Art in the Hollow: Artists in Action!

Forum staff
Swede Hollow Park, one of the first neighborhoods in St. Paul's immigrant history, blooms in June with Art in the Hollow, with open air artists, performers, and a public sculpture contest. Our tradition of nurturing and showcasing local talent continues with performances, demonstrations, sales, and plein air artists creating in the park, representing past and current cultural communities. Artistic media runs the gamut ranging from sculptors and weavers to glassblowers and photographers. The stage will be filled all day with Hmong and Native dancers, Italian accordionists, and Mexican mariachis, joined by African-American R & B, American Bluegrass music, and Hmong spoken word poets. On Saturday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., come down into Swede Hollow Park to discover a deeper beauty, and to find art at its roots.

There is still room for artists, performers, and sculptors to apply. Please visit: www.artinth hollow.org or facebook.com/artinthollow

May 1: Your Driver's License Campaign supporters march to the Capitol

Forum staff
East Side supporters of the Your Driver's License campaign will assemble at the East Side Enterprise Center, 804 Margaret, at 3:00 pm on Friday, May 1, for a march to the Capitol. There, the East Side contingent will meet up with thousands of other supporters of immigrant rights and safe roads. Until 10 years ago, Minnesota state law permitted the issuance of drivers licenses to any qualified driver regardless of his or her immigration status and advocates want to see the law reinstated.

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council gave its support to the campaign in a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors on March 16. The march will continue from the East Side Enterprise Center down East 7th Street and up Cedar to the Capitol. Organizers will ensure a safe and orderly procession with the use of parade marshals and will notify the St. Paul Police Department of their intentions. For more information, call Henry at 651-793-4912 (Spanish) or Nicole or Tong at 651-772-2075 (English.)

The same day, Eastsiders who will be in Minneapolis on May 1 may want to attend the other march supporting drivers licenses for all. That one will assemble at 2:30 pm at Lake Street and Nicollet Avenue South with a rally scheduled for the Government Center, 300 S. 6th Street, at 5:00 pm.

East Side Enterprise Center Offers Business Resources

Jennifer Herman, Forum staff
The Enterprise Center at 804 Margaret Street houses offices for the Latino Economic Development Corporation (LEDG), the Dayton's Bluff District Council, Urban Oasis, Shared Ground Agricultural Cooperative, and the East Side Area Business Association (ESABA) and is buzzing with activity. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights, the Neighborhood Development Center offers classes for entrepreneurs who need help putting together business plans and determining what financing they will need to start their business. On Wednesday nights, LEDC offers an entrepreneur class for Latino clients. The Biz Cap Initiative is a loan readiness program that helps minority start up business owners, current business owners, and women business owners prepare to apply for a business loan. The program does not guarantee loans but offers assistance that will enhance their ability to present a stronger business plan to a lender. If you are interested in the Biz Cap program, contact Brenda Reid at brenda@dayton sbluff.org. To learn more about other programs, stop by the Enterprise Center today!

When the Community HQ and other Enterprise Center meeting rooms aren't holding entrepreneur classes, they host meetings for Community Council committees, Urban Oas is, and even the Dayton's Bluff District Forum. With a two-week notice, your group could have a meeting in this beautiful building. To get all the details and reserve your room today, contact Tong Thao at tong@ledc mn.org.

East Side Open Market is the new name of your local farmer's market

Diane May, special to the Forum

"The markets were started with the intention of empowering the community vendors to run it on their own," Tabitha DelRango told me last week. And that is exactly what is happening.

There will again be a market at the First Lutheran Church of St. Paul this farmer's market season, which kicked off in Dayton's Bluff on Thursday, April 23. The market will have the same great products you have come to expect (Just Jelly!) and some new ones you will love. Brenda Olson of the Heavenly Day Café has told me that the wood-fire pizza oven is installed and they will be one of the food vendors at the market this year. But, I am skipping ahead to the end of the story. Let me start at the beginning.

Four years ago, Megan Davis and Diane May met at the Entrepreneur Training classes held at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council offices. Megan was starting David Urban Farm, as well as beekeeping, selling her chicken's eggs, and growing organic vegetables all from her modest yard in the Hillcrest area. Diane was 20 years out of being an art major in college and dreamed of showing off the positive things about our neighborhood through her art.

