

Congratulations to John Jordan for answering all questions correctly!

There are three judges from Saint Paul who served on the U. S. Supreme Court. What are their names? **Pierce Butler 1923-1939, Warren Burger 1969-1986, Harry Blackmun 1970-1994.**

A Saint Paul drive-in opened in 1951 was famous for its spaghetti and meatballs, which became so popular that customers stocked up on the sauce when it closed for the winter. In 2013 it was named one of the country's twelve best drive-ins. What is its name and where is it? **The Dair-Ette on Minnehaha Ave E**

What was Carol Kennicot, a main character at the start of *Main Street* by Sinclair Lewis

- A. A Saint Paul leader of the Minnesota Women's Party
- B. A Saint Paul librarian**
- C. A Saint Paul settlement house worker
- D. A Saint Paul union activist

In 1937, what movie was a Black student group at University of Minnesota protesting against? **The Birth of a Nation**

There are two streets in Saint Paul's Dayton's Bluff neighborhood named Maria and Bates. Why are these names there? **Land owner Lyman Dayton's wife's name was Maria Bates Dayton**



## 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 60 may now be found online at [daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org](http://daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org): click on "East Side Eating" at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com).

### Hamburguesa El Gordo

927 Payne Ave.  
St. Paul 55130  
Phone: 651-348-2484  
Hours: Sunday — Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Friday — Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Website: [gordoburgers.com/order-east-st-paul.html](http://gordoburgers.com/order-east-st-paul.html)  
Facebook: @ElGordohamburguesas

There was an earlier Hamburguesa El Gordo at 990 Payne Avenue a few blocks north of this one, but it left for the West Side a few years ago. So, I thought they should have a new entry into the Forum's East Side Eating collection of more than 60 eateries on the East Side. Now they are back inside the Plaza Latina. Their website stated that their hamburguesas are exactly what you would find being served by street vendors on the northern part of Mexico. And, like the name means, they are really fat with a series of things piled on top.



I got there around 5:30 p.m. on a Wednesday. The floors were wood, the ceilings were high, and some of it had old tin ceilings that had been painted. People order at a counter just outside the entry. There was soft Latino music piped into the area. The restaurant area had seven tables that resembled wooden picnic ones but sturdier. After, I took a little stroll to see the other stores that are inside the Plaza. Some include clothing, a barber, a gift shop, fashion spot, and beauty offerings. A few were open but most closed for the evening. Only two tables other than my own were in use.

**Burgers:** The Del Gordo Burger has a bottom of meat, then mozzarella and cheddar cheeses, ham, bacon, avocado, onions, tomatoes, lettuce, pickled peppers, mayo, mustard, and ketchup. There is also a double burger with two patties of meat. The Del Gordo Hawaiiana has grilled pineapple and the Cubano includes chorizo, a split dago, fried egg, cheese, avocado and "much more." The rest is Classic Cheeseburger Mini, Classic Cheeseburger, and a Mini Double Classic Cheeseburger.

Of course, there are tacos. Three of them. Tacos Classic of flour or corn tortilla, a choice of meat topped with fresh onion and cilantro, salsa, and lime on the side. Tacos Pirata which is flour or corn tortilla, your choice of meat topped with Oaxaca cheese, grilled onion, cilantro, and avocado. Salsa on the side. There is also a Taco Box that consists of 10 tacos, your choice of meat, grilled onions, and grilled peppers on the side, lots of salsa, and lime.

A handful of burritos are on the menu. Here are three of them: Asada Burrito made up with carne Asada, mozzarella cheese, grilled onions, cilantro, avocado, and lettuce. Pastor Burrito with crisp-thin shavings of spit-roasted pork, marinated with guajillo chilies, and achiote — a spice and coloring agent extracted from seeds of a shrub. Finally, Beef Tongue Burrito that is marinated and topped with lettuce, tomatoes, and avocado.

Combos are available. #1 is Del Gordo Burger with fries, #2 is a Del Gordo burger and one Dago. There is a Family Combo with a cheeseburger and fries, and a Kids Combo comprised of one mini cheeseburger and fries.

There are several items under the name of Hot Dagos. Dago Norteno is

wrapped on bacon and topped with avocado, grilled onions, cilantro, mustard, ketchup, and mayo. Dago Chiango also with bacon wrap and added tomatoes, onions, queso fresco, and sour cream. Dago Los Mochis features tomatoes, grilled onions, avocado, and Mexican cheese.

Some of the sides include Asada fries with sour cream, cheese, and avocado, French fries Elotes, Mexican corn on the cob with mayo lime and chili and other ingredients. Frijoles Charros, pinto beans and flavors of types of meat. Guacamole made fresh daily.

Desserts are either Flan or Tres Leches. The Beverages are cans of soda, a Jarritos or Mexican coke. They sometimes have specials. The Wednesday one, for instance, is buy one Dago and get a second one completely free. If you are there on Friday, pay for two Del Gordo Burgers and get a free one.

The last time I had a Hamburguesa El Gordo it seemed that I was eating leftovers for a few days because they were so big. So, I had a Junior version of the El Gordo with fries. I also decided to have a bottle of Mexican Coca Cola and splurge with a flan for dessert.

I talked a bit with Iris who was behind the counter and also brought dishes to ta-



bles. She grew up on the East Side, now lives in Roseville, and plans to become a nurse. I also met Bianca, the cook, who came from Mexico 19 years ago and now resides on the East Side. The owner, Claudia, was not there at the time. There were a few signs with that said, "Boom Street Food" and on the tee shirts. Iris said it was slang for great food.

Go there and see if you agree. Bring cash or a credit card since they do not accept checks.

*Both photos by Steve Trimble.  
The photo above shows Iris on the left and Bianca on the right.*

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Make checks payable to: *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and mail to 668 Greenbrier St, St. Paul, MN 55106. For more information, contact 651-776-0550 or [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support!