

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 37, No. 10

November 2023

"The Voice of the Community"

Roy's Service — 67 Years in Dayton's Bluff

Mark Gallagher

In 1952, Roy Voss started working at a gas station on 3rd Street and Maria Ave. in Dayton's Bluff, and in 1956, the owners of that gas station offered to sell it to Roy. He bought it and renamed the gas station Roy's Service. That unpretentious gas station has been a fixture in Dayton's Bluff for many years since Roy, and eventually Roy's son Mike, became its owner.

When Mike Voss was only six or seven years old, he told his dad that he wanted to stay at the station until his dad got done with his work, which was sometimes not until nine or 10 p.m. Mike would just hang out with the neighborhood kids or crawl through the stacks of tires that were in the loft. "I would get dirty crawling and getting into everything as a little kid," Mike said. "I learned a lot of stuff! I learned how to weld and use oxygen and acetylene torches before I was probably 10 years old. I made go carts when I was 12 years old. I welded them together, attached engines to them, and thought in my head how they should work. They were built from scratch, and they worked, so I made a lot of stuff like that.

"When I was 12 years old, I started working at the gas station and getting a paycheck. I swept the floors, emptied the trash, cleaned windows, and vacuumed the cars we had in here for service. I'm not sure, but I think I started pumping gas in cars at about 12 or 13 years old. We had a plenty of people working here

at the time; my uncle had worked there as an auto mechanic, so there wasn't much else for me to do. I didn't get into doing oil changes and tire changes until I was about 15 or 16. I worked four hours a day, six days a week, and worked 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Mike went to auto technician classes in high school, but it was kind of funny because he knew more than the teacher did. Mike would correct him daily on things the teacher would tell the class. Every time the teacher would start talking about the certain subject concerning the car, Mike would raise his hand, and the teacher would say, "Put your hand down; I know what you are going to say." At first, Mike was probably his best student, then the teacher started not to like him because he would correct the teacher all the time.

The students in the automotive class used to work on the teacher's and faculty member's cars, and the teacher would give Mike the absolute worst jobs on cars that were done in school. Of course, Mike didn't get the "A+" he deserved because the teacher didn't like him. Mike went to North High School, in North St. Paul, but the only automotive class available at that time was at Tartan High School, so he had to drive over to Tartan every day for two hours for auto class. Auto repair was in Mike's blood, and he worked on many cars when he was young.

It just made sense that Mike would start his automotive maintenance journey with his dad as his mentor. He started by taking parts out of cars and studied how the parts went back together at his father's gas station.

See Roy, page 7



Mark Gallagher

Mike Voss and his sister, Barb.

Revitalization Efforts Blossom as Neighbors Rally for Community Gardens at Mounds Park Recreational Area

Cultivating Unity, Nature, and Fun in the Heart of Saint Paul

Nate Barber

Just east of downtown, up the steep Kellogg Road and tucked away in a pocket of Dayton's Bluff, is one of Saint Paul's best-kept secrets: a lush green park known as the Mounds Park Recreation Area. Today, the facility primarily serves as a hub for the Saint Paul Parks Department, supporting service vehicles and municipal operations. However, remnants of the park's original attractions still linger.

Within its boundaries, you'll find an old tennis and basketball court and two baseball diamonds, their tall baseline fences now overgrown with vines. Overlooking the park's perimeter are a series of towering metal poles adorned with rusty clusters of stadium lights.

Lately, residents of the vibrant Mounds Park neighborhood have been rallying together with a shared goal: to breathe new life into this cherished green space. Leading this community-driven initiative is the proposal for a large community garden.

Neighbors envision the park as a revitalized space where people can grow their own fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers, all while giving back to the community with fun and informative events, and fresh, healthy produce. The proposed community garden also has the potential to be an oasis of relaxation, outdoor exercise, learning, and fun — a valuable greenspace inviting individuals and families to reconnect with nature in the heart of our city.

The project also holds significant ecological importance. In addition to fruits and vegetables, the team behind the garden plans to cultivate native plants to preserve and enhance a rich habitat for local pollinators.

"But the Community Garden is not just about gardening" noted Nate Barber, a local resident working to develop and

build the garden. "It's about building a stronger, more connected, and equitable community."

Mr. Barber stated that among the top benefits of a garden is the potential to host a series of engaging activities and events, including: **Informative Workshops:** Master gardeners, landscaping enthusiasts, and other experts will help do-it-yourselfers of all levels to hone their skills in a range of fulfilling pastimes. **Community Gatherings:** Events featuring potluck meals, hotdish competitions, and musical performances can bring neighbors closer in a spirit of celebration and sharing. **Cooking Demonstrations:** Friends of the garden will get a chance to learn delicious ways to turn their garden's bounty into tasty and healthy meals. **Local History:** Presentations from local storytellers and historians can deepen our understanding of the creative heritage of Dayton's Bluff. **Artistic Expression:** Performances from local musicians and artists, showcasing the talent within our community.

Key details about the proposed Community Garden:

Location: Mounds Park Recreation Area, between Mounds Street and Earl Street, McLean and Burns Ave. **Timeline:** While specific dates are subject to approvals for permits, insurance, leasing, and access to water, the project envisions sign-up and division of garden plots in winter 2024, construction of the garden in late winter of 2024, and planting commencing in spring 2024.