New Friends of Swede Hollow Are Welcome

Do you enjoy Swede Hollow Park and care about its history and future? Join us for the next Friends of Swede Hollow monthly meeting. Email karin@swedehollow.org or call 651-776-0550 for the date, time, and location of our next meeting.

Get Rid of Your Junk Car

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

Metropolitan State University launches new Graduate Program in Urban Education

The School of Urban Education focuses on diverse teachers who can meet the needs of urban youth and improve their educational achievements. The MSU Urban Education Program provides further licensure, qualifications, and professional experience to educators teaching in urban schools. Program applications are being taken for summer and fall. To learn more about the program, call 651-999-5209, e-mail urban.education@metrostate.edu or visit choose.metrostate.edu/education. To contact the School of Urban Education, e-mail urban.education@metrostate.edu.

Plant Swap May 9

Spring is coming! Do you have plants you would like to swap? The Dayton’s Bluff Plant Exchange will happen Saturday, May 9, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Swede Hollow Henge (en ter Swede Hollow through the Dreyer tunnel on Beaumont Street, one block south east of Payne and East Minnehaha Avenues). A limited number of field guide and binoculars will be available to use.

Questions? Contact karin@swede hollow.org or 651-776-0550. See the new Plant Swap Watch article at dayontsbluffdistrictforum.org for more information.

New Barber School on East Side to Award $30,000

St. Paul International Barber School, the first such institution licensed in Minnesota in 35 years, will give away a $30,000 Barber Start-up Grant to one of its lucky graduates. Applicants must have graduated from the school and agree to hire barber school graduates to qualify. Students of Spanish are especially encouraged to apply. For more details, stop by 990 Payne Avenue and speak to Alex Garcia, instructor for the new barber school.

May at the Dayton’s Bluff Library

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

The library provides special services for kids; free library cards after school, baby and family story time, and “Sing, Play, Learn” with McPhail are just a few. Teen’s may be interested in the Digital Media Workshop on Saturday, May 9, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. The Dayton’s Bluff Book Club is on hiatus for the summer and will resume regular meetings in the fall.

Computer classes are also available, and there will be a “Maker Break,” special school spring break session offering computing computer time, fun crafts, and more for kids and teens from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

WEQY Seeking Underwriting Sales Representatives

WEQY-FM, the Voice of the East Side, is looking for qualified individuals to serve as Underwriting Sales Representatives. Underwriting will represent a significant part of our nonprofit station’s operating budget, and our underwriting partners will support our values of building community and valuing diversity on the East Side. This Underwriting Sales Representative will be an independent contractor and will be paid by commission for all new and renewed underwriting based on a percentage of collected revenue. The Underwriting Sales Representative will maintain positive relationships with current clients and develop new connections/relationships with potential new partners.

Download the full job description at daytonsmbluff.org or contact Brenda Reid at brenda@daytonsmbluff.org or 651-793-2766. Please send your resume and cover letter to Brenda at the above email address.

on Thursday, May 7.

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

May at the Mounds Theatre

Jessica Johnson, Executive Director

Saturday, May 2: The first annual Mounds Theatre Rummage Sale runs from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. This is a great time for the Mounds to needs to clear some space for new adventures and wants to get the whole neighborhood involved. Sale items include clothing, stage scenery, dishes, small appliances, enormous speakers, decor items, and guaranteed surprises. Donations of clean, saleable household items and clothing will be accepted to add to the sale on Friday, May 1. A receipt for your tax deduction will be provided. If you prefer, sell your own items at the sale. For more information or to arrange a drop off time, please contact the Mounds Theatre at historicalmoundsatre@gmail.com.

Volunteers will be needed on Friday, May 1, to sort, price, and display items and will have an opportunity to participate in a pre-sale. Volunteers will also be needed on Sunday, May 3 to help with clean-up, including selling remaining items at rock-bottom prices.

Tuesday, May 5: There will be a screening of Theater People from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. This is a local web series sitcom that is kind of a big deal.

Saturday, May 9: Independent Wrestling International will be back at the Mounds. Doors open at 6:45 with bell time at 7:30 p.m. This is a family-friendly pro wrestling event. Don’t miss out on the fun! General Admission tickets at the door are $10 Adults, $6 kids. VIP seating at tables on stage above the ring are available in advance online at moundsatre.org.

