Public private partnerships – and shee r will – saved six historic homes

Jane Prince
Ward 7 City Council

When I took office last January, there were six Dayton’s Bluff historic buildings on the chopping block. Neighbors referred to it as the “Dayton’s Bluff Demolition Derby.”

But thanks to the sheer will, hard work, and commitment of many, many of our neighbors, as well as our partners at City Hall and the redevelopers who believed in our vision, work is now underway to save all six buildings in 2017.

In January, the Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority transferred the last remaining property to Cory Vandenberghe. Cory and his fiancée, Tia, with the help of Ottawa-Anishk Design-Build, will restore the charming old Scorenstein Garage that bears the sign “Railin SHOP,” to a unique home in our community. It’s really quite a story.

All six buildings had been purchased by the city over the past couple of decades with neighborhood involvement and support. But over the years, including the Great Recession and a crash in the housing market, all had fallen through the cracks of neighborhood redevelopment.

Nonetheless, when word spread that the city could no longer justify maintaining the six vacant and deteriorating properties, Dayton’s Bluff neighbors sprang into action.

First, the neighbors stopped the issuance of the demolition permits, by convincing the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission that there was still life in these old homes, all of which were deemed to be “contributing” or “pivotal” to the importance of our historic district. In other words, if they were demolished, the absence of these worker homes, small retail shops, and apartment flats would diminish the integrity of our working class historic district.

Working with the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, I asked the city to give neighbors six months to market the buildings. While the City had marketed them for years through their normal listing service, neighbors believed that they could reach out to friends and neighbors who would welcome the chance to purchase historic properties and live in our neighborhood.

And they were right. On April 17, 2016, with help from city staff (which included a vintage tour bus), Dayton’s Bluff hosted the Dayton’s Bluff Vacant House Tour, which was broadly publicized through broadcast and print media. Neighbors published a full-color booklet, featuring each home, its history and significance.

More than 300 people came to Dayton’s Bluff on that beautiful spring day to tour the homes. At the Enterprise Center, visitors learned about the city’s requirements to purchase the homes, and the potential funding that might be available. And then visitors took the tour bus to view the homes, where they talked to neighbors and city staff that volunteered to show their home.

We were all thrilled and amazed when contrary to conventional wisdom – multiple, viable proposals were received by the city for all six properties by the June deadl ines. Not only would all the homes be saved, but also the story itself made headlines for Dayton’s Bluff as a welcoming, diverse and distinctive community.

More importantly, the City of Saint Paul discovered – by working with Dayton’s Bluff neighbors – that neighborhood residents can be truly valued partners in marketing city-owned real estate. There are no better sales representatives than happy residents who can trumpet the virtues of their communities.

There are so many people to thank: our neighbors, our partners in marketing city-owned real estate, the city council who took on lots of work and did it, the staff and leadership of the Department of Planning and Economic Development who welcomed the chance to try a different marketing approach and volunteered on a Sunday to sell houses, my colleagues on the City Council who took a leap of faith to extend the demolition deadline, and the incredible redevelopment partners and purchasers of these homes who are carrying out these labors of love and restoring our historic neighborhood!

Join us to celebrate our success and to thank our partners on Wednesday, February 8, at 5:00 p.m. at Flat Earth Brewery. This is a chance to recognize that when we work together, anything is possible!

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

Tell us where in Dayton’s Bluff the photo on page 4 was taken. Email your guess to editor@daytonsbluff.org. The first correct entry will win a great prize from a local business!
Familias en este país ellos podrían calificar. Participar en el programa SNAP no afectará su estatus migratorio.

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

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**Realidad de los recursos.**

La familia? El programa SNAP le puede ayudar. El programa SNAP proporciona fondos para alimentos que benefician a familias de escasos recursos. Así no se citan ciudadanos, si tienen hijos hijos nacidos en este país ellos podrían calificar. Participar en el programa SNAP no afectará su estatus migratorio.