The people of Dayton's Bluff are looking forward to what a shared garden may bring to their neighborhood. Mr. Barber noted that in addition to making a local greenspace more useful and inviting with free food and fun events, this project could actually bring people together.

"When people have a common hobby or a shared goal," stated Mr. Barber, "there's a greater chance they'll establish new and unexpected friendships." Whether the proposed garden creates new bonds within the community or strengthens old ones, it will be interesting to keep an eye on what comes of this intriguing project.

For media inquiries, or if you are interested in helping bring this project to life, please contact: Nate Barber, 360-510-3085 or barber.nate@gmail.com.



Nate Barber

Neighbors on the East Side are rallying for a community garden to be made in the Mounds Park Recreation Area.

Read the paper online at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org

Judy Yeager-Jones Day

July 21, 2023

Resolution honoring Judy Yeager Jones for her life of service to the community

Compiled by Ward 7 Councilperson Jane Prince and Stephanie Harr

Judy was born in Minneapolis and adopted by a family in Saint Paul. Judy spent her early years in Rondo at 1050 Dayton Avenue, attended JJ Hill Elementary, and later lived on the West Side, in the Midway and on the East Side.

She attended Harding High School and graduated from Saint Paul Central. She married Robert Jones, whom she met while working at West Publishing and together they raised four daughters. She later graduated from the University of Minnesota. She and Bob lived on Saint Clair Avenue and enjoyed entertaining friends there.

Judy is an author, independent scholar and educational consultant with deep commitment to telling the stories of underrepresented communities including

multicultural history, disability history, and women's history. Above all, Judy was a tireless advocate for women.

Judy was a passionate member of the DFL Feminist Caucus and is an author of the book *Celebrating 10: 1973-1983*, published in 1983, which documented the biographies of the DFL Feminist Caucus founding members.



Sage Holben

Judy Yeager-Jones, left, and her daughter.

Judy co-edited a book about a deaf American poet entitled *Sweet Bells Jangled: Laura Redden Searing, A Deaf Poet*

Restored which was published in 2003 by Gallaudet University Press.

Judy researched baseball standout Toni Stone, the first black female professional baseball player to play in a men's professional league, and helped to unearth her contributions. She worked tirelessly to bring well deserved attention to this local hero. She wrote a book about Stone and organized a plaque at Dunning Field to recognize her. The Great American History Theatre in St. Paul commemorated her story in a world premiere production, *Tomboy Stone*.

Judy wrote the Saint Paul Public School curriculum for Black history month and women's history month. Judy's interest in women's history planted a seed which grew into the non-profit Minnesota Women's History Project.

Judy advocated for Women's History Month to be designated in Minnesota and formed a non-profit called "Her Story Unlimited."

Judy was an election judge for more than 40 years.

Judy was an active member of Women Against Military Madness.

Of Judy's many accomplishments over her life, our community is better for it, because when Judy sets her mind to something, she doesn't give up.

A Letter from Jane Prince

Knocking on doors with Pa Der, I am impressed with how genuinely she connects to neighbors of all ages and backgrounds. As a social worker and a policy expert, she understands why voters feel overtaxed and underserved. She is committed to evaluating expenditures to more efficiently deliver city services like street maintenance and public safety to make our East Side more secure and more livable.

I am supporting Pa Der because she cares deeply about the East Side and she will be a knowledgeable, hard-working, present city council member.



@Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Friends of Swede Hollow

If you have a passion for history and preserving nature, please join us for our monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of every month.

Our meetings are held at the historic William Hamm's mansion, 668 Greenbrier St.

In the spirit of the area's past, we serve Hamm's beer along with other beverages and snacks. The meeting is **November 14** and starts at **6:30 p.m.** and is an excellent resource for park updates and events.

For more updates email taylor672@comcast.net or call Michel at 651-442-3366.

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 **Friday, November 3 at 11 a.m.**

If you'd like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com for more information.

We are currently meeting at the Dayton's Bluff Library.

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 to learn more.

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 to ensure the meetings have not been canceled.

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

New National Suicide Prevention Hotline Number

988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Text or Dial. 988 was just launched as an alternative to calling

911.

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 make sure there are no wires, pipes, other hidden surprises in the designated digging area. Usually, someone checks within a day, marking the 'no-dig' area with painted lines...and everyone is safe!

Dayton's Bluff Community Council Board of Directors Meeting

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is inviting everyone to attend the Annual Meeting on **Monday, November 13 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** at the East Side Enterprise Center at 804 Margaret Street.

Come meet your neighbors, share your ideas, hear from others, and elect board members. Your voice matters!

Welcome address from the Board President, remarks from other local officials, open discussion with your neighbors, and board members are on the schedule. Looking forward to seeing you and serving your neighborhood needs. All are welcome.

Free Legal Services for Low-Income People

Call Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services at 1-888-575-2954 or go to smrls.org to see if you qualify for free legal assistance with: family law, government benefits, housing, education, seniors, and more. 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, SMRLS will provide one.

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



THE HISTORIC
MOUNDS
THEATRE

October 27, 28 & 29: Real Haunted Tours. Walk and learn historical information and stories about our resident spirits! Tours begin at 7:00, 8:30 (no stairs/main floor only), 10:00 and midnight on Oct. 27 and 28. 7:00, 8:30 and 10:00 pm tours are one-hour long. Midnight tours are three-hours long. There are kid-friendly "Sunset Tours" at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 28 and 29. Tickets: \$50 adults for midnight tours, \$25 adults for all other tours, \$15 (kids only) for "Sunset Tours." Purchase tickets online or at the door if still available. Check website for more details.