Thursday, May 14: Comedienne Elizabeth Ess is hosting Bingo Bango, a monthly bingo night and stand-up comedy show that goes from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. Love bingo? Want to stand-up? Come play bingo and win a spot at the comedy show after bingo. Not a comedienne? Come play anyway and give me the set to your favorite comedy and stick to stay the show. This event is FREE, and fun if you like bingo, which you should. The Mounds Theatre sells reasonably priced concessions as well as beer and wine. No outside breakage, okay?

Friday, May 15: Carnivale Revolver makes its Twin Cities debut! Carnivale Revolver is St. Cloud’s premier burlesque and sideshow revue! They have been featured in local media and performed at a wide variety of venues throughout the Midwest. They continue to grow and develop and will bring with their new-age vaudeville style shows including burlesque, sideshow, magic, comedy, cabaret, mining, drag, and more. Visit thehistoricalmoundsatre.org for more information.

Saturday, May 23: Sidhe Brewing Company will be staging The Top Drawer: A Burlesque Benefit to Support the Mounds! Doors open at 6:30, the show starts at 7:00 p.m. Brews from Sidhe Brewing Co. will be available. The Mounds Theatre has served as a burlesque beacon for Saint Paul and an ally to the community. Having given the Top Drawer Burlesque Entertainment home and place to rally and unify, now is the time for burlesque to give back! Over a decade of renovations have cre ated the gorgeous theatre that the Mounds is today, and the theatre needs our help raising funds to make permanent sound and lighting upgrades that will benefit future productions. May this show literally lead to a brighter and bolder future for the Exposition!

May 28: Look for Lesson 33A, a show that is being written through re hearsal. A truly unique original work! Visit moundsatre.org for more information on the theatre and to purchase tickets as they become available.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road. Call 651-772-2253 or email historicalmoundsatre@gmail.com.

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)

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

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)

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

Police Community Meeting

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

The next meeting is on Wednesday, May 20, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. This is a change; both meetings are now on the third Wednesday of each month.

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

Business Classes

The next Dayton’s Bluff Neighbor Microentrepreneur Class starts next fall. Space is limited and fills up fast. The program helps start up young businesses on the East Side. Class training lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with creating a business plan and locating starting and operating a business, plus eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor.

Those who successfully complete the course and locate business premises target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services. Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include graphics, landscaping, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture, art, custom floral design, and exterior and interior painting. The course is a partnership between the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding fee scale. The next session will be starting in the spring and class size is limited, so get enrolled now. Please call Emma Spillman at 651-379-8432 for an application.
Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Dayton's Bluff Seniors Community Event

The 4th Annual Dayton's Bluff Seniors' Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2015, 5:00 p.m., at 463 Maria Avenue, in the First Lutheran Church education building. Dayton’s Bluff Seniors, a Living at Home Block Nurse Program helps seniors continue living safely and independently in their homes through vital volunteer services. This event will include live musical entertainment and auction items including gift certificates, wine, items from the Twins, Vikings, Timberwolves, and other local businesses. Together with Thrivent Financial, we invite you to attend and/or donate to help celebrate our community and keep our elderly neighbors safe in their homes! Advanced ticket purchase is recommended. Suggested donation is $15; Seniors & children $10. We are seeking seniors to serve and awesome volunteers! For tickets or information, please call Rhonda: 612-559-2369 or urbancross.stpaul@gmail.com or visit moundsparkumc.org/urbancross.html.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

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

- **Sunday morning service** starts at 10:30 a.m. with fellowship time following. Come join your neighbors in worship.
- **Community Barbeque**, May 2, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Let’s celebrate Spring! Out in front of the church on Euclid Street - All are invited! Hot dogs, salads, desserts, lemonade, sno-cones, and activities for the kids. Bring a salad or dessert to share. We are seeking to have fire and police departments stop by. Come and visit with your neighbors and friends or come to make new friends. This will also be an opportunity to visit with the Urban CROSS Project Coordinators to ask questions or submit a request for a project.
- **Urban CROSS can help!** Urban CROSS (Christians Reaching Out in Service in St. Paul), a ministry of Mounds Park United Methodist church, is ramping up for its sixth year. Will you be in need of some help with a project around your home or property this summer? Whether you are a homeowner or a non-profit in the Dayton's Bluff area, we will have teams of volunteer youths available during the week of June 15-19 to assist you. If you have a project that you need help with, such as painting, yard work, landscaping, cleanup, simple construction or repair, please contact us. We invite other youth from churches all over to join us for a week of an “Urban Makeover.” Please go to our website and fill out a form. The deadline for requests is May 15.
- **Urban CROSS is also in need of donations.** We always need tools, supplies, paint, painting equipment, printing, staff t-shirts, food for the team/staff and even scholarships for youth to come and to join us. To make a financial donation, please contact Mounds Park Church at 651-774-8736. For more information about Urban CROSS, contact MPUMC Youth Director Eric Buck (612-559-2369 or urbancross.stpaul@gmail.com) or visit moundsparkumc.org/urbancross.html.

