The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council elects new board members!

Residents of Dayton’s Bluff District 4 elected 10 representative leaders for the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council (DBCC) Board of Directors. Final voting and announcement of winners among the 18 candidates took place at the Annual Meeting and Dinner on October 27, at the Historic Mounds Theatre. There was plenty of competition for the single seat to represent a business in the district, with four business owners running for the board. In the 4 sub-districts, 14 candidates vied for the nine open seats.

The DBCC staff and volunteers canvassed the community to ensure a good selection of candidates as well as to inform residents about the Council and its work. In the month of September alone, over 1,800 homes in the Dayton’s Bluff community were contacted in person, by phone, or via email, and encouraged to participate in this year’s election process. We helped constituents get a better understanding of how the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council can be a support system and stepping stone for community members. The Annual Meeting and Dinner featured a beautiful meal catered by African Delight, a local East Side business. Pa Chua Vang acted as emcee, introducing each candidate to the 120 people in attendance. Jesus Ramirez, a local artist organizer provided a thoughtful call to action, with his keynote speech entitled “Why Equity Matters.” Ward 7 Councilmember Jane Prince, spoke about her commitment and hopes for the future of Dayton’s Bluff. While waiting for the votes to be tallied, excellent entertainment was provided by singers, Shan non Ileah and Michelle Kaye. Shannon and Michelle are both Dayton’s Bluff residents active within the Community Council.

The winners of this year’s DBCC election are as follows: At Large Business Owner – Henry Garmea Sub-District A - Michael Boyd and Yingya Vang. Sub-District B - Elizabeth Matakas, Tamara York-Talman, and Kirsten Madore. Sub-District C - Crystal Nocerco and Rashiede Wade. Sub-District D - Barry White and Holly Windstingad. DBCC Board and staff thank all candidates, as well as every community member that came out to demonstrate support throughout the election process.

In the five precincts combined, Clinton won 4,100 votes to 1,060 for Trump. That’s 73 percent for Clinton and 19 percent for Trump. This compares to the 2012 election when President Obama beat Mitt Romney 4,615 votes to 1,135 or 78 percent to 19 percent, or 2008 when Obama beat John McCain 3,943 votes to 1,090 or 75 percent to 21 percent.

Changes from 2012 numbers: The most noticeable change from the 2012 numbers are the decrease in total votes from 5,915 in 2012 to 5,639 in 2016 – about five percent, and the increase in the number of third party votes from 165 in 2012 to 479 in 2016 – an increase from 2.8 percent in 2012 to 8.5 percent in 2016. It’s interesting to note that in some ways, Dayton’s Bluff voting in the 2016 election mirrored national numbers. Nationally, Trump got roughly the same amount of votes as Romney did in 2012 (just over 60 million). In our neighborhood, Trump and Romney got about the same, 19 percent (though their vote totals differed).

The biggest difference on both a national and neighborhood level is the decrease in the number of total votes for the Democratic candidate. Clinton fell millions of votes short of President Obama in 2012. In Dayton’s Bluff, Clinton drew 4,100 votes to the 4,615 that President Obama drew in 2012. A shortfall of 515 votes or over 11 percent.

The most obvious conclusion to draw from these numbers is that Dayton’s Bluff is still a strongly Democratic neighborhood. In fact, in actual numbers, Trump garnered less of the Dayton’s Bluff vote in 2016 than Romney did in 2012 or McCain did in 2008. To sum it up, Dayton’s Bluff is certainly not Trump territory and the numbers prove it.

Nick Duncan can be reached at editor@daytons bluff.org.

Where in Dayton's Bluff?
More chances to win great local prizes!

Tell us where in Dayton’s Bluff the photo on page 6 was taken. Email your guess to editor@daytonsbluff.org. The first correct entry will win a great prize from a local business!

Dayton’s Bluff Community Council
804 Margaret Street
St. Paul, MN 55106

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Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike

Now on the second Saturday of most months, the Dayton’s Bluff Take-a-Hike will begin at Indian Mounds Park, located at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, at 10:30 a.m.

The next hikes will be on Saturday, December 10, and Saturday, January 14. The hike is approximately one and a half to two hours long and will end at Swede Hollow Park or East Side Heritage Park, depending on the desire of the hikers. Share and learn a little history along the way! Email karin@swedehollow.org or call 651-776-0550 for more information.