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**Cuidado de la familia.**

**El día 26 de febrero, de 10:00 a 2:00 p.m.**


Para información sobre estos y otros eventos cheaker plp.org o call 615-793-9791.

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**Becas y becas.**

**El sábado 26 de febrero, de 10:00 a 11:00 a.m.**

Usar visuales, Star wheels, objetos, y la comida del pasillo en la cultura Dakota como es en el santuario, starr y Mother Earth. Incluido es una vez a la semana y las estaciones.

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**Paseos en grupo.**

El sábado 26 de febrero, de 1:00 a 2:00 p.m. en el parque Dayton's Bluff, 463 Maria Avenue, St. Paul. East Side Elders presenta: Elder Cafe: Native American Drumming.

El Southside Ramblers/AIF Men's Group Elders Lodge will perform. Come and learn about the many diferent traditions of the drum and its mean- ning and significance in Native American ceremonies.

Call 651-683-2326 to make reserva- tions or request a ride. Elder Cafe can not guarantee a meal without a reservation. Admission is free for seniors age 60 and older; all guests are invited to make a suggested donation of $10.00. This event is presented in partnership between East Side Elders and First Lutheran Church of Dayton’s Bluff.

**Sábado 26 de febrero, de 10:30 a 11:30 a.m., el programa SNAPKids Rising Story Hour, conducido por dos miembros de East Side elders.

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**Música.**

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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 multicultural neighborhood congregation in Dayton’s Bluff. Sunday morning worship starts at 10:30 a.m. Each Sunday during February, we will celebrate the life and witness of an African American who helped shape our world today. Come and hear about these courageous and passionate persons who gave much so that our lives would be more whole.

Weekly in February: Afterschool Program for area youth, sponsored by McVey Youth Partnership of Hamline University. This is an after-school program for all community youth grades K–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, February 22: Beginning at noon, Community Friendship gathering with hot lunch. Enjoy a hot lunch of smoked pork chops with apples and cranberries, Scalloped potatoes, vegetable, salad, rolls, and dessert. The program this month will feature music by local talent. This is a community gathering – ALL are invited to come; the focus is on persons age 55 and over. A donation of $8.00 is suggested.

Mounds Park Church is launching a new faith-based community non-profit called Dayton’s Bluff Community Services. This new non-profit corporation will engage in activities to further the service of Mounds Park United Methodist Church within the Dayton’s Bluff community and other communities of East Saint Paul. It will also collaborate and coordinate with area organizations that have the similar purpose of serving the community. Some of the services include Urban Cross, pro-grmas supporting area children and youth, community gatherings, support of area public schools, cross-cultural events, food and housing support, and service to seniors.

Action needed: Clear Steps for Seniors!
Janet Golden
Executive Director, East Side Elders

Winter and all that it brings is on its way to Minnesota. Ice. Bitter winds. Slippery sidewalks and steps. And snow, lots of snow.

According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, this meteorological winter (December-February) of 2015-2016 for Minnesota wound up being warmer than normal, but the Twin Cities still saw 25.7 inches of snow! Over the course of the winter, that’s a lot of the white stuff to shovel, scoop, dig, and heap. And this year the outlook is even whiter. Minnesota Library System meteorologist Paul Huittem predicts there will be “between 50 and 60 inches of snowfall overall in the Twin Cities.”

With the prospects of weeks of clearing snow, one senior commented, “I think it’s time to hang up my snow shovel and pick up the phone!” She called East Side Elders and asked if the local non-profit could help her keep her sidewalk clear so that she and her neighbors could walk safely without risk of falling on snow or ice. The City of St. Paul encourages neighbors to keep sidewalks clear of snow but as we all know, the city ordinance requires snow and ice to be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours after the snowfall has ended – and those who fail to do so may encounter heavy fines along with the heavy snow! East Side Elders is taking steps to help seniors stay safe – and clear of snow and ice during the winter. We try to match volunteers, neighbors, and local organizations who can lend a helping hand by clearing snow for those who are unable to do so.