**Deadline to sign up for the Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction: May 8th.**

**Deadline for Silent Auction items: May 4th.**

**Deadline for Urban CROSS projects: May 15th.**

**Contact Rhonda: 612-559-2369 or urbancross.stpaul@gmail.com or visit moundsparkumc.org/urbancross.html.**
Comida: Restaurantes en Payne Avenue, reconocidos por Munch
Entretenimiento: Nacho Torres, cantor mariachi y tres bandas,
Bebidas: sangría, cerveza Sidhe, batidos, refrescos mexicanos.

He aquí algunos detalles:
- Hora: 1:00 to 8:00 p.m., domingo 3 de mayo, gratis.
- Entretenimiento: Nacho Torres, cantor mariachi y tres bandas, además del cuerpo de danza de Chinelo Morelos.
- Comida: Restaurantes en Payne Avenue, reconocidos por Munch Madness, como Venus Gourmet Soups, y otros vendiendo pu-pusas, elotes, ensalada de frutas y mucho más.
- Bebidas: sangria, cerveza Sidhe, batidos, refrescos mexicanos.


East Side Cinco de Mayo Block Party
Forum Staff
The traditional St. Paul Cinco de Mayo celebration on the West Side has some friendly competition. For the second year, on the day following the West Side event, Sunday, May 3, the East Side will put on its own celebration.
Steve Hyland, one of the coordinators of the event, became involved this year because of his past work with the National Latino Police Officers Association and its popular Cinco de Mayo 5K event. All of the proceeds will go to the Minnesota chapter of the Association. Co-coordinator Sonia Ortega, the proprietor of Plaza del Sol, the anchor of the event, said that about 2,000 people attended last year and she hopes to surpass that number this time around.

Here are some details:
- Time: 1:00 to 8:00 p.m., Sunday, May 3, with free admission.
- Location: Jenks Avenue between Payne and Greenbrier.
- Entertainment: Mariachi singer Nacho Torres and three bands as well as the Chinelo Morelos dancers.
- Food: Pay Avenue’s Munch Madness winning restaurants, Venus Gourmet Soups, and other vendors selling pupusas, corn on the cob, fruit salad and more.
- Drinks: Sangria, Sidhe beer, smoothies, Mexican soda.

Sponsors include Plaza del Sol, National Latino Police Officers Association, Bucket List Events and the East Side Area Business Association.

continued from page 1:

both women sold products at the Better Block Initiative, a community event held on Margaret Street in front of the Community Council offices in 2013. David Gray came aboard early in the 2013 season of Market on the Bluff. Di-anne and David met in 2012 at Art in the Hollow, where they both had booths. David sold pillowcases and other textile pieces he had sewn, and Diane face-painted. David and his partner, Mark Eaton, wanted to know if they could get a booth and sell David’s textiles and Mark’s jelly. The next week they had a booth set up next to Bouquets N’ Such Floral and Gifts.

Anyone who went to Market on the Bluff the last two years will remember Trudy Tidwell and her mother, Dorothy, sitting behind their flowers and the jew-elry Dorothy creates. They always have a warm smile and a freshly baked sweet for anyone who comes into their vicini-ty.

Jeff Burger of BlueMoon Wood Product-10s happened upon the Market during that first year. He was looking for “The People’s Park” and ended up finding a place to sell his woodwork. A self-proclaimed “guy who hangs out in his garage and makes stuff,” Jeff continues to deliver sturdy bowls, canes, plant stands, art frames, and whimsical sculp-tures to his growing following on the East Side.

Last year, Market on the Bluff moved down East 7th Street to First Lutheran Church on Maria Avenue, and was joined by Dream of Wild Health, a non-profit CAA that brings fresh veggies to the East Side. Clara Sandberg is their market manager, and she is often ac companied by some of the Native youth that have joined the soil-to-table move-ment.

