A sculpture grows in Dayton's Bluff

Greg Cosimini
Forum Staff

The Twin Cities has a number of sculpture gardens and although it doesn't receive as much publicity as the others, one of them is right here in Dayton's Bluff. It is located in the Education Hub of the Beacon Bluff Business Center on the north side of East 7th Street at the intersection of Minnehaha Avenue. This is part of the old 3M site, a little west of the East Side Family Clinic and south of the Archdiocese headquarters in former 3M Building 21.

The sculpture located nearest to 7th Street is also the most imposing. It is a 22-foot tall pyramidal structure called The Scope. Created by artist Phillip Blackburn, The Scope was dedicated on June 20, 2015. It can best be described as a giant wind-powered kaleidoscope which is viewed by standing beneath it and looking straight up.

The Scope is built partly from 3M-related materials, either salvaged from Building 42 which once occupied the area, such as the bricks used at its base, or from new 3M products such as the dichroic glass (glass that reflects different color light in different ways) used for lenses that spin above the kaleidoscope. Other materials include Corten steel, mirrored stainless steel, taconite, quartzite, rubber porous paving, and granite.

A second sculpture is located near the base of The Scope. It was also created by Blackburn and is a stainless steel bench made from staircase railings salvaged from Building 42.

The Scope and bench were projects of the East Side Arts Council and the Saint Paul Port Authority with additional funding from the McKnight Foundation and a Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC) Next Step grant.

The Scope is only one of the pieces of art in this sculpture garden. Others will be covered in future articles.

Greg Cosimini can be reached at editor@daytonsbluff.org.

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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. Send your guess to editor@daytonsbluff.org. The first correct entry will win a great prize from a local business!
Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike

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, September 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. 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 Thursday, September 7, at 6:30 p.m. Please note that meetings are now on Thursday. Email karin@swede hollow.org or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

Dayton's Bluff Forum Board Meeting

The Forum is seeking help with writing, editing, and ad sales. Join us at our next meeting on Tuesday, September 5, at 1:00 p.m., at Swede Hollow Cafe (725 E. 7th Street). Contact 651-776-0550 or email editor@downtownbluff.org for more information.

Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Saint Paul 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.

The next meetings are on Wednesday, September 20, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Meetings are intended as a time to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

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

¿Necesita más comida saludable para la familia? El programa SNAP puede ayudar. SNAP proporciona fondos para alimentos que beneficien a familias de escasos recursos. Además no es ciudadano, si tiene hijos nacidos en este país ellos podrían calificar. Participar en el programa SNAP no afectará su estatus migratorio.

¡Llama a CLUES para saber si califica! 612-746-3500. Nuestro personal bilingüe puede facilitar el proceso para usted y su familia.

Twin Cities Mobile Market

The Twin Cities Mobile Market is a grocery store on wheels that brings affordable, healthy food directly into under-served neighborhoods. The Mobile Market stops at Parkway Gardens Apartments located at 4020 University Avenue South on Wednesdays, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

September at the Dayton's Bluff Library

The following events will be held at the Dayton’s Bluff library, 645 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul:

Thursday, August 31, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., the path visits 31 unique trees, all marked, including a beautiful catalpa, a magnificent gingko, and a towering redbud. If you have children, they are often asked to bring in leaves of different trees for school or the scouts. There is even a map of the Tree Trek you can download and print. Google “Indian Mounds Park Tree Trek.”

Correction

As an article on page two of the August Forum was taken from a press release provided by Circus Juventas, featured a photo incorrectly identified as Mariana Rodriguez. We regret the error.

Business Classes

The Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class helps startup and young businesses on the East Side.

September at the East Side Freedom Library

Tuesday, September 5, at 7:00 p.m., the ESFL invites you to enjoy a free screening of the film Photo Trickery I. This 2015 documentary provides remarkable archival images interwoven with narratives and analysis provided by an array of contemporary labor historians. This film focuses on the role of race, ethnicity, and gender have been used to divide and exploit the American working class.

Saturday, September 9, Kids Rising Story Hour. Agitate the next generation of leaders by engaging them in stories more meaningful than the ones they typically encounter at story time—stories with social justice messages that are intentionally inclusive of writers and themes from diverse and under-represented communities.

Tuesday, September 19, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Neighbors Meet Neighbors. The Karen Community! Part of a series of forums centered around the stories and experiences of recent immigrants to the East Side.