For homes with larger areas to clear, such as driveways and alleys, we contact local companies that snow to ask if they would be able to add a senior to their winter route. While many are willing to do so, the cost of services exceeds the amount that the seniors are able to afford, sometimes as much as $200 a month for guaranteed snow removal.

We are asking the community to help with our Clear Steps for Seniors campaign. If you are interested in joining the team of volunteers helping neighbors, please call us. We’d love to match you and your shovel with a senior! Or if shoveling isn’t your thing, perhaps you could help raise funds to help cover the cost for a senior to have snow-free walkways and paths. Donations are fully tax-deductible and can be made online at EastSideElders.org, by clicking SUPPORT/DONATE or visit fundraising campaign site at GoFundMe.com/EastSideElders. You can also send a donation to East Side Elders at 463 Maria Avenue, Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55106. Staff can be reached at (651) 683-2236 or at info@EastSideElders.org.

Help support Clear Steps for Seniors today!

Dayton’s Bluff Public Library Offers “Blind Dates” with Books
Emily Ganze
Saint Paul Public Library

The Dayton’s Bluff branch of the Saint Paul Public Library invites patrons to check out an unknown gift-wrapped book as part of Winter Reads: Winter Reading for Adults, sponsored by the Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA). This annual event offers opportunities to read down fines, earn prizes, and discover new books. The “blind date” with a wrapped book runs from January 17 to February 28, 2017, at the Dayton’s Bluff Library, located at 645 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul.

To further intrigue patrons, the outside of the wrapped book will include the first line from the book’s text. Patrons will be asked to check out the book before removing the wrapping.

Winter Reads participants can also receive book lights for completing bingo cards with specific library-related activities. For every 15 minutes spent reading at the library, $1 will be taken off a patron’s fines.

The Dayton’s Bluff Library is one of 12 neighborhood branches of the Saint Paul Public Library, which also includes the George Latimer Central Library and the Bookmobile. The Saint Paul Public Library connects people in Saint Paul with the imperative and the joy of learning through a lifetime. Saint Paul residents can enjoy free access to technology, books, movies, music, classes, and more. Visit us in the neighborhood or online at splp.org.
The Dayton’s Bluff Library branch of the Saint Paul Public Library is hosting free English conversation classes for all who want to practice speaking the English language. The Conversation Circles are held on every Saturday at the Dayton’s Bluff Library, located at 645 East Seventh Street, from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. The Conversation Circles are facilitated by the Karen Organization of East Seventh Street, from Dayton’s Bluff library, located at 645 Dayton’s Bluff home! The Dayton’s Bluff Library is one of 12 neighborhood branches of the Saint Paul Public Library, which also includes the George Latimer Central Library and the Bookmobile. The Saint Paul Public Library connects people in Saint Paul with the imperative and the joy of learning through a lifetime. Saint Paul residents can enjoy free access to technology, books, movies, music, classes, and more. Visit us in the neighborhood or online at spp.org.

The 2017 Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour will be here soon and Dayton’s Bluff homes are needed to be featured on the tour. The tour will run from 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 volunteers. To sign up or for more information, please email karindupaul@comcast.net, or call 651-776-0550. The evening will also include a silent auction of original art and other items. CABARET tickets are just $25 in advance and $30 at the door. Get your tickets now and get the CABARET on your calendar! The theatre will come alive showcasing your talent with East Side roots. If you or someone you know would like to entertain at the CABARET, call Romi at 763-913-4382, or email romi@swedehollow.org.

The 5th Annual CABARET will be on Friday, March 3, at the Historic Mounds Theatre, located at 1029 Hudson Road, from 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. East Side talent is needed – singers, musicians, comedians, and dancers. This is a celebration of talent with East Side roots. If you or someone you know would like to entertain at the CABARET, call Romi at 763-913-4382, or email romi@swedehollow.org. The evening will also include a silent auction of original art and other items. CABARET tickets are just $25 in advance and $30 at the door. Get your tickets now and get the CABARET on your calendar! The theatre will come alive with an amazing variety of acts. Get your tickets today by contacting Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 or karin@swedehollow.org. Don’t miss this!

