Lower Phalen Creek Project celebrates Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff

The Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary was opened as a city park in 2005. The Lower Phalen Creek Project (LPCP) started the effort to create the sanctuary when the Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhood Association members and other interested folks including Chris Baumler, Amy Middleton, and Sarah Clark, were wanting to make the area from Swede Hollow Park to the Mississippi River a pleasant, clean, nature area like Swede Hollow Park. Now, the area is the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, a very special natural area with a rich Dakota and immigrant history. The sanctuary’s Wakan Tipi cave is a sacred Dakota site. The LPCP hosted the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary celebration on Saturday, October 1, to celebrate the progress that has been made and plans for the future. Many partners and environmental organizations provided activities and information.

Future sanctuary plans include a bridge to connect the Bruce Vento Regional Trail to the Samuel Morgan Trail next to the Mississippi River, as well as to build an interpretive center at the entrance called the Wakan Tipi Center. The event included music by The Coxmen, food vendors, coffee by The Goat Coffeehouse, and walking tours of the sanctuary. People from across the metro visited the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and enjoyed the celebration.

Karin DuPaul can be reached at editor@daytonsbluff.org.

The Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary celebrates its 10th anniversary on Saturday, October 1.

Lower Phalen Creek Project celebrates Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

208-210 Bates Avenue: Soon to be on the build!

Nick Duncan
Forum Staff

On Wednesday, October 12, the Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority agreed to sell the four unit apartment building at 208-210 Bates Avenue to Eric Foster and the Historic Saint Paul Nonprofit Corporation for the grand sum of $1. The sale will save the 1880s era property known as the “Schacht Building” from the city’s wrecking ball.

The Schacht Building is one of six vacant city-owned properties in the Dayton’s Bluff Historic District that the city council voted to tear down in December of 2015, overriding the objections of the Saint Paul Historic Preservation Commission. The city’s unprecedented mass tear down plan, dubbed by some as the “Dayton’s Bluff Demolition Derby,” drew criticism from preservationists and many local residents.

Bowing to the concerns of those opposed to the mass tear down plan, including newly elected city council member Jane Prince, the city agreed to allow neighbors to organize a tour of the vacant properties in a last-ditch effort to find buyers.

In April of 2016, the vacant home tour drew large crowds of curious visitors including some potential buyers. Among those touring the homes was long-time Dayton’s Bluff resident and local small business owner, Eric Foster.

The reason the city is willing to invest $1, with the stipulation that the buyer would invest the necessary capital to rehab the buildings under the Historic District guidelines and not sell the property for a set number of years. In the case of the Schacht Building, Foster and Historic Saint Paul are obligated to keep the building as two-bedroom units and two one-bedroom units at affordable rent for 15 years.

In return, the city agreed to dedicate $600,000 – which includes over $300,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds – to the project. The money comes from city resources budgeted for affordable housing and historic rehabilitation.

Once the final paperwork is finished, Foster plans to commence work as soon as possible. Though it’s too soon to set a timeline, the new owners are hoping that work will be completed sometime in 2017.

Nick Duncan can be reached at editor@daytonsbluff.org.

The property at 208-210 Bates Avenue, formerly known as the Schacht Building, dates back to the 1880s and will be spared the wrecking ball thanks to community support and a new owner, Dayton’s Bluff resident and restaurant owner, Eric Foster.

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

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

Students from the Farunsworth Aerospace Academy marched in the 109th Annual Payne Arcade Harvest Festival Parade on Saturday, September 19, 2016.
Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike

The Hike is back! 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 hike will be on Saturday, November 12. The hike is approximately one and a half to two hours long and will end at Swede Hollow Park or East Side Heritage Park, depending on the desire of the hikers. Share and learn a little history along the way! Email karindupaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550 for more information.

Friends of Swede Hollow
Watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 2, at 6:30 p.m. Email karindupaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting’s location.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum Board Meeting
The Forum is seeking help with writing, online content, idea generation, and ad sales. Join us at our next meeting on Thursday, November 3, at 1:00 p.m., at Swede Hollow Cafe (725 E. 7th Street). Call 651-776-0550 or email editor@daytontnbluff.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 Minnehaha Avenues.

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

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 su familia? El programa SNAP puede ayudar. SNAP proporciona fondos para alimentos que benefician a familias de escasos recursos.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum
November at the East Side Freedom Library
On November 4 and 5, at 8:00 p.m., tune in to Anne Millikan’s opera, ‘Rosie the Riveter: Help in the Zone’, which explores the lives of fictionalized Swedish, Italian, and Mexican immigrants.