### Friends of Swede Hollow

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

### Dayton’s Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The Forum is seeking help with writing, online content, idea generation, and ad sales. Join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, January 4, at 1:00 p.m., at Swede Hollow Cafe (725 E. 7th Street). Call 651-776-0550 or email editor@daytonsnBluff.org for more information.

### Police Community Meetings

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

The next meetings are on Wednesday, December 21, and Wednesday, January 18, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Meetings are intended as a time to listen and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

### Let’s stay connected!

Find out what’s happening in your community and at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council. DBCC sends out a monthly newsletter to keep residents informed about current programs and issues that impact our community. It’s easy to sign up — just text BLUFF to 22828 to sign up and start getting updates delivered directly to your inbox today.

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

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

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

¿Sabe a CLUES para saber si califica? 612-746-3500. Nuestro personal bilíngue puede facilitar el proceso para usted y su familia.

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

### Twin Cities Mobile Market

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

### December 24, 9-11, 16-18, 23: A Klingon Christmas Carol returns to the Mounds for a second year. It’s the classic tale of Qo’noS learning the true meaning of courage and honor on the eve of the Long Night. Presented in the original Klingon with English supertitles. You don’t have to be a Star Trek fan to enjoy this play (but it’s even more fun if you are). Seating is reserved and some shows will sell out so advance ticket purchases are encouraged. Tickets: $18. VIP tickets include a front row table seat and one complimentary drink item: $35.

### Coming in January: Saturday, January 14, 2017: Independent Wrestling International launches a new year at the Mounds Theatre. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Bell is at 7:30 p.m. Come early to get the best seats!

### December at the Dayton’s Bluff Library

Join the Dayton’s Bluff Library for the following events taking place in December: English Conversation Circle, Saturdays in December, 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for non-English speakers to practice their English in a casual conversation format.

### Teen Do-Down Workshop: Thursday, December 8, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Teens can work down their library checkout items, make cool crafts, and have fun!

### December at the East Side Freedom Library

Friday, December 2, the East Side Freedom Library (ESFL) invites you to enjoy a screening of the 2015 film Bessie, starring Queen Latifah. Bessie tells the story of legendary blues singer, Bessie Smith, and her transformation from struggling young artist, to the Empress of Blues.

During December’s film is part of the Story-telling through Vinyl & Film series, a partnership between the ESFL and A Local Legend. Read a bookstore.

The evening begins at 5:00 p.m. with music at A Greener Read, located at 506 Kenyon Road, St. Paul, followed by the film, Bessie, at 8:00 p.m. at the ESFL.

### December 3, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., the ESFL will host a conversation on Academics & Activism Today. Panelists will discuss how current labor and social struggles guide their campus and community organizing, public history initiatives, teaching, and mentoring.

Participants include renowned historians and labor scholars Shel Stromquist, John McKercher, Eric Ture-Slocum, Emily Labarbera-Twamly, Ralph Scharnau, and Peter Rachleff.

### Tuesday, December 6, at 7:00 p.m., join Minneapolis-based author Brian McMahon to discuss his new book, The Ford Century in Minnesota, a history of the impact of Ford Motor Company on Saint Paul. This book concentrates on the experiences and roles of the workers and the union.

### Wednesday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m., the ESFL will present a screening and discussion of the film Sea! Storm! Restoring a Historic Neighborhood, with filmmaker Kristi Wheeler. This event is co-sponsored by the Lower Phalen Creek Project.

### Saturday, December 10, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., the ESFL will host Solidarity Saturday, a community of discussion of grassroots work to support immigrants, people of color, Muslims, and women in our neighborhoods. There will also be a workshop on developing the skills and self-confidence to interrupt acts of racist and sexist harassment. These events are free and open to all. The East Side Freedom Library is located at 1150 Greenbrier Street. Call 651-224-0230, email info@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org, or visit eastsidefreedomlibrary.org for details on these and other upcoming events.

### Business Classes

The Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class helps start-up and growing businesses find East Side. Classes last eight weeks and include operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with writing and revising a business plan, plus eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor.

#### Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in tar

#### goal neighborhoods are eligible for ongo

#### get business support services.

The course is sponsored by the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding scale. Class size is limited. Call Emma Spillman at 651-379-8432 to apply.

### Can you read Swedish?

Last spring, two reporters for a Swedish newspaper visited the East Side to research and write a story about the history of Swede Hollow. They interviewed people who have written about the Hollow, whose relatives moved here, and even some who were born and raised in the valley, including 94 year old Joe Sandelin.