The CABARET is a fundraiser for the 8th Annual Art in the Hollow, the art festival in Swede Hollow Park happening on Saturday, June 3, 2017. The CABARET and Art in the Hollow are hosted by Friends of Swede Hollow, a nonprofit organization that works to restore and protect the park, celebrate Swede Hollow history, and host events honoring Swede Hollow Park and the neighborhood.

Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center is hosting a Youth CABARET on February 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the theater at 800 Conway. Winner will be featured at the CABARET at the Historic Mounds Theatre on March 3. Auditions for first-time and youth CABARET! talent will be on February 9, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center. Call Karin at 651-776-0550 for more information.

Karin DuPaul can be reached at karindupaul@comcast.net.

The Saint Paul City Council announced a program to recognize and celebrate businesses in Saint Paul. The newly launched annual Saint Paul Business Awards will honor businesses in seven categories, and winners will be based on nominations from the community. “Locally-owned, independent businesses are the economic engine that create good jobs and grow our tax base,” said Ward 7 Councilmember Jane Prince. “We’re taking this opportunity to recognize and celebrate the great businesses that make Saint Paul, Saint Paul — and to shout their praises from the rooftops!”

As part of the Open for Business initiative that began in 2016, this is another step in making Saint Paul an even better place to do business. “We believe that our success as a city depends on building our infrastructure to support the strongest possible business climate,” said Ward 1 Councilmember Rebecca Noecker.

“We know that new businesses are looking to operate within our city every day, including businesses operated by women and minorities.” said Ward 1 Councilmember Dai Thao. “We must recognize their success stories to support them.” Six of the winners will be selected by a committee of fellow business owners and one award, the People’s Choice Award, will be selected by the community at large. Nominations are currently being accepted and the deadline for nominations is January 31. Anyone can nominate a business, including a customer, neighbor, employee or owner. Awards will be presented on March 22 at the City Council meeting. Award Categories are as follows:

- Traditions Award - Honoring a business that has been active in Saint Paul for at least twenty years.
- New Kid on the Block Award - Honoring a business that has opened in Saint Paul within the last five years.
- Large Business Excellence Award - Honoring a business with at least 50 employees in Saint Paul that cares for its employees and the community.
- Small Business Excellence Award - Honoring a business with fewer than 50 employees in Saint Paul that cares for its employees and the community.
- Alice O’Brien Award - Honoring a woman-owned business that is committed to equity and empowerment.
- Reflecting St. Paul Award - Honoring a business owned by a person of color that is committed to equity and empowerment.
- People’s Choice Award - Honoring a business that is recognized for its excellence by St. Paul residents. Find more information and nominate a business today at www.stpaul.gov/bizwards.

Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff
The 4th Annual CABARET will be on Friday, March 3, at the Historic Mounds Theatre, located at 1029 Hudson Road, from 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. East Side talent is needed – singers, musicians, comedians, and dancers. This is a celebration of talent with East Side roots. If you or someone you know would like to entertain at the CABARET, call Romi at 763-913-4382, or email romi@swedehollow.org. The evening will also include a silent auction of original art and other items. CABARET tickets are just $25 in advance and $30 at the door. Get your tickets now and get the CABARET on your calendar! The theatre will come alive with an amazing variety of acts. Get your tickets today by contacting Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 or karin@swedehollow.org. Don’t miss this!

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Karin DuPaul can be reached at karindupaul@comcast.net.
Opinion: Ramsey County Commissioner Jim McDonough unfit for political seat

Yingya Vang
Racial Equity on Johnson and Ames Committee

Seniors and children risk their lives crossing Johnson Parkway and Ames Avenue East every day. Also known as County Road 64, this intersection is concerning, as fast-approaching motorists disregard the crosswalk. Community members presented petitions to Ramsey County Commissioner Jim McDonough for a traffic light, but for an entire year, no changes have been made.