The East Side Freedom Library is partnering with the Community Education department of Saint Paul Schools to offer “Connecting with Rosie the Riveter,” a four-week history course about women and the changing dynamics of American labor in the twentieth century. The class will meet Mondays in November, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Visit East Side Freedom Library on Facebook to register.

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English Language Learner & English as a Second Language classes at CLUES
Free fall semester adult English language classes will be offered now through December 15, 2016. Day and evening classes with childcare are available. Registration is held on Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and 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. until 8:30 p.m. Class levels are determined by a pre-test for placement in the program. Registration is ongoing throughout the semester and students attend a minimum of three days per week.

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Mounds Park United Methodist Church
1049 Euclid Street (corner of Earl and Euclid); 651-774-8736
Mounds Park United Methodist on Facebook

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is a neighborhood congregation where cultures meet, located at 1049 Euclid Street in Dayton’s Bluff. Sunday worship starts at 10:30 a.m. Come and meet your neighbors!

Weekly in November:
- Fall After-School Program for area Youth, sponsored by McVay Youth Partnership of Hamline University. This is an after-school program for all community youth grades 5-12 at Mounds Park Church from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of each week offering cooking classes, games, homework help, field trips, and help learning English. Contact Jane Krentz at (612) 581-6978 for more information.

Wednesday, November 16: Starting at noon, join Mounds Park United Methodist for a Community Friendship Gathering with hot lunch. The day will begin with a hot lunch of turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberries, glazed baby carrots, roll, and dessert, followed by a program featuring recording artist and composer, Michelle Kaye, alternating between piano and vocal pieces. All are invited to come; the focus of this event is on persons age 55 and over. A donation of $8.00 is suggested.

Sunday, November 20:
- Community lunch and silent auction; lunch will be served by the youth group beginning at 11:30 a.m. The cost of the meal will be covered by a free-will offering. The youth group will also be hosting their annual Silent Auction on Sunday, November 20, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. During lunch, you may check out the auction tables. Nearly 100 items are anticipated from local businesses and members of the church (gift cards, certificates for events, certificates for services, homemade foods, and hand crafted items).

Sunday, November 27:
- Advent Worship. Come and prepare your hearts for the coming of Christmas. Holy Communion will be served to all. Special music, prayers, and songs that will help us pause and prepare ourselves for the season of hope, joy, love, and peace.

1st Annual Senator Foung Hawj East Side Cookout
Bill Fleming
Special to the Forum

On October 6, Senator Foung Hawj welcomed special guest, Governor Mark Dayton, to the historic East Side neighborhoods of Swede Hollow, Dayton’s Bluff, and Railroad island. The event, held at Upper Swede Hollow Park, the historic site of the Hamm Family Mansion, was a celebration of rejuvenation of those communities, enriched by being home to Native Americans and newly immigrated Americans dating back to before 1840. Standing, nearly in the shadow of the growing Metro State University, Karin DuPaul, president of the Friends of Swede Hollow group, welcomed Governor Dayton, Senator Hawj, and over 100 residents and local officials to Upper Swede Hollow Park. DuPaul spoke of the historic significance of the area and announced, “Because of our communities’ opposition and action, the Swede Hollow portion of the Bruce Vento Regional Trail will no longer be considered as part of the Rush Line Corridor.”

Senator Hawj congratulated the community and local leaders saying, “While the Rush Line is very important to the East Side and outer ring cities and counties, we celebrate this local victory to once again preserve the historic Swede Hollow parks and trails. This assures the quality of life we are working so hard for and that helps bring business and jobs back to the Swede Hollow area.”

Senator Hawj plans to host an annual East Side Cookout to highlight the many parks and recreational areas of the East Side of St. Paul. He called on all present to “Exercise your right and responsibility to vote so that the East Side voice continues to be heard!”

Bill Fleming can be reached at flemingb777@gmail.com, or (612) 865-5427.

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Becoming Whole: In Pieces

Robert Boos
Metropolitan State University

Becoming Whole: In Pieces, an exhibition that features artwork by members of the Minnesota Mosaic Guild (MMG) and showcases the variety in the field, from highly decorative utilitarian objects to sumptuous local landscapes, will be exhibited from October 27, to December 2, at the Gordon Parks Gallery.

The exhibition opens with a reception from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, October 27. The gallery is located at Metropolitan State University’s Saint Paul campus on the third floor of the Library and Learning Center.