November 10, 11, 12, 16, 17 & 18: Don't Shoot the Masseur/Agent Carlisle. 7:30 p.m.

December 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22 & 23: It's an Honorable Life. This annual Star Trek fan production is basically *It's a Wonderful Life* with Klingons. 7:30 p.m. except Dec. 10 & 17 at 2:30 p.m. (matinee).

Visit 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

Chess Club

Come join us at Karibu Grocery and Deli, located at 719 Payne Ave. in St. Paul for a week-of chess. All levels are welcome. We play every **Wednesday 6-9 p.m.**



CHESS



@Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Vote Cheniqua Johnson

Cheniqua Johnson

My name is Cheniqua Johnson. I'm a community philanthropist, policy advocate, and the DFL-endorsed Saint Paul City Council candidate for Ward 7.

I became a first-time homeowner here in Ward 7 because I love the sense of community and pride on the East Side. As a City Council Member, I will ensure we have a community that is deeply invested in and representative of the people who call it home. The East Side deserves access to affordable, quality housing, strong economic investments, a responsive public safety system, quality roads and infrastructure, and strengthened community resources and accessibility.

I've made it my mission throughout my decade of public service to work directly with community members to create policies and ideas that reflect the interests of our communities. I'm proud to be building the most diverse coalition of supporters in Ward 7 made up of residents, labor unions, faith leaders, elected officials, public safety personnel, and community leaders. Saint Paulites deserve to be at the table. Together, we will bring Ward 7 residents into the conversations that will shape policy making decisions.

I'm proud to call Saint Paul and the East Side home. My commitment to my neighbors in Ward 7 and to the people of Saint Paul is that I will always be a leader who shows up and who speaks out for you. I will always work alongside you. I hope I have earned your first choice vote on or before November 7.

Cheniqua Johnson is a candidate for Saint Paul City Council Ward 7. Learn more about her at cheniquajohnson.com.

Election Day Word Scramble

Dayton's Bluff Library staff

TLLABO	<input type="text"/>
PCAAGMNI	<input type="text"/>
IATEANCSD	<input type="text"/>
NLIOETC	<input type="text"/>
AANILSTUP	<input type="text"/>
PNTAANSRION	<input type="text"/>
NFUMREDERE	<input type="text"/>
DTSERGIREE	<input type="text"/>
VERTO	<input type="text"/>
"	<input type="text"/>
,	<input type="text"/>
Y	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>
.	<input type="text"/>
"	<input type="text"/>

~ quote by Dolores Huerta

As your Councilwoman, Cheniqua will work for a City that services us all.

Endorsed by: Attorney General Keith Ellison, Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter, Congresswoman Betty McCollum, City Council President Amy Brendmoen, Former Ward 7 Council Member Kathy Lantry, St Paul Federation of Educators, SEIU, Teamsters Joint Council 32, & more!

Cheniqua Johnson

ST. PAUL CITY COUNCIL WARD 7

Safe and Stable Homes for All

Housing is my #1 issue! Access to quality, affordable housing is a fundamental human right. In a Ward of renters, homeowners, landlords, seniors, youth, and families, deeply affordable housing is vital to move our community forward. I will champion strong anti-displacement policies that preserve affordable housing stock and addresses cost, rent, and your property taxes.

Safe Streets - Safe Communities

As a person who served on the Saint Police Chief Examining Committee, I care about our community and our safety. We have a new Chief! We need a comprehensive community safety system in our city that meets the many needs of our community in crisis, invests in east side family stability, and ensures we work with our local officers, community organizers and Ward 7 residents to make sure we are protected.

Climate Action and Sustainability

I care about climate & our green space! Our part of Saint Paul is poised to be among the most impacted by our global climate. We must accelerate implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan, focusing on ways to reduce carbon emissions that will also help families reduce utility bills and transportation costs. We need to make it easier to walk, use transit, and bike within the East Side and the city.

Economic Justice & Investment In East Side Businesses

I care about businesses coming and staying on the East Side! Our small businesses are a critical part of what makes our neighborhoods great places to live. Supporting our entrepreneurs is key to building wealth and creating jobs in our community. I will advocate to make it easier to open or expand east side businesses. I will work to keep the east side dollar on the east side.

I would be honored to earn your first choice vote.

Website: www.cheniquajohnson.com
Email: campaign@cheniquajohnson.com

Prepared and paid for by Neighbors for Cheniqua
PO Box 600754, St. Paul, MN 55106



Letter to the Editor

Pa Der Vang is the most qualified candidate for the St. Paul City Council seat that will open with the retirement of Ward 7's Jane Prince. She's a seasoned St. Paul resident, tenured professor, and community social worker who has volunteered on St. Paul's East Side for more than 22 years.

Vang is the daughter of Hmong immigrants who escaped from Laos a few months before she was born in a Thai refugee camp. On arrival, her parents rapidly assimilated to the U.S. They immediately took English-language classes, taught their children to blend into their new community, to help others as much as possible, and to strive to become part of a vibrant and healthy society. Pa Der Vang has followed their example in everything she's done.