Live music was permanently added to the mix when “The Skalley Line” made Thursday nights in Dayton’s Bluff their home for playing. If anyone remembers the music that the morning show on Minnesota Public Radio Station 99.5 used to play, this quirky band’s offerings would have fit right in. The fun duo is comprised of Fred Keller and Tom Cor-nish. Tom is also a fused-glass artist and sells his magnets, jewelry, and hair ac cessories at the Market.

As the relationships between vendors have deepened over the past few years, so have our commitments to helping each other. Before the Market had
Thank you and best wishes to Meg

Forum Staff

This month we bid goodbye to Meg Gronau, Forum editor since March 2011. Living just outside our neighborhood (she can see Dayton’s Bluff from her house!), Meg attended ECFE with her children at Dayton’s Bluff Elementary from 2007-2010. When ECFE teachers retired, Meg wrote farewell articles for them for the Forum, and when she learned about the opening for an editor, Meg jumped at the chance to contribute to the paper. Over the past four years, Meg enjoyed using her writing, editing, proofreading, and Tetris skills to put the Forum together every month. “I will miss having that inside peek into the workings of the community,” Meg said. “I’m astounded by the depth and breadth of work that goes into making Dayton’s Bluff the vibrant community it is.”

When not editing the paper, Meg taught children’s dance and theater, and fitness for senior citizens. Meg has now taken on a new job as school secretary at St. Pascal Baylon. Over the past four years, Meg has also had an illustrious career as “Fannie Tanner” with the Minnesota RollerGirls, the state’s premier women’s flat track roller derby league. Everyone involved with the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum will miss Meg, as she has been an outstanding part of the crew, but we share her happiness as she begins her new full-time job at St. Pascal Baylon.

East Side Family Clinic “most affordable” in Minnesota

Mark Gallagher, Forum Editorial Assistant

Despite its name and its location at 895 East 7th Street in St. Paul, the East Side Family Clinic is actually a part of West Side Community Health Services.

In 2005, West Side Community Health Services, which manages sixteen clinical locations in the Metro East, was approached by Health Partners to assume the operation of a family practice located within the Seeger Square complex on Arcade Street.

Shortly after taking over the practice, the East Side Family Clinic started seeing more uninsured individuals and those covered through Medicaid. Then in 2010, the Clinic’s assessment of the area, they decided to expand.

“We made the move from the Arcade location in April 2013 after we worked with the St. Paul Port Authority to secure this former 3M property,” says Dr. Jason Fournier, CEO of West Side Community Health Services. “We purchased the land from the St. Paul Port Authority for a dollar, with the Port Authority having already abated the land in terms of any contaminants that were there.”

The East Side Family Clinic began providing services on April 29, 2013. The move turned out to be a good one for the organization because it was able to leverage external financial resources to build the new clinic, which in the long term places the Clinic in a better position to serve its patients. They also secured a four million dollar federal grant under the Health Center Capital Program portion of the Affordable Care Act. This “Obama Care” grant helped defray the cost of the building.

“People come to the Clinic for a myriad of issues, but I’d say the most common issue they visit us for is cardiovascular disease,” Fournier says. “Taking a look at hypertension, diabetes, depression, and behavioral health, I’d say depression is probably the number one diagnosis we have — but if you are looking at a younger population, it’s asthma. We are a primary care provider, so we provide the whole gamut of services.”

The East Side Family Clinic has multiple health educators on-site: nutritionists, social workers, and individuals who can help with counseling and health education for tobacco cessation and other medical issues.

“We have medical, dental, pharmacy, and behavioral/mental health services, which we are getting ready to expand, and we have a grant to help with that,” Fournier says. “We will be integrating our behavioral health and medical care here in the near future, and we provide an on-site laboratory for our patients, so we can do blood screening and can actually test to see if someone has had a heart attack on-site.”

There are multiple dentists at the Clinic, but they also have a collaborative partnership with the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. Fourth-year dental students from the university come in and do at least an eight-week clinical rotation.

“We have a lot of steps in place to protect patient privacy. Since we are a health care provider, we have to follow what’s known as HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) guidelines,” Fournier says. “All of our records are electronic, and they are all password protected. They are in a hosted environment, which is off-site behind a firewall. We take very specific measures to prevent the inappropriate disclosure of our patient’s protected health information.”

The majority, almost eighty percent, of the East Side Family Clinic’s patients come from the East Side, but the Clinic will draw from Western Wisconsin, and the north, west, or south Twin Cities suburbs because they might connect with a provider or know that there is a provider who speaks Hmong or Spanish.