The intersection is located in a neighborhood highly populated with people of color, immigrants, and refugees. Commissioner McDonough invested $12 million in the SouthWest Light Rail in Hopkins, an affluent, predominantly white area which he does not serve. He raised his salary of roughly $88,000 to $90,000, yet he dismisses the 1500+ petition signatures, large volumes of phone calls, and community forums supporting a traffic signal. Commissioner McDonough is out of touch with the constituents of color he swore to publicly serve, therefore he should not seek a future political seat.

Regards,
We are the Racial Equity on Johnson and Ames Committee

We are the Racial Equity on Johnson and Ames Committee, a community-led campaign advocating for social justice.

A public conversation:
Daniel Alexander Jones
Peter Rachleff
East Side Freedom Library

On Friday, February 10, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., the East Side Freedom Library is pleased to present a public conversation with acclaimed theater artist, Daniel Alexander Jones.

Daniel, now an Associate Professor of Theatre at Fordham University in New York City, is in town to bring his radiant solo performance piece, Black Light, to Penumbra Theatre, where he was once a company member.

Daniel has performed as his alter-ego, Jomama Jones, to wild acclaim across the country, most recently in the Under the Radar Festival in New York City.

The East Side Freedom Library is excited to have the opportunity to engage Daniel in a public conversation, exploring his artistic development, the issues and aesthetics which have concerned him, and his vision for the ways that art is central to our practices of citizenship. Please see his show and engage him in conversation. Black Light will be presented at Penumbra Theatre Thursday, February 9, through Sunday, February 12.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.penumbratheatre.org or call 651-224-3180.

Photo courtesy of Jane Prince

At the East Side Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon held on January 16, at Eastside Pizzeria, Anne DeJoy describes how much more Saint Paul can do to support business owners who want to locate and expand in Saint Paul, like Rich and Yolanda of Eastside Pizzeria, who grew their take-out business at Maryland and Earl to include the new sit-down restaurant at 1050 Payne Avenue.

Rep. Sheldon Johnson wants you to know about:
Visiting the State Capitol

Monday - Friday from 8:30 am to 5 pm
Saturday from 10 am to 3:00 pm
and Sunday from 1 to 4 pm

The Capitol restoration is nearly complete and the building is open to the public again! The State Capitol was built in 1905 and serves as the home of the Minnesota House and the Minnesota Senate.

Guided tours are offered every hour, on the hour, with a suggested donation of five dollars.

Where: State Capitol - 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Guided Tours: Meet every hour, on the hour, in Room 126

For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/capitol or call the Capitol at 651-296-2881

Paid for by the Volunteers for Johnson Committee; 2031 Howard St. S., St. Paul, MN 55119

State Representative SHELDON JOHNSON
259 State Office Building
100 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

(651) 296-4201
rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn
www.house.mn/678
www.sheldonjohnson.com
Chester Sheehan receives Roger Tetu Award

Steve Trimble
Forum Staff

Chester Sheehan received the award that is given each year by the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council to a neighborhood resident. It is named after Roger Tetu, who was killed by a hit and run driver in 2011 while picking up trash at the corner of Earl and Margaret. He was the kind of person who offered kindness without hesitation on a frequent basis.

So is Chester. He had no idea he had been nominated until he was invited to attend a meeting at the Council office. He grew up on a farm in Wisconsin where he learned the need to work with people. He was in the armed forces and was overseas from 1948 to 1974 and then moved into St. Paul where he worked at various bakeries.

For the last 10 years, Sheehan and his two dogs have lived in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood and helped people in various ways – snow shoveling, pushing cars stuck in the snow, helping folks trim trees, and keeping a watch over the neighborhood.

Chester, now 74 years old and a community elder, is definitely an unsung hero who doesn’t ask for credit but just does things out of a sense of human decency. The Forum had to talk him into letting our staff take his picture. When asked what he thinks neighbors should do, he responded “don’t expect medals but do things out of the kindness of a person’s heart.”