She earned masters and Ph.D. degrees in social work and now teaches students at St. Catherine's University about the complex interplay of state and local programs. She co-founded the Minnesota Hmong Social Work Coalition. She's published books and scholarly articles. For decades, she's served families in crisis, often intervening in situations involving mental illness and domestic abuse. She's worked with troubled students, guiding them through personal traumas and into productive lives. The list of her achievements goes on and on.

Of significant importance to residents of Ward 7, current St. Paul City Council member Jane Prince has endorsed Pa Der Vang for the seat she's vacating.

A longtime DFL stalwart, Prince endorsed Pa Der Vang even though another candidate received the DFL endorsement at the party's convention.

In her announcement of support, Jane said,

"While I had intended not to endorse in this race, I have concluded that far too much is at stake for the future of Ward 7, the East Side and the City of Saint Paul for me to remain silent. Join me in supporting Pa Der for Ward 7."

Jane Prince's support for Pa Der Vang means a lot to people in Ward 7. They know it came after much thoughtful reflection.

Prince has often been described as the lone voice of reason on issues that come before the city council. Recently Joe Soucheray remarked in his *Pioneer*

Press column that Prince is the one person on the council he can count on to return calls and freely discuss what's happening.

She's known in her district for responsive constituent service. People don't hesitate to contact her for problems they're having with the city, whether it's street maintenance, concerns about crime, questions on neighborhood traffic or livability — whatever they're worried about, Jane Prince is responsive.

Voters also remember that Jane Prince was the person who publicly addressed widespread neighborhood fears when the city moved a fire engine and ladder truck out of Station 7 in Dayton's Bluff in 2018. It was the only fire engine the station had. She vigorously campaigned for the return of that fire truck, which the city had replaced with an ambulance, pointing out that the area of old, wood-frame houses was left vulnerable by moving fire fighting equipment to another station much further away, significantly increasing the time it took to respond to a fire.

The city eventually came around to her thinking, even echoing her thoughts in the mayor's public statement five years later: "This is the part of our city that has the most wood-frame homes and this is the part of our city that has incredible density, lots of families, lots of young families, who absolutely deserve the type of first-rate fire services that our fire department provides every single day," St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter said at the time of groundbreaking for a new station that will include space for five fire department vehicles.

People in Ward 7 nodded and said to each other: That's Jane. She works behind the scenes, even if other people get the credit. The point is that she's right about things, and she doesn't let up until a problem is fixed.

Imagine then the concern in Ward 7 now that Jane Prince is leaving her job on the city council.

People are saying: we need someone with real-life experience to take her place. We can't afford a council member who will just go along with whatever the city administration wants. We need the kind of analysis and thoughtful critiques that Jane brought to bear.

The bottom line in Ward 7 is that, with five people running for the seat that Jane Prince is leaving, far and away the best choice is Pa Der Vang.

—Jean Wulterkens

Contest: Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Send your guess to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com with the location of the neighborhood curiosity pictured on the right.

The reader who submits the correct entry will be notified, and the winner(s) will be announced in the December online edition of the *Forum*.



Planting for the Future

St. Paul Youth Green Our City

Mandy Okonek

On Thursday, October 19 and Friday, October 20, high school students from Highland Park, Johnson, and Saint Paul Peace Academy planted approximately 220 trees in city boulevards near Margaret Park. Ward 7 Councilmember Jane Prince spoke at the event kick-off, highlighting the importance of planting trees and celebrating the youth dedicated to greening our community. The neighborhood surrounding Margret Park is an area where many trees infested with emerald ash borer (EAB) were removed. Emerald ash borers are invasive green beetles that devour ash trees, a species of tree that makes up a large portion of our city landscape. This project is one piece of a larger partnership between Tree Trust and Saint Paul providing hands-on workforce training to Saint Paul students to earn industry recognized credentials to further their career goals.

The collaboration with Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Tree Trust is providing paid training for Saint Paul youth. Young people receive practical job experience for careers in the green industry while reforesting public land devastated by emerald ash borer. Tree Trust, a nonprofit founded in 1976 and based in St. Paul, Minnesota, focuses on transforming lives and landscapes. Tree Trust accomplishes this mission by providing meaningful opportunities for greening local communities through tree planting and offering youth valuable work skills and experi-

ence through practical job training, creating a brighter future of self-sufficiency.

Trees add value to our community. In a monetary sense, the shade provided by trees reduces energy bills and adds curb appeal — a popular value in the world of real estate. In a more high-level idea of value, trees make us feel good in many ways. According to a study published in *Environment and Behavior Journal* Green Common Spaces and the Social Integration of Inner-City Older Adults, "Older adults who have more exposure to green common spaces report a stronger sense of unity among residents within their local neighborhood and experience a stronger sense of belonging to the neighborhood." For area bird watchers, trees provide habitat for local wildlife and for EVERYONE, trees provide fresh air and filter our water. A popular saying at Tree Trust (where I work as a Communications Specialist) is "Trees are superheroes."

The beginning of MEA — the kickoff of a four-day weekend for students — 25 Saint Paul high school students chose to spend their time planting much needed trees in their community. These young people were paid while they learned through hands-on experience how to plant trees properly. This experience provided an opportunity to explore the green industry. Green industry jobs in Forestry and many other skilled trades have an increasing demand for workers providing a pathway to career success in meaningful, family-supporting work for young people willing to work hard. Through the continued partnership between Tree Trust and Saint Paul Parks and Recreation we are not only making Saint Paul greener but also equipping aspiring green industry workers with valuable training opportunities. For more information about Tree Trust visit, TreeTrust.org.