September, September 27, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Working on the Railroad: An In-person Oral History. St. Paul grew with the country’s railroad system. What has it been like to work on the railroad? What roles have unions played in creating a safer workplace environment and a decent living for railroad workers?

George Joyce, who worked more than 37 years as a trainman and switchman on the BN, BNSF, and Dentrex systems, and served as president and local chair of United Transportation Union Local 1000, will be interviewed by the ESFL’s Peter Rackliff. Free and open to all.

The East Side Freedom Library is located at 1150 Greenbrier Street. Call 651-230-3294, email info@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org, or visit eastsidefreedomlibrary.org for details on these and other upcoming events as they become available.

Picnic Operetta in Swede Hollow Park

Don’t miss this year's Picnic Operetta in Swede Hollow Park! Bring your own blanket and a picnic – entertainment will be provided! See you on Sunday, September 24, beginning at 4:00 p.m. For more information call Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550.

Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery

Beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, September 29, in Swede Hollow Park. For more information call Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550.

Take a Tree Trek!

Fall is a great time to take a stroll in Indian Mounds Park. Cultivate the arborist in you and your family by walking the Indian Mounds Park Tree Trek.

The path visits 31 unique trees, all marked, including a beautiful catalpa, a magnificent gingko, and a towering redbud. If you have children, they are often asked to bring in leaves of different trees for school or the scouts. There is even a map of the Tree Trek you can download and print. Google “Indian Mounds Park Tree Trek.”

Be a tourist in your own city

Take a free Saint Paul walking tour

Through September, Landmark Center’s guides will lead three different walking tours of Saint Paul.

The second Wednesday of the month, the Rice Park tour departs from Landmark Center’s Visitor Information Desk. The tour circles one of Saint Paul’s most iconic parks, and stops in the surrounding buildings.

The third Wednesday of the month, the Heart of the City tour departs from inside Landmark Center’s 6th Street entrance. This tour “wheels down” St. Peter Street, pointing out some of the most famous landmarks and influential buildings in downtown Saint Paul, including the Hamm Building and Mickey’s Diner.

Finally, the Great River tour begins at Upper Landing Park and walks along the mighty Mississippi. This tour runs the fourth Wednesday of the month.

All tours are FREE, operate through September, and begin at 10:00 a.m. Reservations are required. Call 651-292-3063 or visit www.landmarkcen ter.org/visit/walkingtours.html.
Mounds Park United Methodist Church

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is a multigenerational neighborhood congregation located at 1049 Euclid Street in Dayton’s Bluff. Sunday worship begins at 10:30 a.m.

Starting in September: After school programming for area youth, sponsored by the McVey Youth Partnership of Hamline University is an after school program for community youth grades 5-12, held at Mounds Park UMC on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. during the school year. Students will participate in environmental classes, Girl Scouts, field trips, and receive homework help and support in learning English. Contact Jane Krentz (612-581-6978) for more information.

Sunday, September 3: Join the Multi-Generational Sunday School Class for their first class of the school year! Class meets every Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the lounge of the church and is led by two congregation members. This class follows an adult curriculum and has a participant age range of 80 years!

Sunday, September 10: Preschool Sunday School, Children’s Sunday School, and Youth Sunday School Classes will start during worship. Every Sunday, children will begin in the sanctuary with their families, then head to age-appropriate classrooms for further discussion. Each month will focus on a Christian milestone. Kids will be given the opportunity to sign up to light the candles each service! Join us to see what fun we have in store for the Sunday School Year!

Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.: Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) Support Group Meetings. PAL is a place where parents with a child addicted to drugs and/or alcohol can find hope in a support group. Founded in 2006 by Michael Speakman, LISAC, PAL has recently become incorporated as a Christian run non-profit. PAL meetings are open to anyone of any faith or background, as the primary goal is to provide hope through education and support for parents dealing with addicted loved ones. Meetings are led by a trained facilitator. This is an open group to persons 18 years and older. Stop by any Tuesday, ring the doorbell on the Euclid Entrance, and you’ll be welcomed in!

Wednesday, September 27, beginning at noon: Community Friendship Gathering Meal and Program. Join Mounds Park UMC on the last Wednesday of each month for a hot meal and entertainment. Hot lunch of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, veggie salad, rolls and dessert will be served at noon. A program featuring Janet Egge and Nancy Hanks on vocals, piano, and violin will immediately follow lunch.