Regarding the show, Trudy Vrchota, exhibition coordinator and mosaic artist explains, “Mosaic shows are truly diverse both in the individual artist’s style and the range of materials that each artist incorporates into their mosaic pieces. We use glass, ceramics, marble, stone, beads, and found objects in our work. The colors are brilliant and the textures are rich. This makes for a dynamic and inspiring show.”

Established in 2004, MMG was formed to promote the art of mosaic, foster exploration and experimentation in the media, provide educational opportunities in mosaic, as well as share and celebrate the diversity of experience and knowledge in the media.

Exhibition participants include Cheryl Anderson, Minneapolis; Rachel Artmon, Maple Grove; Donna Brolander, Blissemington; Rebecca Campbell, Ashland, WI; Rebecca Carroll, Minneapolis; Kristen Dieng-Plymouth; Debra D Souza, Rochester; Gilbert Gragert, Stillwater; Kelly Holzer, Jordan; Janet Houck, Saint Paul; Janine Irisarri, Plymouth; Mimi Leminh, Chaska; Susan Mathis, Woodbury; Danette Polglase, Scandia; Judy Sell, Stillwater; Barbara Steen, Saint Louis Park; Sheryl Tuorila, Brooklyn Park; Trudy Vrchota, Eden Prairie; and Erin Ward, Saint Paul.

For more information about the exhibit, contact Erica Rasmussen, gallery director, at 651-999-5942 or erica.rasmussen@metrostate.edu.

Are you receiving your copy of the Forum each month?

If you live in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood, you should receive your copy of the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum within the first week of each month. If you live within the neighborhood and have missed delivery, please email editor@daytonsbuff.org with your name and mailing address. We will contact the US Postal Service on your behalf.

If you live outside of the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood, you can pick up a copy of the Forum at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council offices at 804 Margaret Street, or email editor@daytonsbuff.org to have the Forum mailed to you for a yearly fee of $15.

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• He fights for social and economic justice by co-authoring bills to address economic and racial disparities.

• He fights for education equity by expanding pre-school access, increasing recruitment of teachers of color and improving student support services.

• He fights for capital investments on the East Side for workforce development, senior housing and bonding resources for projects like the East Side Freedom Library, the Wakan Tipi Center, the Battle Creek Recreation Center, roads, bike lanes and bridges.

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Prepared and paid for by Foungh for Senate 67 Committee
East Side Learning Center: changing young lives

Mark Gallagher
Forum Staff

The East Side Learning Center (ESLC), which has been changing young lives since February of 2001. A pilot program started in the John A. Johnson Achievement Plus Elementary School, previously known as Johnson High School, was the impetus behind this extraordinarily successful tutoring program operated by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND).

In the late 1990s, a friend of the SSND, Jim Finnell, was at a meeting of leaders on the East Side of St. Paul who were looking at the educational needs of the area. Finnell, who knew of the Sisters from some development work he had done with them, asked, “Could the Sisters collaborate with this effort?”

The SSND, which had served the East Side for the previous 130 years in various capacities, became excited about the idea. What they could do about the opportunity?

Sister Audrey Lindenfelscher, Executive Director of the ESLC, explains: “When Jim Finnell came to the SSND, the Sisters formed a committee and met for three years, trying to decide how we could respond to that need — because part of our value is to respond to an urgent need.”

The Sisters on the committee tried a number of different things. “The committee said, ‘Let’s try a tutoring program,’ and asked me to find a location to get it started,” Sister Audrey says.

“We had no roadmap. I toured the East Side. I went to churches, the National Guard armory, libraries, and anywhere that looked like they might have room. They all said it was a good idea but had no room for a designated space.” Around the same time, John A. Johnson Elementary was being renovated, and they had an empty classroom.

A good number of people attended this year’s “Watch the Glow” event held in Swede Hollow Park. After the sun set, the evening cookout began and socializing continued. Each child gets one-on-one tutoring time four days a week during the school year and five days a week during the summer. Last year the ESLC served 445 children during the school year and 445 children during the summer, says Sister Audrey. “We could not do that without community volunteers. Community volunteers provide about 50 percent of the tutoring.”

The host school provides rent-free space, tables, and chairs. Generally, the ESLC serves the students that attend the host schools, but other students are welcome if there is room. Thirty minutes per day is the minimum time tutors spend with each child, and third graders can be with tutors up to 45 minutes per day.