Photos below provided by Mandy Okonek



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

Want to write about something that interests you? We want to hear it! Submit your stories and articles to the email above.

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

Deadline for the December issue of the *Forum* is November 10, 2023.

Vote on November 7 for Pa Der Vang Saint Paul City Council Ward 7



Pa Der Vang is a seasoned professional with over 23 years of experience working with families, policy making, and leadership. She is an associate professor of Social Work where she teaches social policy for social justice with an emphasis on how cities can better take care of their residents from all walks of life. She has a deep understanding of the needs of families regardless of race, economics, gender, ability, age, and immigration status. She wants to keep people in their homes, and ensure that all residents who want to buy a home can do so. She knows residents worry about community safety and crime. She will work with police to ensure that our neighborhoods are safe and there is positive relationships with officers. She is invested in ensuring efficient use of your precious tax dollars and prioritize areas that impact you the most such as street repair, community safety, parks and libraries, and transportation. She will work with legislatures and other policy makers to explore additional funding to pay for street repair and facility maintenance so that we aren't continuously raising taxes on our residents. As a social worker, she is deeply committed to information and resource transparency so that all residents get to use city services and supports available to them. She intends to be continuously engaged in the community and be a positive voice for all.

www.paderstpaulcitycouncil7.com

The East Side of St. Paul deserves more and better than it's getting in local government. The entire city deserves more and better, but the East Side in particular has been treated for far too long as a "poor cousin" to affluent neighborhoods.

That's why, in the race to represent Ward 7 on the St. Paul City Council, I feel the need to speak out in favor of Pa Der Vang, the candidate whose maturity, experience, and character will help us allocate precious tax dollars with greater care and for the common good. She'll put people ahead of party.

A longtime social worker, Pa Der has spent decades solving the problems of children, families, and seniors. She knows that our East Side neighborhoods are being short-changed. Governor Walz appointed her to chair the Minnesota Board of Social Work because he recognized her insight into seemingly intractable problems like the ones we face in infrastructure and public safety.

I hope voters can see the sharp difference between her decades of knowledge and the relative inexperience of every other candidate. My intention had been not to endorse, to stay on the sidelines during this race.

But too much is at stake for the future of Ward 7, the direction of the East Side, and the integrity of the City of St. Paul for me to remain silent.

I strongly endorse Pa Der Vang.
Jane Prince, Ward 7 City Council Member

What's Happening at Dayton's Bluff Library?

What's on Your Ballot? Come into the library to find out who is on the ballot for you to vote for, where you should go to vote, and how Ranked Choice Voting works. This year Saint Paul residents are voting for new City Council and School Board members, as well as on a proposed Sales Tax increase.

Check out the refreshed children's area with all its amazing books, toys, and interactive rugs galore. There are under-cabinet lights to brighten up the bookshelves along the wall. With more interactive rugs in the space, which one will be your favorite? Also, there are rotating toys and new scavenger hunts and displays every month so there is always something new to see and play with. Stop in for Storytime on Wednesdays from 2:30 – 3 p.m. or anytime we are open.

Dayton's Bluff Book Club is a great fit for folks who love reading a variety of diverse books by local authors and discussing them with a group of dedicated readers. The Dayton's Bluff Book Club is a collaboration of the Metropolitan State University Library and the Dayton's Bluff Branch of Saint Paul Public Library whose members live, work, or attend classes on the East Side. We priori-

tize titles written by Minnesota authors, those that have a local setting, or books that are written by people of color and other diverse authors. Book discussions usually include issues related to social justice, equity, and anti-racism. We encourage book club members to use both the university and public libraries in pursuit of lifelong learning and the joy of reading. Discussions are frequently facilitated by authors, Metropolitan State faculty, or other guests from the community.

For more information on how to join, please visit: libguides.metrostate.edu/dbbc.

Dayton's Bluff Library Hours

- Mondays & Wednesdays 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Fridays & Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Current hours are available online at spl.org/locations/DB/ or call 651-793-1699.

All Saint Paul Public Library locations will be closed Friday, November 10- Saturday, November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day and Thursday, November 23 in observance of Thanksgiving Day (we will be open the day after Thanksgiving).

Dayton's Bluff Library, 645 East 7th Street, is a public library branch located inside the Metro State University Library and Learning Center. We are open six days a week offering books, movies, music, internet stations, programs, and services for all ages. The outdoor book drop is always open.



Dayton's Bluff Library

Top photo shows the Dayton's Bluff library's colorful kids' area. Photo above shows a young library patron enjoying toys.

A Letter from Pa Der Vang

Dear Ward 7 residents,
This is Pa Der Vang. I hope to have your vote for city council by November 7. I love the East Side of Saint Paul. I chose to live here because of the sense of community we have here. My family lives here and my daughter goes to Johnson High. As a social worker and seasoned policy maker, I will fight for the residents of the East Side to ensure that we have the resources we need to live our everyday lives. The city council has to make hard decisions about ways to spend your tax dollars. I will prioritize the things that matter to us: communi-



ty safety, street maintenance and plowing, affordable housing, and community and business development. I have 23 years of professional experience doing this work, and I am ready to represent you, and advocate for you.