“Our clinic hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and we stay open until 8 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays,” Fournier says. “We do not have Saturday hours, but we will eventually get there yet.”

“We are probably the most affordable health care provider in the state,” Fournier says with pride. “If you aren’t able to pay when you are here, we will carry a balance and ask you to pay the next time you are here — but if you can’t afford it, we will still see you.”

Dr. Fournier does not live in the Daytona’s Bluff area, but many of his staff do, He stops at Swede Hollow just about any time he is running between La Clinica, which is on the lower West Side of St. Paul, and the East Side Family Clinic. Dr. Fournier and his Chief Operating Officer, Tracy Miller, spend time shopping and taking in some of the new restaurants on Payne Avenue.

“I would like to say thanks to Dayton’s Bluff for being such a good community to us,” Dr. Fournier declares. “We are a community-based organization; some patients serve as translators for East Side residents. They come to the Clinic and actually guide how our services are strategically run.”

East Side Enterprise Center Seeks $2,000,000 Legislative Appropriation

Forum staff

When the Forum went to print on April 21, legislative action was still pending on SF 1998, a bill introduced by Senator Foung Hawj to provide funding for three East Side Enterprise Center projects.

The bill requests $2,000,000 over two years to be divided between the Latino Economic Development Center, African Economic Development Solutions and the Asian Economic Development Center. The funds would be used to supplement each organization’s small business development work on the East Side.

For more information on the bill’s progress or on how to support it, contact Senator Hawj at 651-296-5285 or sen.- foung.hawj@senate.mn or Representative Sheldon Johnson at 651-296-4201 or rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn or Representative Tim Mahoney at 651-296-4277 or rep.tim.mahoney@house.mn. The last day for legislative action this year is May 18.
Dominium Project Benefits Neighborhood
Jennifer Herman, Forum Staff

The February 2015 Forum article “Dominium building plans don’t jibe with community” described the concerns of a small group of Dayton’s Bluff residents who are opposed to the Dominium affordable senior housing project slated to be built at Bates and 7th Street. The article claims that the building is out of scale with the neighborhood and will shade the gardens at Swede Hollow Café. In truth, it should be quite in scale with the other developments in the area including the new parking ramp at MSU (which is slated to have an additional level added in a few years). Also, the gardens at the café are already quite shaded by large trees in the garden. The article accuses Dominium of being unresponsive to neighborhood concerns which just isn’t true. I have sat in many community meetings in which Dominium has presented revised plans in response to community suggestions. In fact, the opposition’s most recent legal appeal was essentially based on the belief that the building would be 1 inch too high and they pursued the appeal even after Dominium proposed adjusting the height 2 inches lower! The demands by the opposition have become so unreasonable that Dominium can’t possibly be expected to accommodate them and this group of neighbors is simply impossible to please.

In fact, I think the opposition has morphed way beyond trying to ensure a good development for our community and is now simply an effort to drive off Dominium. This would be a shame for the growing number of seniors who are looking for affordable housing and especially for our elderly neighbors who want an affordable living opportunity in the neighborhood they know. The East Side Review printed an article about the Dominium project in January and got calls from seniors wanting to know how to get a room in the facility – the need is real! The opposition seems determined to ignore this need.

I also don’t think the Mayor and the city are “bullying our district” by supporting this development. That land has been vacant for 10 years and this is the only project (of many proposed) that has been able to really come together. What are we really waiting for and how many decades can we afford to wait? The word on the street is that developers and investors are becoming gun-shy about beginning new projects here after MSU, Mississippi Market, and now Dominium have faced enormous challenges from residents. Saint Paul bureaucracy can be difficult enough for businesses to deal with, if this community drama continues we will never fill the vacant storefronts on 7th Street or the remaining acres of old 3M land! Development along 7th Street increases traffic to existing businesses, provides jobs, and creates a more livable community for us all. We all stand to lose much if this group succeeds in driving away developers, which is becoming a very real danger.

Dayton’s Bluff has a rich history full of challenges and changes. Recent developments, including the Dominium project, could be the beginning of a bright and vibrant future for our neighborhood. A few voices of opposition should not be allowed to rob the broader community of this bright future.