The duo shared that a recent visitor had written a novel called Swede Hollow. Forum staff were able to get copies of the newspaper, but are looking to make a translation of the article, which is in Swedish.

If you or someone you know can read Swedish and might be willing to help out, please contact the Friends of Swede Hollow organization at 651-776-0550, or karin@swedehollow.org.

### East Side Elders presents Elder Cafe: Polkasol!

Note new time: Thursday, December 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 463 Maria Avenue, St. Paul. East Side Elders presents Elder Cafe: Polkasol!

Back (again) by popular demand, Polkasol! will play polkas, waltzes, and other old-time songs. A very interactive group, Polkasol! encourages listeners to join in the fun. Polkasol! loves to talk with their audience, sharing stories and humor. Polkasol! wants to bring a smile and a light to the eyes of those present and hopefully bring back memories of other days.

Call 651-683-2326 to make a reservation or to request a ride. Elder Cafe cannot guarantee a meal without a reservation.

Admission is free for seniors age 60 and over; all other guests are invited to make a suggested donation of $10.00. You’re invited to join in partnership between East Side Elders and First Lutheran Church of Dayton’s Bluff.

### English Language Learner & English as a Second Language classes at CLUES

Free adult English language classes will be offered now through December 15, 2016. Day and evening classes with childcare are available.

Register on Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Walk-ins are also accepted on other days. Classes run Monday-Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Registration is ongoing throughout the semester and students attend a minimum of three days per week. The curriculum is designed for adults and focuses on basic living skills.

CLUES is located at 797 East 7th Street. For more information, contact Roz Johnson, at rjohnson@clues.org or 651-379-4222.
CLUES: A gem on the East Side

Olivia Grijalva
Special to the Forum

Comunidades Latino Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) is located at 709 East 7th Street, in the same building as the Mexican Consulate. CLUES is one of three social service agencies in the Twin Cities for not only Latinos and immigrants, but all people in the neighborhood. Two additional CLUES agencies are located in Minneapolis at 720 East Lake Street, and in West St. Paul at 882 South Robert Street.

The Robert Street CLUES is known for offering “aging well services” and assistance to those who care for elders 60 years of age and older. Some of the services offered are information and referral, application and forms assistance, accessing services and support, advocacy and support (individual, family, and small group), individualized caregiver coaching and consultation, and respite programs both in-home and on-site.

The programs and services available through CLUES connect families with resources including free classes in English, computers, citizenship, buying and selling a home, resume preparation, interview, and employment; physical and mental health resources including addiction and family therapy, and information for healthy eating and physical activity, as well as access to medical insurance.

Additionally, CLUES offers economic help with employment search assistance, preparation of taxes, savings and financial counseling, legal assistance, and public service guidance.

Help for the family includes: education for parents, family counseling, mentoring for adolescents, programing for the elderly, help with abuse and sexual assault.

The East Side Police Department provides a community information and assistance platform through the Community Engagement Unit department having a presence at the Mexican Consulate on Friday mornings, at 9:15 a.m., in Spanish. Commander John Lozoya, who lives on the East Side, initiated this community outreach and an officer from that division comes by to offer community outreach and information for newcomers to St. Paul. We have a pearl in the neighborhood!

Have you considered attending a police community meeting?

Karín DuPaul
Forum Staff

The Eastern District Saint Paul Police hold their monthly community meetings at the Eastern District Police office located at 722 Payne Avenue, at the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues. The meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month. The next meetings are on Wednesday, December 21, and Wednesday, January 18, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

The community meetings are intended to be a time for residents to ask questions and learn about neighborhood concerns, and for the police to listen to and address the concerns of residents about crime and other issues. Saint Paul Police are committed to maintaining and growing the quality of life for all residents. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the monthly meetings.

At the October meeting, Senior Commander Axel Henry talked about about some Saint Paul neighborhoods that have set up Facebook pages that help connect nearby neighbors similar to the ways block clubs do. The Police Department is willing to work to help neighbors connect with neighbors.
**Swede Hollow opera a hit!**

Karin DuPaul  
Forum Staff

The East Side Freedom Library on both November 4 and 5, was full of people attending Ann Millikan’s opera, Swede Hollow. The cast did an excellent job of portraying life in the Hollow as remembered by some of the people who were children growing up in the Hollow. Scotty Reynolds from Mixed Precipitation Theater was the Stage Director and members of the Mankato Symphony Orchestra did an excellent job with the music.  