Please vote at your polling place on November 7, or at 90 Plato Blvd in Saint Paul on or before November 7. Every voice counts. Your vote matters.

Sincerely
Pa Der

Pa Der Vang, Ph.D. Candidate for St. Paul City Council Ward 7 Rank me as #1 in November 2023.

Contact me!
Website: paderstpaulcitycouncil7.com.

Phone: 651-300-9627.
Mailing Address: PO Box 6745, St. Paul, MN 55106
LinkedIn: [hlinkedin.com/in/padervang/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/padervang/)
Donate at: secure.actblue.com/donate/paderstpaul-citycouncil.

VICTORIAN LODGING

Swede Hollow B & B

Find us at Airb&b or Vrbo

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

1368 Minnehaha Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106
phone: 651-776-0550 E-mail: daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com

We are currently printing and distributing our newspaper quarterly. The paper is available online at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.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 daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com, or mailed to the address above. The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* is delivered to businesses in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood when the budget permits. To find out where you can pick up a printed issue, send an email to the address above.

Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Sage Holben, Jennifer Gascoigne, Steve Trimble
Editor/layout: Allison Lund-Zalewski; Editorial Associate: Mark Gallagher
Staff: Mandy Okonek

Next issue: December 2023. **Deadline for material: November 10, 2023.**

Interested in hiring an applicant to assist our neighborhood group, Friends of Swede Hollow, with occasional managing of our web site and Facebook page sites. Please email Michel at taylor672@comcast.net

An Editorial and a Hope

Steve Trimble

Were you aware there is a danger to the tennis courts, the playground, and the picnic shelter in Indian Mounds Park? That they will be torn down and replaced with oak plantings? I am writing this because many people in the Mounds Park neighborhood are not sure what is going on and are not sure what might be happening in the future.

True, there had been some meetings a few years ago, but the city has primarily contacted and worked with a variety of the Dakota groups. Minnesota and other indigenous groups from Wisconsin and as far away as Kansas were involved. Nothing like this was suggested in any of the few public discussions. After many months of seemingly secret meetings, the city and indigenous groups have been making the decisions.

Now don't think I don't like what is going in the park in general. I supported the park, containing the sacred Indian Mounds, being designated as a cemetery.

I'm ready to make most of the suggestions of getting rid of some of the old signs and take out some of the parking areas at the end of the Overlook at the western end of the park and getting rid of the "Echo" Point. I could go along with taking out the 1929 "Airway" Beacon. However, I believe that this historic fixture should be preserved at

some other nearby site.

After hearing many rumors, I just took time to read *Indian Mounds: A Sacred Place* that is a cultural landscape study submitted to the city of Saint Paul.

According to the study, the site is linear in form with its northern boundary being Mounds Boulevard and the southern side by the bluff. And somehow the plan decided that an upper middle area should also contain land above the Boulevard and made suggestions about things there. However, there is a difference here because the land that is north of Mounds Boulevard never contained any mounds. Why are they included in an Indian Mounds plan?

And the three items they want to scrap are the only tennis courts in the neighborhood as well as the only playground in the community.

Every day when I have visited there during good weather, large numbers of diverse groups used the picnic shelter for birthdays, graduation parties, holidays, and other events. Where will they go if these plans happen?

I am going to get in touch with some other local leaders and hope some changes in the study will be made in the plan with more public input, and I hope some of you readers will do the same thing. Join me in contacting Mayor Carter, Council member Jane Prince, and other council members, and Andy Rodriguez, head of the Saint Paul Parks & Recreation Department.

"Save the tennis court (or a pickleball court), the kids' playground, and the family picnic shelter!"



Steve Trimble

The playground that is in danger of being removed at Indian Mounds Park.

Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Recommended for Everyone Age Six Months and Older

Ramsey County

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyone 6 months and older get an updated COVID-19 vaccine to protect against potentially serious illness this fall and winter. Updated COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna will soon be available at more pharmacies, health care providers, and clinics. Find a COVID-19 vaccine at [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

If you have not received a COVID-19 vaccine in the past 2 months, get an updated COVID-19 vaccine to protect yourself this fall and winter. Vaccination remains the best protection against COVID-19-related hospitalization and death. Vaccination also reduces your chance of suffering the effects of Long COVID, which can develop with any infection and last a long time.

Friends of Swede Hollow

If you have a passion for history and preserving nature, please join us for our monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of every month. Our meetings are held at the historic William Hamm's mansion, 668 Greenbrier St. In the spirit of the area's past we serve Hamm's beer along with other beverages and snacks. The meeting starts at 6:30 and is an excellent resource for park updates and events.

For more updates email taylor672@comcast.net or call Michel at 651-442-3366.



@Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Roy

Continued from Page 1

His father would start putting the parts Mike took off back together, and then he would say, "Why don't you finish putting this into the car while I do something else." Then Roy would double check Mike's work just like any instructor at an auto class would, and Mike would learn. There were times when Roy's Service had customers that were adamant to have certain people from the shop work on their vehicles. Even when Mike was 16 or 17 years old, people would bring their cars in and he would be the one who worked on them, and later they would say that everything is in good working condition — everything is perfect, and his dad said we had Mike do that one.