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

Dayton’s Bluff Hall of Fame revisited

Steve Trimble
Forum Historian

If you read the Forum in December 2007, you may remember that I wrote a piece about a virtual Hall of Fame for Dayton’s Bluff. If you never read it or can’t remember, you can look it up on the newspaper website by visiting daytonsbullfforum.org and scanning the 44 names that were included.

I’ve been running across people from the past who should be added to the “Hall,” and a few folks who are still living and have made important contributions to our neighborhood.

So far, there are 12 new entries to make, but there’s only room to list six here. Stay tuned for the March issue to see the rest. And, if any readers want to suggest someone to honor, send an email.

Solving “Song” Kong: Song Kong was a military policeman of the C.I.A. Secret Army in Laos that was led by Hmong General Vang Pao during the Vietnam War.

When the conflict ended in 1975, Song and his wife, Lee Her, fled into the jungle where they lived for two years, and then walked to Thailand, where they had to stay in the Ban Vinai refugee camp. They arrived in Minnesota in 1980. The couple rent ed on Maria Avenue with their five children and then moved on to 266 Clarence Street in the Five Corners area, and Walt lived there while playing for the Saints. He was called up by the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1954 and had two lackluster years before being traded in 1956 to the Chicago Cubs, where he flourished. In 1958, Moryn hit a career-best 26 home runs and was voted onto the All-Star team. He finished his career with St. Louis and Pittsburg and retired in 1961.

Jim Rock: Jim Rock is a teacher and writer of Dakota and German heritage, and as a result, speaks three languages. He was born at the old Mounds Park Hospital and grew up in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood.

Rock graduated from Harding and taught science at Winzaza (Wayzata) High School for three decades. Jim combines conventional education and training with years spent living and working with indigenous people in Minnesota, Central, and South America. He was trained in academic modern chrono and combined it with ancient Dakota beliefs of the land’s relationship with the sky. This perspective has shaped his understanding and teaching. Rock, a Dakota scholar and educator specializing in ethnoastronomy, has served as a consultant for NASA and as Program Director at the Planetarium at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. He is co-author of D.I.lakota Star Map Constellation Guide.

Emily Borth: Emily Borth was a long-time Girl Scout Troop Leader and supporter of her Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood.

Living at 1109 Burns Avenue, she became the leader of Girl Scout Troop #65 at Mounds Park Elementary in 1932. She and her husband Arthur had no children of their own, but Emily set out to nurture as many children as possible. She had a gift for being there for the girls. She organized field trips to businesses, fire stations, and a police department, where troop members were fingerprinted. They took train trips, made placements for hospitalized patients, and helped to collect dolls for less fortunate children. There were also trips to overnight cabins in Forest Lake.

For 32 years, Borth devoted much of her life to the ideals of Girl Scouting.

Éamon a Búrc: Éamon a Búrc, a seanchaí (an Irish storyteller), was born into an Irish-speaking household in Carna, County Galway, Ireland. The family emigrated to Graceville, Minnesota, with the help of Archbishop John Ireland.

After a brutal winter and an eviction in 1880, they resettled in “Commamara Patch,” a section of the city so named because many Irish immigrants lived along Phalen Creek south of East Seventh Street. Éamon and his father went to work for J. Hill’s Great Northern Railway. After losing a leg in a work-related accident, Éamon returned to Ireland and became a tailor.

In 1935, the Irish Folklore Commission recorded his repertoire of legends and folk poetry and the transcription filled more than 2,000 pages. According to one source, Búrc “was perhaps the finest storyteller collected from in the Twentieth Century.”

Emily Welch: Emily Welch married Éamon a Búrc, and Antoinette Carbone, who came to St. Paul from Italy, started a small grocery/confection shop with “near beer” during Prohibition. When her husband died in 1954 Antoinette, living at 698 East Fourth Street, gathered traditional recipes from the south of Italy and with the help of her children, opened what is considered to be St. Paul’s first pizzeria at 680 East Seventh Street.

Nana died in 1974, but her children took over and the business prospered and expanded. Carbone’s is still in family hands and remains a chain with thirty locations in Minnesota and a few in Wisconsin and Montana.