“We collaborate with the classroom teachers and the school’s literacy coach to determine which students are recommended for the tutoring program,” says Sister Audrey. “Also, we have to consider the parents. If the parents want their child in tutoring, they would be given priority because the parents took the initiative to inquire about tutoring.”

The East Side Learning Center uses McGraw-Hill Guided Reading. The students progress from level A to level B to level C, and so on. A child needs to cover each level from kindergarten to third grade. If the child is an English Language Learner (new to the English language), there is more vocabulary the child has to learn.

“The children don’t all go at the same rate,” Sister Audrey says. “That is why tutoring is so wonderful — it meets the needs of each student every day. They have their own personalized lesson every day. I always say — that’s our secret sauce — a personalized lesson every day.” Then I say you mix that secret sauce with those volunteer tutors and with those retired teachers — you have success.

You know, it’s a win/win — a win for the school the East Side Learning Center has supported — and it’s a win for the children, a win for the parents, and it reverberates across St. Paul because when a child can read, that child can be successful in the classroom. They will graduate from high school, and they can be a successful person in the community.

Mark Gallagher is the associate editor of the Dayton’s Bluff Forum and a graduate of Metropolitan State University. Mark can be reached at refineEditor@gmail.com.

My name is Prince

Nick Duncan
Forum Staff

October 13, 2016, “Prince Day” in Saint Paul, culminated with a sold out, star-studded, Prince tribute concert at the Xcel Energy Center. It’s been more than six months since the musical genius and Minnesota original passed away, but his legend is not forgotten. In fact, Forum staff found a Dayton’s Bluff connection.

Bob Parker, Dayton’s Bluff resident, co-owner of Ward 6 Food & Drink, and mixologist extraordinaire, was managing the old Loring Bar in 1999, when he received a call one evening. The voice on the phone told him that he would be receiving a “special guest” that night, and could a table be ready for him? Bob, being the card that is, immediately asked “Oh, is Prince coming?”

Princenius and Minnesota original passed away, but his legend is not forgotten. In fact, Forum staff found a Dayton’s Bluff connection. When Prince arrived, Bob asked him if he was auditioning for his own band that night. Bob had to ask a group to give up their table “for Prince” which they did enthusiastically. Next came, “Prince, would you like a cocktail?”

Prince asked him for a recommendation. Bob said that Ricky Ricardo was a personal favorite, and the Purple One accepted.

“I’m a wine drinker,” Prince replied, then the terse reply. “Right! So what time is Prince going to be here?”

Remember, by 1999, Prince was no longer ‘Prince’ but due to contract disputes with his label and artistic choices, he had morphed into ‘the Artist formerly known as Prince.’

When Prince arrived he asked if he wanted a table for dinner. “Prince, are you having dinner? Would you like a more private table, Prince?”

Prince demurred, asking for a table in the bar, so that he could hear Estaire Godinez, who he was auditioning for his own band that night. Bob had to ask a group to give up their table “for Prince” which they did enthusiastically. Next came, “Prince, would you like a cocktail?”

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In honor of the passing of the beloved Minnesotan legend, Ward 6 has renamed the Ricky Ricardo to “My Name is Prince,” and it is a featured drink on the menu. Ask for it by name, in a quiet, low voice. Nick Duncan can be reached at editor@daytonsluff.org.

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A century ago in Dayton’s Bluff
Steve Trimble
Forum Historian

Once a year, especially when I can’t figure out what to research for a history article, I look to see what was brewing in Dayton’s Bluff a century ago. Last month, I checked out the newspaper for October, 1916, but I failed to find anything about our neighborhood. Things were different when I journeyed to the Minnesota Historical Society recently and looked at the microfilm of the St. Paul Daily News for November, 1916. Here’s some of what I discovered.

First up was a November 5 piece on the Margaret Recreation Center, which was pretty new at the time. It seems that Girl Leader Miss Ruth Smith, wrote an official song for the group. Here it is and, perchance, the current Stewards of Margaret Park (STOMP) could change “recreation center” to “park,” learn the words, and sing it at a community gathering. It was designed to use the tune of “On, Wisconsin.” How about it, Jennifer Herman?

Here it is – the back slashes show the end of the lines: “Margaret Recreation Center: To this name be true! We’re a countless company! And loyally our due! Margaret Recreation Center! One in spirit we’re, On, with cheer! United ever be! Margaret Recreation Center! This our purpose high! To think and work and play together! Each to fortify! Margaret Recreation Center! True in heart are we! Forward we go whole-hearted, joyously!”