Roy and Mike did everything but engine overhauling and transmission overhauling. When there was heavy engine work, they replaced head gaskets, did valve jobs, worked on a lot of timing chains, and oil pumps. They did some engine changes with other motors but didn't rebuild them. The only ones they rebuilt were for their own use or their own equipment. They did everything from having the cylinder blocks machined or bored out to installing new crankshafts, pistons, bearings, rings, and at other times they were busy with tune-ups, tire changes, and

oil changes.

"Engines fail mostly because of the lack of maintenance," Mike said, "running low on oil, not changing oil at proper intervals, or not even changing the oil. All of the oil we use is synthetic blend, and you can upgrade to full synthetic oil. We have used synthetic-blend oil for 30 years. We used full synthetic Amzoil for our oil changes starting back in the early 1970s. We have seen the value of full synthetic and synthetic blend for 50 years since that oil started to be used because it prolonged the life of the engine and the time between oil changes compared to conventional oil because the way the oil is developed and produced. I can't explain it. It just seems to be a higher and better grade oil."

Roy's Service started out as a Standard Oil station when Roy Voss bought the gas station in 1956, and it remained under that banner until 1985. Standard Oil gas stations in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s were very customer focused, so the gas station attendants worked for the customer and did everything for the customer. Standard Oil would put on huge seminars about two or three times a year in Bloomington, Minnesota, and there would be hundreds of people from different gas stations around the metro area. It was about sales, and



there was usually some talk about new tire lines, and the benefits of having this tire over that tire. But it was mostly concerned with treating the customer right.

"So, they taught us a lot about how to treat people," Mike said, "how to be good to people, the customer is always right, don't sell the customer something they don't need, and don't take advantage of the customer. It was all about customer service, and it should still be that way, but unfortunately people don't see it that way. When cars came in for any kind of service, we were trained to clean every window, check the oil and tires, vacuum the front and back seats, and provide whatever service the customer needed, including travel.

"We had a Travel Center here, and we offered free maps, and Standard Oil even had a slogan — AS YOU TRAVEL, ASK US. It was all about customer service. Every pump island had water, an air hose, a squeegee bucket, and squeeze bottles that an attendant would spray on the windows. We had a paper towel rack on every pump, and we washed and dried every window on every car that came in for gas or service."

"When you have customers coming in every day, and there are 10 cars waiting for service," Mike said, "you have to figure out how to get them done. I don't have any other mechanics; it's just me. My sister, Barb, will be here to answer the phone

or run parts for me while I work on cars, and that is a very big relief. My sister has been working here about four or five years, and she starts most days at 7 a.m. like I do."

When Mike's father started here, the street cars still came by his gas station. Mike's grandfather worked on the Great Northern, which then became Burlington Northern when he retired in the 70s. Mike has fond feelings for the rail industry, so he donates money to KTCA in downtown St. Paul, which is Channel 2. Every year they would do fund-raisers to fund the programming for their TV station, and every year Mike would donate because he really enjoyed the history of the Twin Cities. Mike really appreciated the books they gave away for donating to their TV station, and he would get video tapes on the history of the Twin Cities and watch TV programs on various aspects of Twin Cities' history.

"Construction of the light rail hasn't affected my business at all," Mike said. "Honestly, I don't need any improvement to my business that the light rail might provide. I am out a week or so with scheduling work now, so I have plenty of work. The COVID situation was the same. We had a couple weeks where we slowed down when they told people not to leave their house. I was still here every day because I was an essential worker."

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 daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org: click on "East Side Eating" at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Dao Thai Pho

1373 Maryland Avenue East
St. Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-600-3198
Email: smoknoutdoorsbbq@gmail.com
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Closed Sundays

I talked with Kyi, the adult daughter of Dao and Sar, the Karen owners of the restaurant. She spoke of how they fled Burma because the Army coup seized control of the country and frequently attacked Karen villages. They stayed for a few years in Thailand. They then went to Minnesota and have lived in Minnesota for about eight years and currently live in Roseville. They opened their restaurant on September 21, 2023. They made the choice to offer Thai offerings because they were more diverse than traditional Karen food.

The Dao Thai Pho is in a small strip mall that has a few other businesses, but there are usually plenty of places to park in the shared lot. It might be a little difficult to find the venue because they do not yet have a large sign and the next-door liquor store has a lot of window space, but the restaurant has some small blue based placards in the windows. If you look you can see their 1373 address painted on the proper door. Turn left when you enter and you will see their door. It is a smallish but well-lit area with a dozen tables that seat four people.

The décor includes sort of a burnt orange color on the walls over wood paneling. There are new tile floors as well as plants and a few paintings and some colorful decorations over various places. There is one flatscreen TV that is small and behind the counter and not very loud. They will have servers who will take your order.

What follows is a listing of some of the items on the menu along with some of their ingredients. I don't have all of the things on the restaurant's dishes, for lack of space on this page, but hopefully it will give readers a sampling of the 53 different items on the large menu.

Appetizers: Spring roll, containing ground pork, shrimp and mint. Vegetarian egg roll, with carrot, onion, cabbage noodle and mushrooms. Cream cheese wontons, Spicy fish cake, and others.

Fried Rice: Regular rice with egg, basil and onion, pineapple fried rice featuring egg and onions. Pad Ra Pow fried rice with long bean, onion, and bell pepper.