Steve Trimble can be reached at editor@daytonsbuff.org.
Welcome to STEP Academy

Mark Gallagher
Associate Editor

For the past six months, STEP Academy has been establishing itself as one of the newest members of the Dayton’s Bluff community. For five years before coming to Dayton’s Bluff, STEP Academy called Inver Grove Heights its home. Now that it is settling into a new community, STEP Academy is still trying to give students a better chance at education, which will give those students a better chance to succeed at life.

The acronym STEP refers to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education. “STEP Academy is a charter school — we focus on STEM skills,” said Traci Moore, the Academic Dean at STEP Academy. “It was started by a group of educators and some parents who had a vision for making a difference in education. Our student body is primarily first-generation East African students, and we really embrace the community that comes into our school.

“This is a very safe place for them. Many of the families are poverty level, so our vision is to get our students to a point where they can go to Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) classes and college classes as juniors and seniors. It saves families college education costs because we have compulsory education through 12th grade, so the families don’t have to pay for education costs during the 11th and 12th grade years. Students get half of their four-year degree done in two years, so they only have to pay two years out of pocket.”

STEP Academy was started as a charter school for grades six through 12, and it was logical to have just one building. “The group was originally in Inver Grove Heights leasing a school building,” Moore said. “We were running out of space and wanted to expand, so we started looking for another option for building space. We found this space open when the Cities Academy was moving to a new building, and this space matched what our needs were — it just worked out.”

The school has a total of 31 teachers and educational assistants, and in the middle school and high school there are 280 students but could grow to 500. “We have about 110 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders,” Moore said, “and as we get into the higher grades, we have 39 and 34 students for 11th and 12th grades respectively. We have smaller classes in 11th and 12th grades because a lot of our students do PSEO, and most of those students are not on site with us, but they’re still counted as students as they are off going to college.”

STEP Academy offers two primary things that other middle schools, high schools, or even other charter schools don’t offer: One of them is a STEM focus. “We do not have actual art classes like drawing and painting or things like that,” Moore said. “All of our art electives are taught through STEM. We have a teacher who teaches digital design and a lot of it is engineering based. Students learn how to design things that take engineering skills, and they also do a lot of things online. Our new 3D printer arrived a few weeks ago; that adds another dimension to our STEM offerings.

“The students also do a lot of coding, so they will program and build things similar to electronic breadboards. The next quarter will be based on electronic storytelling and video games, so they will be looking at how programming plays a role in the actual design process.”

Students can receive one-on-one help if they are having trouble with a subject, and there are a couple of different options to access that help. “We have a very robust intervention program.” Moore said, “We look at student’s assessments and students receive extra help based on their individual needs.

“After school we have a partnership with Above and Beyond Tutoring and they have academic coaches who work with students and families. They will talk to the family, go to conferences with the family, and also build relationships with our teachers, so they can talk to the teacher about how the student is doing to open up that communication.”

STEP Academy has a “Reflection Room” and also a Dean of Students who is in charge of discipline and works with the students to handle their behavior issues. “The school uses a Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support model, which is similar to a restorative justice program where they talk to the kids. “It’s all about teaching students what the behavior expectation is,” Moore said, “and having them practice that expectation to have procedure in place for the way they need to behave.”

There is a sports program at STEP Academy that currently has intramural basketball for boys and girls, but they are in the process of putting together a competitive sports program for next year. “We are actually looking at basketball and volleyball just because we have space constraints,” Moore said. “We don’t have a football or soccer field outside to put our kids on, so we have to have to be logical about what we can implement.”

Next year the school is expanding to house kindergarten through twelfth grade by adding one class of each elementary grade. This expansion has been a goal of the school almost since its inception due to parent requests to have all of their children in one school. STEP Academy’s address is 835 5th St. E. in St. Paul, and their phone number is 651-289-6120. “We are very proud of the program that we are building,” Moore said, “and we have a great hope for the future with our expansion.”

Mark Gallagher is the associate editor of the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum and a graduate of Metropolitan State University. Mark can be reached at refi@daytonsbuffl.org.