Job Creation Fund Spurs $344 Million in Investments and Creates 1,800 Jobs

The Minnesota Department of Economic Development announced that the Minnesota Job Creation Fund has paid enormous dividends for Minnesota in its first year. With just $16 million in state funds, 31 companies have made commitments to invest $344 million in business developments that will create more than 1,800 jobs across Minnesota. The Minnesota Job Creation Fund, proposed by Governor Dayton and authored by Rep. Tim Mahoney (DFL-Saint Paul), has been hailed as one of the most innovative finance programs in the country. Eligible businesses must work with local governments and be engaged in activities such as manufacturing, housing, distribution, and technology. Rep. Mahoney issued the following statement: “With the tiny investment of just $16 million dollars Minnesota has been able to attract business investments of nearly $350 million that will create more than 1,800 good paying jobs. This program has been astonishingly successful. We’re not only supporting business growth in Minnesota for pennies on the dollar, we’re creating jobs with wages and benefits that Minnesotans will be able to support families on. Rep. Mahoney encourages constituents to contact him with any questions, comments, concerns, or ideas. Rep. Mahoney can be reached by phone at 651-296-4277 or by email at rep.tim.mahoney@house.mn.

East Side Open Market
(Formerly Dayton’s Bluff Farmer’s Market)

Starting on Thursday, April 23rd the best farmer’s market on the East Side opens for the season.

Where: First Lutheran Church of Saint Paul
(463 Maria Ave. Off East 7th behind the Burger King)

When: Thursday through September from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

What: The East Side Open Market

The East Side Open Market features more than the community supported agriculture of Urban Roots and Dream of Wild Health. It will have live music, food vendors, and goods for sale such as jelly from JustJelly, Blue Moon wooden bowls, Decadent Goodies from DT’id’s and local honey. Come bring your kids and join your neighbors for the best farmer’s market on the East Side!
Emmett Yanez: An East Side Latino Legend

Steve Trimble
Forum historian

In 2010, the city of St. Paul declared March 3 to be Emmett Yanez Day, honoring the long-time East Sider. This amazing Mexican-American was born on March 3, 1920, in Big Lake, Texas, a small town in the west central area of the state. He picked cotton there as a youngster until he was ten years old, then came to Minnesota with his family to work in the sugar beet fields. They continued to work as agricultural workers during the springs and summers and soon made St. Paul their home.

At first, they joined the small Latino community which lived in homes nestled in an area partially underneath the Third Street Bridge. Yanez remembers it as being like a "small town" where people knew and helped each other. For a time his family also lived on the West Side Flats along the Mississippi River.

Yanez did not attend high school and instead, as a teenager in St. Paul during the Depression era, was a breadwinner for his large Catholic family and helped support them by working alongside his father in the fields. He started boxing and in 1939, won the Saint Paul Golden Gloves at the age of only seven; a remarkable feat for a youngster.

"My parents and mentors were strict, but they taught me self-respect and how to work," Yanez asserted. "They helped me understand what was right and what was wrong."

His parents knew and helped each other. For a time his family also lived on the West Side Flats along the Mississippi River.

Just before shipping out, he married Natalie and the two of them adjusted to a separation after a few days of being newlyweds. For several years he was a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division and served in the dangerous position of airborne scout. He jumped into Holland as part of the largest airborne drop in history and helped capture one of the few bridges which remained intact. He fought in Italy, Normandy and was part of the Battle of the Bulge, one of the most brutal battles of the European theater.

"It was a miracle that I even survived the war," he later said. "Sometimes you couldn't make yourself flat enough to dodge what was coming at you." Yanez attributes his survival not only to miracles, but also to his boxing skills. "You find your strength, your speed, your nerves are tested. You have to think real fast to survive, and boxing is all about quick thinking," he explained.

After the war, he returned to St. Paul and began working in a city job for the Department of Public Works where he remained for many years. He had a short career as a professional boxer as a featherweight, training in a gym at Seventh and Wacouta in downtown. His favorite boxer was Willie Pep, another featherweight known for his tenacity. "He took on all-comers," Emmett said, "It didn't matter whether they were lightweight or heavyweight."

His greatest contribution was his work with young fighters starting in the 1930s. It was then that he started the Mexican American Boxing Club that served East Side and West Side boys. At the time, he and Natalie were living in Dayton’s Bluff at 626 East 4th Street. He was a trainer of Saint Paul amateur boxers for more than fifty years and was still at it when he retired from coaching at the age of 92. He developed many Golden Gloves champions and a few successful St. Paul professional boxers.