East Side Freedom Library receives Metropolitan Regional Arts Council 2017 Arts Achievement Award

Metropolitan Regional Arts Council

At the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC) Annual Boards Meeting, the MRAC Board of Directors announced and presented the 2017 Arts Achievement Awards. This year, they honored the East Side Freedom Library and Minhua Chorus; each group has been given a cash award of $5,000 for their outstanding achievements and commitment to the arts in MRAC’s seven-county region.

Located in Saint Paul’s Payne-Phalen neighborhood in a re-purposed Carnegie Library building, the East Side Freedom Library opened in June 2014, and has been engaging community through theater performances, readings, community events, lectures, arts, and activities ever since. In addition to their non-circulating research collections on the history of labor, immigration, and diverse Americans, the East Side Freedom Library is the new permanent home for the Hmong Archives. The MRAC board was impressed with the large number of collaborations with local arts organizations, the dedication to culture and the arts for residents of the East Side of Saint Paul, and the innovative programming they have embraced in a short time.

With over 75 chorus members, Minhua Chorus is the largest and longest running Chinese-American choir in Minnesota. Founded in 1987, the choir performs across the metro area each year, including a large annual production and smaller concerts that reach thousands of audience members annually. Founded in 1991, Minhua Chorus has presented over 100 concerts and brought numerous guest artists from China to enrich the artistic landscape of Minnesota. The MRAC board was impressed with Minhua Chorus’ commitment to partnerships, dedication to artistic excellence, and the numerous ways they have enriched the artistic landscape in the Twin Cities Metro area.

Bubblicious on the Bluff

Bubblicious is one of the pieces of public art in the Beacon Bluff Education Hub, located in the Beacon Bluff Business Center on the north side of E. 7th Street.

Greg Cosimini

Bubblicious was commissioned by the East Side Arts Council and the Saint Paul Port Authority and funded by the McKnight Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts Fast Track. Greg Cosimini can be reached at editor@daytonbluff.org.

Greg Cosimini
President “Ginny” Arthur of Metropolitan State University

Mark Gallagher  Forum Staff

President of Metropolitan State University, Virginia “Ginny” Arthur, always wanted to be — not president of a university but the President of the United States. President Arthur’s mom was politically involved at the local level and had held elected office. They spent a lot of time around politicians, so having the dream of being the president didn’t seem out of place to her.

“I remember the politicians, who were mostly men, because my mother dragged me to all those meetings,” Arthur said. “They would all ask, ‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’ I would say, ‘I’m going to be the first woman president.’ I wish my parents knew I became president of a university because I would always say that I would become president someday.

Arthur grew up in upstate New York and thought the pathway to a political career was to become a lawyer.

“I’m a first generation college student who didn’t know a lot about the available options for college,” she said, “so I just entered college thinking my ultimate goal was to go to law school, which I did.” Arthur got a position with a large accounting firm as a CPA then later worked in business planning, corporate law, and employment law.

Arthur’s career path was moving in the direction of corporate law. After working for an accounting firm and a law firm, she thought to herself that it wasn’t what she had hoped it would be.

“I didn’t feel satisfied,” Arthur said. “So I went to see a career counselor, and after our second meeting she said to me, ‘I think you’re an educator; it’s really what your calling is.’”

Arthur rejected the idea of becoming a teacher because when she was growing up that was one of the jobs people said a girl could do — a teacher or a nurse. Besides, she wanted to be President of the United States. Then the career counselor said, “How about teaching in college?”

“The thought had never occurred to me that it wasn’t so much about being female,” Arthur said, “but as a first generation college student, I hadn’t even realized it was a possible career option. Anyway, I made a plan; I decided to try out teaching. I originally started out at the College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University on a one-year term contract. At the end of that year they asked me to stay — and I did — for 24 years.

“What moved me into becoming an administrator was the experience I have of being on the Board of Trustees. At that time, I was chairing the faculty and was a faculty member of the Board of Trustees.

At the end of a two-year term, the chair of the board met Arthur for lunch one day and said, “You are really good at this and should really think about looking to become an administrator. You have potential.”

“I was kind of unsure about it,” Arthur said, “but she donated enough money to the university for me to participate in a summer program for women who might be considering administrative roles.”