East Side Eating – Trimble’s Taste Trek

Forum contributor Steve Trimble has set out to eat at every local-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 daytonsbuffl.org: click on “East Side Eating” at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at editor@daytonsbuffl.org.

Red Wok Sushi
1626 White Bear Avenue North
(651) 797-4251

Sunday-Thurs (lunch): 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Sunday-Thurs (dinner): 4:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Friday-Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
www.redwoksushi.com

Described as sort of an Asian fusion of Chinese, Japanese, Thai, and sushi bar, Red Wok Sushi is one of the newer dining spots in the neighborhood. I got to the large space (formerly a Mongolian buffet) around 6:30 p.m. I found red walls and some Asian wall art in the space containing six tables seating four people, three booths, and eight tables for groups of eight. It was clean and nicely lighted. I was a little surprised when I heard music from KDWB radio, but later there were some Asian tunes.

If you want to start with something green, you might try the seaweed salad. There are also lots of hot dishes made in a wok such as fried rice, pad see (Thai wide noodles) and Gang Ku Wan chicken (with green curry and vegetables). There is also sensai (squid and vegetables). Given the two owners’ Hmong background, there was at least an offering of laab, either chicken or beef.

Some of the drinks are sodas, tea, juice, milk, and Ramune – a Japanese soda. There is beer; Karin, Asahi, and others, as well as a full liquor bar in the back with, among other items, samurai gin, red sushi apple martinis, and seven different sakes.

There are some desserts such as mochi ice cream, rice cake, and green tea ice cream. There is a kid’s menu with mac and cheese, crab sticks, and pho.

I decided to have sweet and sour chicken which came with salad, miso soup, and rice. Given the name of the place, I thought I should have some sushi so I chose some kanikama (crab sticks). It took extra time, but that’s because it’s made from scratch and is quite fresh.

I had never heard of Lucky Buddha Beer, so I ordered one. It came in a green bottle with a raised figure of its namesake. I was able to talk with Futchy (Fujii) Ly, who, along with his Hmong brother Teng (Tim), started the restaurant. They were both born in France and learned about sushi at the Japanese steak house Ichiban and elsewhere.

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

A sampling of raw fish to be expertly prepared into sushi and other seafood fare at Red Wok Sushi.
**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 have been our Friend in the past, please renew your membership with a donation in 2017.

Our goal for the year is $2,000; as of this printing we have raised $410.00 – 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.

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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**Many thanks to our 2017 donors:**

Carol Carey - Jean Comstock - John Davidsen - Eric Foster
Audary Harken - Robert & Judy Voeger Jones - Justin S. Latt
Marilyn McGriff - Carol Swanson - Marise Widmer

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**Happenings at home**

Recording artist and Dayton's Bluff resident Michelle Kaye, performed a sampling of her original music at the Mounds Park United Methodist Church Community Friendship Gathering, held on November 16, 2016.

Members of the Eastside Storm Volleyball Club sell concessions at Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center during youth basketball games on January 7. The Storm is a community-based, competitive volleyball program offered to girls ages 10-18. They practice at Harding High School.

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**… and away!**

Gary Brown catches up on the neighborhood news before boarding a flight from Kwait home to Dayton's Bluff.

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.

“...and away!” exclaimed Gary Brown, who took his copy of the Forum along while visiting the Alafoss wool shop in Iceland. The black and white of newsprint doesn’t do this photo justice. Check it out in color at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org.

Missing delivery?

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

If you do not live within the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood but enjoy reading the Forum, you can pick up a copy at many neighborhood locations, including the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office at 804 Margaret Street, or email editor@daytonsbluff.org to have the Forum mailed to you for a yearly fee of $15.

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**Recording artist Michelle Kaye performs for Dayton’s Bluff residents**

Photo courtesy of Michelle Kaye

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**Happenings at home**

Photo courtesy of Michelle Kaye

Recording artist and Dayton's Bluff resident Michelle Kaye performs for Dayton’s Bluff residents.