December 11 is the 60th anniversary of the burning of Swede Hollow. The opera told the story about the events when the City of Saint Paul evicted the residents of Swede Hollow and burned their homes to the ground. The people loved their homes and their neighbors living in the Hollow and did not want to leave. The Opera featured other tidbits of life in the Hollow. Swede Hollow, or Phalen Creek as some residents called it, was home to new emigrants for nearly 100 years before it was destroyed. First, the Swedes; next Italians; and then Mexican Americans.  

The opera’s final chorus, Dakota Land, celebrates the original inhabitants of the region with a text by Anishinabe poet Maricie R. Rendon. Centering on the theme of home — leaving home, finding home, losing home —Swede Hollow comes alive through powerful music on the land that holds its memories.  

The opera is being recorded at Minnesota Public Radio and a CD Release Party will take place on Sunday, December 11, at St. Paul’s Flat Earth Brewery, located at 688 Minnehaha Avenue East, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Karin DuPaul can be reached at karindupaul@comcast.net.

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**Santa is coming to Dayton’s Bluff: Free holiday dinner!**

Steve Trimble  
Forum Staff

The Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center will once again be having their popular holiday free family dinners at the Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center, located at 800 Conway Street, connected to Dayton’s Bluff Elementary School. The event is on Tuesday, December 6.  

The buffet dinner will run from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Santa is coming to Dayton’s Bluff!  

daytonbluff.org.

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**Needed: Your home on the 2017 home tour**

Karin DuPaul  
Forum Staff

The 2017 Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour will be here before we know it. We are looking for Dayton’s Bluff homes to be featured on the tour. The tour will run Saturday, April 29, and Sunday, April 30, 2017.  

This tour is of occupied homes to show visitors our wonderful Dayton’s Bluff homes and community. Visitors from all over the metro area come each year to see the lovely homes and meet the great people living in Dayton’s Bluff.  

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

In addition to homes to be on the tour, we are also looking for neighborhood people to volunteer to help out during the tour. After the tour is over on Sunday evening, an “after the tour” supper party will be held for the home tour host families and all home tour the volunteers.  

To sign up or for more information, please email karindupaul@comcast.net, or call 651-776-0550.
One Perspective
Dezmond Juan
Fort Yuma Quechan Nation

I want to share my thoughts on the conference I attended at Metropolitan State University on October 29, – Overcoming Racism: Disrupt Racism As Usual. The opening was good; they had a Native American community member from South Minneapolis begin with a song and an opening prayer. The Pillsbury Theater group did a wonderful skit followed by a Q&A panel discussion which took us into lunch. I met a group of students from Hamline University and had a great conversation with them, getting to know them better and sharing community. My first session was on mobility, which although coming from a rural Latino perspective, their main needs were no different than the needs experienced in an urban setting – shopping and working locally were important, because having to travel a long distance for work and food is a real hardship. The discussion led us to talk about housing and gentrification. A comment was made that community members in communities of color are afraid of gentrification, therefore “they keep their living areas looking undesirable.” This caught my ear, I had to speak out. Community members don’t fear gentrification, they fear getting moved out of their homes and the communities they and their families have been part of for many generations. They fear people with money, who buy up property and raise the prices so high that they and their families cannot afford to live there anymore. So, the belief that communities of color keep things ugly and unkempt because they fear gentrification is far from the truth. As I talked, many heads were nodding in agreement. I continued, particularly speaking on housing issues, like the fact that there is no cap on fees for rental applications. Some landlords make more on applications fees than they make actually renting the units, with no value returned to the applicants. I didn’t care for the privileged comment about our communities, and I had to speak up. After the session the individual came over to me and apologized, trying to make up for the mindless comment that was made. I just smiled and said, “We all see things through different lenses.”

Next, I went to “Let’s talk about disrupting racism,” this was a total letdown. They talked about celebrities and athletes, past and present, who use their position as disruptors of racism. I couldn’t sit there and listen; I had to leave. Moving on to a workshop that I thought was going to be a helpful session about collaboration and not doing this work alone, instead I saw two white women pitching their program to educators in the school system. They talked about how they go in and teach about equity to students of color so they “gain self esteem.” When asked about instructors of color they named staff of color, but it sounded more like tokenism and filling a box, instead of true equity work. After a number of us had a long discussion about the session, we all agreed that it was odd that white women would teach students of color about equity.