The November 11 issue of the paper announced that the Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church at Margaret and Hope Streets would be celebrating its 25th anniversary. There would be special services, including two morning services that were conducted in German and an evening service in both German and English. The “ladies of the church” were serving dinner at the festivities.

There was a November 17 link between the just-finished 1916 presidential election and the local political scene. Democrat Woodrow Wilson had just beaten Charles Hughes, and two St. Paul men had bet on the outcome. Hughes supporter, Al Myers, of 281 Hoffmann, lost to Earl Mann, who backed Wilson. Dressed as a “farmer comedian” Myers had to push a wheelbarrow on a Saturday afternoon around downtown while building a deer that he had shot in Mounds Park, adding humor to a Thanksgiving dinner featuring a deer he had shot in Mounds Park.

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That relationship was precise: the night sky (then clearly visible) was key to the cultures of the mound builders and the Dakota, as it was to many ancient peoples throughout the world. In his presentations and book, Rock ties together the Sky-Earth cosmology of the Dakota with their creation myth, ancestral memory, and documented history. He uncovers some deep dimensions of early Americans’ knowledge and belief systems, long buried in the dominant culture’s reductions of them. Certainly more sophisticated and spiritual than any New Age celebrations could suggest, these complex systems have a lot to teach us about our universe today.

The existing mounds, part of a once-huge network of mounds, settlements, and migration routes, invite us to learn of that network. Some Early American societies built many thousands of mounds from the Ohio River Valley, westward across the country. A belt of Midwestem mounds follows the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers (once studding the banks of the Lower Wisconsin) to Effigy Mounds Park on the Iowa bank of the Mississippi. There were effigy mounds (animal and human shapes), and conical, round, and rectangular mounds. Each had a particular function, including sacred burials.

Mainly such mounds served as calculators tracking the sky and its changes as it turned above and around the earth. These “calendars” served the people as timely guides to seasonal navigation, agricultural plantings, and annual celebrations and rites. Rock points out that our own endlessly connected lives in the universe...

Mound Park Elementary Kindergartners were featured in the Saint Paul Daily News on November 19, 1916.

Kindergartners at Mound Park Build Store and Lay in Big Stock

Riehle, Steve Trimble

that past world. Like the mounds-building societies and the mounds. Each had a particular function, including sacred burials. Mainly such mounds served as calculators tracking the sky and its changes as it turned above and around the earth. These “calendars” served the people as timely guides to seasonal navigation, agricultural plantings, and annual celebrations and rites. Rock points out that our own endlessly connected lives in the universe...

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Kindergartners at Mound Park Build Store and Lay in Big Stock

the winner sat proudly in the vehicle.

There was also a mention of our area in a “Sixty Years Ago” box – seems kind of appropriate for a “Century Ago” article. Take away sixty from 1916 and you have 1856. The Daily News revealed that early St. Paul resident J. A. Stees had a Thanksgiving dinner featuring a deer that he had shot in Mounds Park, adding that the area “was now part of the city.”

Kindergarten students made it into the newspaper.

That relationship was precise: the night sky (then clearly visible) was key to the cultures of the mound builders and the Dakota, as it was to many ancient peoples throughout the world. In his presentations and book, Rock ties together the Sky-Earth cosmology of the Dakota with their creation myth, ancestral memory, and documented history. He uncovers some deep dimensions of early Americans’ knowledge and belief systems, long buried in the dominant culture’s reductions of them. Certainly more sophisticated and spiritual than any New Age celebrations could suggest, these complex systems have a lot to teach us about our universe today.

The existing mounds, part of a once-huge network of mounds, settlements, and migration routes, invite us to learn of that network. Some Early American societies built many thousands of mounds from the Ohio River Valley, westward across the country. A belt of Midwestem mounds follows the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers (once studding the banks of the Lower Wisconsin) to Effigy Mounds Park on the Iowa bank of the Mississippi. There were effigy mounds (animal and human shapes), and conical, round, and rectangular mounds. Each had a particular function, including sacred burials. Mainly such mounds served as calculators tracking the sky and its changes as it turned above and around the earth. These “calendars” served the people as timely guides to seasonal navigation, agricultural plantings, and annual celebrations and rites. Rock points out that our own endlessly connected lives in the universe...
**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 papers, but at least 59 may now be found online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org. Click on “East Side Eating” at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at editor@daytonsbluff.org.