His wife Natalie passed away after many years of marriage and he later married Sylvia, who has been with him for over twenty years. While they are no longer in Dayton’s Bluff, they stayed on the East Side and now reside in the Battle Creek area. Emmett was inducted into Mancini’s St. Paul Sports Hall of Fame its 1986. Next time you visit the West 7th Street restaurant, look and you might find his photograph on one of the walls. In 2009, Yanez was among seven area veterans to be honored by the Dutch Consul General for their roles in securing bridges and liberating a city in southern Holland during the Second World War. "I’ve enjoyed my life, good or bad," he said in a newspaper interview, "and just hope I have made others happy."
WEQY: Focus on New Lens

Carla Riehle, Forum staff

One of WEQY’s community partners is New Lens Urban Mentoring, a project of the Saint Paul Public Schools and the Saint Paul Public School Foundation. It focuses on young black males enrolled in the school district.

We are highlighting them here as an example of the programming the station is seeking. New Lens Radio will feature two live programs that are coming together under the leadership of Saint Paul Public Schools and the Saint Paul Public School Foundation. It focuses on healthy communities, and the host of the acclaimed PBS documentary series of the same name. He speaks around the world about the connection between how we build our cities and public health.

Gehl Studio is the San Francisco based office of the world-renowned Gehl Architects, with work crossing the fields of architecture, urban design, and city planning in over 50 countries and 250 cities around the world. Gehl’s approach focuses on how the built environment connects to – and is mutually beneficial to – people’s quality of life.

Anthony Iton, M.D., M.D., MPH, is Senior Vice President for Healthy Communities at The California Endowment. Dr. Iton oversees the organization’s 10-Year, multimillion dollar statewide commitment to advance policies and forge partnerships to build healthy communities and a healthy California. His primary focus includes health of disadvantaged populations and the contributions of race, class, wealth, education, geography, and employment to health status.

Community members are invited to participate in events throughout the day. Plans are still being finalized, but the draft schedule calls for the day to begin at 7:30 a.m. with people gathering at Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary for a blessing by Dakota educator, Jim Rock, a welcome from city and neighborhood partners, guided tours of the trails and Wakan Tipi Cave by The Lower Phalen Creek Project and others, and refreshments prepared by Urban Oasis.

The station is looking for more program concepts like New Lens Radio that reflect, in some way, the cultural diversity of the East Side. All you need to do is download a form at daytonsbluff.org or stop in at the East Side Enterprise Center at 804 Margaret Street to pick one up. From there, veteran trainer Ben James or musicologist Thom Derus will show you the ins and outs of polishing and fine-tuning your ideas until they are ready to hit the airwaves.

Participants will be led on an interpreted walk along the Bruce Vento Regional Trail through Swede Hollow Park, led by Friends of Swede Hollow and the East Side Freedom Library. The group will gather then at 463 Maria Avenue, where they will learn about the work of Urban Roots, one of the early leaders promoting healthy food systems in our community.

The day will continue with walks and stops along East 7th Street, including the East Side Enterprise Center, for a series of workshops and an intercultural food court being organized by the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council. The tour will also visit Beacon Bluff, where the Saint Paul Port Authority is leading the redevelopment of this former 3M headquarters and the East Side Arts Council is engaging artists to help interpret this story.

As the day continues, the group will tour the historic residential neighborhood and community gardens of Dayton’s Bluff and cap off the day at Metro State University for a panel discussion with Dr. Jackson, Dr. Iton, and Gehl Studio. In the evening everyone will be urged to visit the many restaurants that are putting the East Side on the culinary map of great places to eat in the Twin Cities.

Among the East Side organizations involved in planning the May 12 day on the East Side are: The Asian Economic Development Association, Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, East Side Enterprise Center, East Side Freedom Library, East Side Arts Council, Friends of Swede Hollow, HealthyEast, Hmong American Partnership, Latino Economic Development Center, the Lower Phalen Creek Project, Metropolitan State University, Saint Paul Port Authority, Urban Oasis, and Urban Roots.

As the schedule of events and details becomes final, information will be published at the Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation web site at http://www.riverfrontcorporation.com/news-events/what-s-new/4th-annual-placemaking-residency-2015.

More information about the entire week-long series of residency events throughout the Twin Cities, the participants, and the sponsors, is also available at this site.

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

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

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

Our goal for the year is $2,000; as of this printing we have raised $486. Won’t you help us?

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