At all in, the conference was a good experience, and I feel it’s too bad that I couldn’t listen to all of the sessions. Maybe if I attend next year it will be a better experience in the sessions. I really glad I went and met others around the metro area though – that was a really positive experience.
When discipline becomes abuse: What happened at Sibley Elementary School a century ago?

Steve Trimble
Forum Historian

In the last issue, I took a look at what was happen-
ing at Sibley School a century ago. I men-
tioned that there was an event at Sibley Elementary School then located at Margaret and Frank Streets, that involved a student, a principal, and outraged parents. However, it was covered in two long and quite thought-provoking articles in the St. Paul Daily News and there wasn’t room to include it in the No-

tember Forum, so here it is now.

The paper’s front page displayed the following headline: “Teacher Kicked Boy.” There was also a sub-headline reading “Principal H. A. Trapp, Sibley School, accused of abusing 7-year-old Raymond Belisle.” The story started when the second grade student got to his home at 1011 East Sixth Street. He told his mother that his back hurt and added that the principal had kicked him. The next morning when she looked under his shirt there was a large black and blue bruise that was about the size of a man’s shoe.

She took Raymond to the Lowry Medical Build-
ing in downtown and saw Dr. A. H. Ahrens. He

told her that there was a large contusion, but he could not identify the bruise as having resulted from a kick.

Raymond’s mother then reported the incident to Commissioner Wunderlich, since public schools were then under the control of the city. He met with Belisle’s parents and “when I told them how it was, they seemed satisfied,” adding “we certainly do not want children abused.” He referred the matter to School Superintendent Hartwell.

The Daily News talked to Principal Trapp who first stated that “because he was out of line in marching at the school,” he shook the boy and said “I struck him.” However, he later said “if there was a bruise on his back though, I probably kicked him.”

As far as I was able to find out, there was no fur-

ther publicity, at least until today. I checked the oth-
er papers and they did not cover the situation, including the one East Side journal that was pub-

lished in 1916. The only other thing I found about the family is that the father, William, worked as a moulder – a skilled craft that included casting vari-

ous products of metal. I also don’t know if Trapp re-

mained the principal of Sibley.

Questions about school discipline still echo across the years from 1916 to the present. How do you know when discipline in schools and in homes turns into abuse? Was the Sibley School an aberration or a part of a pattern at the time? What about the parochial schools? There may be a written policy on discipline for the St. Paul schools today, but does anyone know how it started? What was the ex-

perience of you or your children? How about a few letters to the Forum?

Steve Trimble can be reached at editor@daytons-

bluff.org.

An article published in a 1916 edition of the St. Paul Daily News chronicles the alleged abuse suffered by a young student while attending Sibley School.
East Side Eating – Trimble’s Taste Trek

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

There are more restaurants than there is room for in the monthly paper, but at least 59 may now be found online at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org.

On “East Side Eating” at the top of the home page, Steve Trimble can be reached at editor@daytonsbuff.org.

Swede Hollow Cafe
725 E. 7th Street
(651) 776-8810

Monday-Friday: 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

swedehollowcafe.com

It was the grand opening day of the new second floor seating area. I got there too late for the music and special food, but needed to make this day part of the Taste Trek. The restaurant was founded in 1997 by two Dayton’s Bluff women and was launched in the historic Stutzman Building, a once-dilapidated building that was restored through the efforts of the Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhood Association.

The interior of the late nineteenth century commercial structure has a high ceiling and nice woodwork. There are several sizes of tables for singles or larger groups. You go to the counter to order from a chalk-written menu on the back wall and the food and/or drink will be brought to the table. There are a few books and art items for sale, many from local writers and artists.

A patron steps up to the counter to place her order at Swede Hollow Cafe on October 31, 2015.

East Side Eating – Trimble’s Taste Trek

Editor’s note: Since the Forum doesn’t print a January issue, please enjoy two installments of Trimble’s Taste Trek in this issue.

Happy holidays from the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum!

Mexitalian Pizzeria
1193 Payne Avenue
(651) 772-0101

Sunday-Thursday: 10:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Friday-Saturday: 10:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Facebook/Mexitalian Pizzeria

I saw posters on the former Otta Cocina storefront saying “Mexitalian Pizzeria Coming Soon.” Then a Facebook post said the restaurant was having a grand opening on December 3, and that there would be free samples. You better believe I was on my way up Payne Avenue to get there when the doors opened at 11:00 a.m. Outside, there was a ribbon-cutting ceremony and I was invited to be photographed with the group.