**Far East Bar & Restaurant**

959 Arcade Street
(651) 440-9942

Tuesday-Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Sunday: 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Bar hours: Tuesday-Sunday: 5:00 p.m. to midnight
Facebook: Far East Bar & Restaurant

Here is the second venture out to visit one of the new restaurants of 2016 that need to be added to the East Side Eating Epilogue. It was time to visit the old site of Governor’s that has been transformed into Far East Bar & Restaurant, an “Asian fusion” spot that mixes Hmong, Thai, and Chinese foods. It was there that my son Thomas showed up on a slightly rainy Friday night.

**The interior looks a lot like the former spot. It is still comprised of three separate but connected rooms—a dining area with the inherited booths, a middle room with a dance floor and karaoke set-up, and a bar area. There is also a room with one long table and chairs that is reserved for groups of 10. The dining room has seven booths and several tables, some artwork, and one exposed brick wall. The middle room is mostly an open wood floor. The bar room has a large vintage rectangular bar, as well as some chairs and booths, and several electronic games.

The menu is varied. Appetizers include the usual things like wings, as well as more unique items like “fried chicken feet,” and “curly ears,” which are fried pig’s ears. There is papaya salad, noodle soup, and six different types of pho.

Some main dishes include spare ribs, Hmong sausage, stir-fry, fried rice, a Thai curry burger, Pad Thai, and chow fun noodles. House specials include half duck in ginger garlic sauce, and savory short ribs. There are also several sea food dishes including spicy catfish, fried calamari, and Asian Cajun prawns.

Dessert options include a fried banana roll, and natch van, a tri-colored Hmong tapioca dessert.

Drinks include soft drinks, Thai iced tea and Vietnamese Coffee. You may order beer and wine from the bar area after 5:00 p.m. and have it at your table. After the regular hours of full service, the restaurant serves “finger food” until closing.

My son, who accompanied me on this leg of the trek, decided on the Hmong Ox Tail Pho, which he had never tasted during his lengthy employment in restaurants. Being a bit less adventurous, I stuck with one of my usual Asian food favorites and ordered the Pad Thai.

The owner of this new establishment is Som Lee, who lives on the East Side. Lee has other properties, but this is his first venture into food service. He did a lot of research into recipes and his family favorites. He wanted to be a family friendly place and on the weekends— even having a dress code which, for instance, doesn’t allow sagging pants. The restaurant does not take reservations but does accept credit cards. Karaoke is usual on Thursday and Friday.

A large sign on the outside of the buildings declares that Hmong Ox Tail Pho is one of Far East’s specialties. It is available Tuesday-Sunday. At the bottom of the sign for the pho, you’ll notice the saying “Come get Som!” Get it? The owner’s first name is Som.

**Far East Bar & Restaurant**

Rev. Dennis Alexander
Assisted Healing Center
Corrine Bauer
Kayla Brinkman
Jean Comstock
Greg Cosimini
Karin DuPaul
Eastside Open Market
Mark Gallagher
Patricia Gangl
Bob Jensen
Jeff Jones
Brent Katzenmaier
Chris & Linda LaBarre
Ann Larson
Joyce Maddox
Larry Meuwissen
Dan McGuiness
Phyllis Mostrom
Mounds Park United Methodist
Dr. Stephen Pomrenke
Rev. Lee Ann Pomrenke
Kristi Poupore
Mona Rath
Peter M. Reyes Sr.
Carla Riehle
Ramona Shafer
Jonathan Sherman
Carla Steen
Meridel Trimble
Steve Trimble
Tom Trimble
Urban CROSS

**Where in Dayton’s Bluff?**

Email editor@daytonsbluff.org with the location of this neighborhood curiosity for a chance to win some great prizes from local businesses. The reader who submits the first correct entry will be notified and the winner will be announced in the December Forum.

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**Many thanks to our 2016 donors:**

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Greg Cosimini
Karin DuPaul
Eastside Open Market
Mark Gallagher
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**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; so of this printing we have raised $1,362.29—Will you help us?

Sincerely,
The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

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**Thank you for your support!**

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**For more information, contact 651-776-0550 or editor@daytonsbluff.org.**

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**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.**

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**We have a winner! Where in Dayton’s Bluff?**

Congratulations to Forum reader, Myiesha Banks. Myiesha correctly named the location of last month’s photo: Le Painter, at 744 East 3rd Street.

Myiesha will receive four passes to see Gridiron Glory, on view at the Minnesota History Center. Watch upcoming issues of the Forum for more chances to win!

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**Thank you for your support!**

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

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