Green curry has bamboo, bell pepper, eggplant. Red Curry has bell pepper, onion, green bean. Pineapple Curry Panaeng—kaffir lime leaves, and lemon grass.

Noodles: Pad Thai with bean sprouts,

egg, green onion, Lo Mein including cabbage, carrot, onion, and green onion. Red Curry made with bell pepper, onion, green bean, and other ingredients.

Noodle Soup: Boat Noodle, choice of meat, green onion, cilantro, fried onion. Tomyum Noodle made with pork meatball, ground pork, pork, cilantro, green onion, and peanuts.

Entrees: Pad Cashew has cashew nuts, onion, carrot, green onion, Chinese celery. Sweet and Sour made with onion, green onion, bell pepper, cucumber, and tomato.

Steamed Tilapia with lime sauce, bell pepper, lemon grass, kaffir lime leaves. Sliced Spicy Chicken including onion, carrot, bell pepper, broccoli, Chinese celery.

Orange chicken, chicken chunks, onion, bell pepper, broccoli, featuring orange peels. Steak with some vegetables.

Salads: Papaya salad, Thailand Apay with fermented fish sauce, and Thai eggplant.

Beef Larb, onion, green onion, cilantro, mint, bell pepper, Glass Noodle that has ground pork, green onion, and cilantro.

Soups: Tofu Soup, onion, mushroom, fried onion, green onion and celery, Gao Lao. Beef Meatball, stew meat, sliced beef, bean sprouts, green onions, and fried onion.

Beverages: Thai Ice-Tea, Coke, Sprite, Fanta, and lemonade. They serve water in a glass for no charge.

Desserts: Mango with sweet sticky. Rice ice cream-vanilla, chocolate strawberry, mint or cookies and cream.

Boba Tea: There is a choice of many flavors including avocado, taro, mango, coconut red or green cream soda.

Oh, I opted for Sweet and Sour chicken for my entrée and a lemonade and my friend chose Pad Thai, a boba tea, and we shared some egg rolls.

Many thanks to our Friends of the Forum 2023 donors:

Jane Kennedy

David Lyons

Connie Peltier

Peter Reyes Sr.

Mark and Kristin Gallagher

Greg Cosimini

Michel Taylor

Friends of Swede Hollow

Christyann Ranck

Steve Trimble

We Have Three Easy Ways for You to Donate!

If you'd like to see future issues printed again, please consider donating. We have three ways for you to do so:

-Donate electronically via PayPal at: daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

-Make checks payable to *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and mail to: 1368 Minnehaha Ave E, Saint Paul, MN 55106

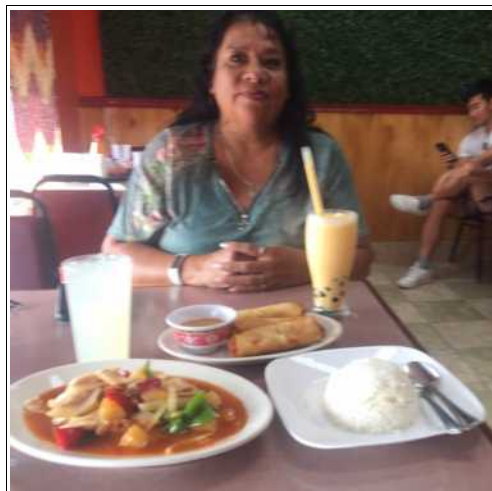
-Donate by going to: givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated-.

Be sure to keep up with us online in one of three ways:

-**Website** at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org

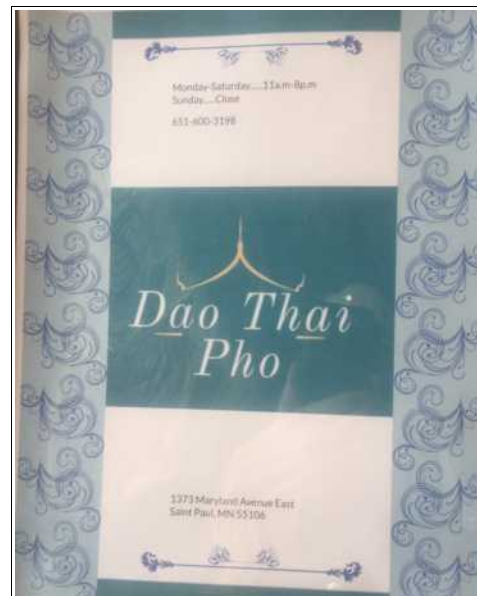
-**Facebook** at Dayton's Bluff District Forum

-**Instagram** at Dayton's Bluff District Forum



Rebecca Nelson at lunch.

Steve Trimble



Friends of the Forum

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. Each issue costs around \$1,000 to produce per month. We have found a new printer and have adjusted the cost to print each month.

For the past three years we have been soliciting donations through our Friends of the *Forum* program. Thanks to the donations from 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. **If you have been our Friend in the past, please consider making a donation in 2023. Our goal for 2023 is \$2,500; will you help us reach our goal?**

Yes, I will become a Friend of the *Forum*. My tax-deductible check is enclosed, for:

\$100 \$50 \$25 Another amount _____

Or give online: givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City, State, ZIP _____

Make checks payable to: *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and mail to 1368 Minnehaha Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106. For more information, contact 651-776-0550 or daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!

Read our paper online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org