Inside were eight tables for four and a large screen TV that was emitting Mexican music. The decor was primarily red, green, and white – the colors of the Mexican flag. There, I met Yolanda from the Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC) and she filled me in on some details about the new owners. They are three brothers – Oliverio, Teo, and Domingo Casiano – who came to Minnesota from Puebla, Mexico. Their research showed the top cuisine trends are now Italian and Mexican. They created a name to reflect their fusion approach to both traditions. The LEDC gave technical support and loans to make their East Side dream become reality.

Here’s some of the menu: appetizers including wings and “garlic knots,” entrees including grilled chicken marinaded with Mexican spices, and Stromboli (a sort of turnover filled with cheese and Italian meats). The sauce choices tell it all: enchilada, tomato, hot salsa, and roja. Toppings include chorizo, meatballs, cornitos, mushrooms, and pepperoni. Several “Signature Pizzas” include enfrijolada – a vegetarian bean and taco pizza, the Pizza Poblano, whose main ingredients are mild peppers and choritada – a Mexican style sausage. “Classic Pizzas” include meat-lovers, Philly cheese steak, and chicken Alfredo. Some pastas are baked ziti, garlic and oil, and linguine. The hot subs include chicken Parmesan and eggplant Parmesan.

I had two sample slices of pizza. One was made with chorizo and Italian sausage. The other was topped with beans, cheese, and green peppers. I also got two small bowls of different pastas. I accompanied the food with a mango flavored Jarritos soda.

The cuisine trends for 2016 are now Mexican and Italian. They are mild peppers and choritada – a Mexican style sausage. “Classic Pizzas” include meat-lovers, Philly cheese steak, and chicken Alfredo. Some pastas are baked ziti, garlic and oil, and linguine. The hot subs include chicken Parmesan and eggplant Parmesan. They had not yet started making the Italian pizzas for sampling when I was there. I may have to go back sometime to see if they do a good job of replacing the ones served a few blocks south at the now-shuttered Romolo’s.

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

Caught in the Lye: A new novel – meet the author

On Saturday, December 3, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Swede Hollow Cafe. Join author Marilyn McGriff, a new Dayton’s Bluff resident, for a signing of her new novel, Caught in the Lye, a local history mystery based on a universal Nordic theme – lutefisk, what else?

To investigate an apparent homicide at the local lutefisk processing plant, Nick Nordin, a rookie sheriff’s deputy, is assigned to the case. Nordin knows nothing about lutefisk or his new environment. In the course of his investigations, he learns about both, thanks in part to a local historian who regales him with tales of the area. He also strikes up a relationship with the young woman undertaker who dealt with the murder victim’s body. But lutefisk remains the main character of the story, and it doesn’t come out smelling so good.

For more information, contact Marilyn McGriff at mmcg844@gmail.com.

Steve Trimble

Owners and family (who are also staff) of the Mexitalian Pizzeria restaurant.
Friends of the Forum
Dear Reader,

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1970s, and has always operated on a minimal budget. For the past three years we have been soliciting donations through our Friends of the Forum program. Thanks to the donations of readers like you, we have been able to keep the paper up and running.

If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out the form 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 2016.

Our goal for the year is $2,000; as of this printing we have raised $1,512.29 – will you help us?

Sincerely,

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

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

$100  $50  $25  Another amount _____

Or give online: razoo.com/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated.

Name__________________________
Email__________________________
Address________________________
City, State, ZIP__________________
Phone__________________________

Make checks payable to Dayton’s Bluff District Forum and mail to 804 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55106. For more information, contact 651-776-0550 or editor@daytonsbluff.org.

Thank you for your support!

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Have Forum, will travel

Mark Cosimini and Mary Block with their favorite newspaper in New York. They are on a balcony at the Whitney Museum of American Art with the Empire State Building in the background.

Several readers sent us pictures of themselves reading our newspaper on their travels. If you'd like to do the same, please email photos to editor@daytonsbluff.org.

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Who's who on the Bluff

Congratulations to Dayton’s Bluff resident Jeannelle Foster who was elected on November 8, to serve on the St. Paul School Board. Jeannie was endorsed by the DFL and won 37.91% of the total vote.

Steve Trimble

Carol Watnemo carries a copy of Dayton’s Bluff District Forum with her to the market square in Krakow, Poland.

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