The mission of Metropolitan State University drew Arthur to this urban university. “I firmly believe higher education is a force for good that really improves people’s lives,” Arthur said. “It gives them the opportunity to have meaningful work and to have an economic status that allows them to provide for their family.

“I think higher education enriches people’s understanding of the importance of being engaged in their community, getting them active in their community, and helping them to enjoy all that life offers whether it’s art, theater, music, or being able to read and engage with other people and discuss important issues. Metropolitan State University provides access to higher education for individuals that most other higher education institutions don’t serve well.”

Graduation is a prime example of that. “We have a lot of students that come from immigrant communities or from lower socio-economic status,” she said. “There are adults who weren’t able to go to college when they graduated from high school. I’ve had students, who, when I shake their hand on graduation night, tell me that they’re 63, and they have just finished their bachelor’s degree. For me, it’s just graduation — I just love it! I love seeing the diversity in our students in every single way.”

In her first year as president of Metropolitan State University, President Arthur has already seen a change in the social climate on campus — a more positive feeling. She feels that there is an increased level of trust with the bargaining units — unions of various professionals and workers who keep the university operating at peak efficiency.

Enrollment and budget are among the many challenges President Arthur is dealing with. “Metropolitan State University is doing okay in terms of maintaining its enrollment,” Arthur said, “but if you have read anything about what is happening in higher education, enrollment is dropping across our system. Most of our students are transfer students from two-year colleges, and their enrollment is down pretty significantly. If their enrollment goes down, that’s likely to have an impact on us.

“So, we need to figure out how to maintain our enrollment, and, of course, state support has dropped for higher education. We can’t always raise tuition, but we were allowed and did raise tuition 4 percent for this upcoming academic year (2017-18). Tuition is frozen for 2018-19.

“Even when we can raise tuition, we’re very sensti-
Trash talk from your city councilmember

Jane Prince
Ward 7 City Council

Since becoming your city councilmember last year, the subject of Organized Trash Collection has generated a tremendous response from Eastsiders. Everyone generates trash – some more than others – and we all have to find a way to get rid of it.

Saint Paul property owners are required by ordinance to contract with a private hauler to have their trash removed. With 15 haulers providing service in Saint Paul – small and family-owned local businesses to mega multinational corporations – there are dozens of trucks crisscrossing our city to serve individual households.

This has resulted in lots of complaints about noise, and conflicts with so many trucks serving the same streets and alleys.

But that isn’t the only problem with our private hauler system. While the city requires that we all have trash service, Saint Paul has no way to confirm those arrangements or to enforce the failure of property owners to contract for service. We know that this failure leads to illegal dumping in our alleys, parks and vacant properties – including large items like couches, TV sets, mattresses and tires.

Early in 2016, the City launched a process to study what it would take to bring all the current haulers together to coordinate consistent, high-quality service to every 1-4 unit residential property. The idea is to have each hauler serve a segment of the city, corresponding to the number of households it serves, enuring that each street and alley would have a single hauler – making it easier to ensure that every household is served.

All 15 haulers, coming together to negotiate as a single entity, did just that. In July they presented a proposal that reflects the feedback we received from public input. Their terms reflect the feedback I’ve gotten from people who have contacted me – you value having a direct relationship with your hauler – and that’s what they are proposing. Each hauler will serve a neighborhood, will bill customers directly and provide direct customer service. If you can’t wheel your cart to the street due to age or disability, the haulers will continue to collect the cart. Under the base price, haulers will remove three bulky items per year, from appliances to mattresses and tires. And a holiday will be collected at no cost.

Creating living wage jobs in this citywide endeavor was a goal of policymakers, and the haulers agree, offering to guarantee living wages for drivers and workers.

From an environmental standpoint, all haulers have agreed to use Ramsey County’s highly energy efficient and clean trash recycling system. Many of the haulers have submitted letters stating that creating an environmental impact harmful to our state and region.

You can view the hauler’s proposed monthly rates at www.stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/garbage/or- ganized-trash-collection, and then click on “Current Proposal from Haulers.”

What we learned when we published these rates is that rates reflect the terms are both high and lower than what you currently pay. From seniors and others on fixed incomes, we’ve heard that many of them have been able to negotiate even lower rates than these, and special arrangements like shared service or on-call pick up. For those of you who produce very little trash, the city needs to find a way to provide rates that reward your good habits.

An additional cost of organized hauling is the city’s estimated $52 per year added to your property tax to cover program administration and the cost of new carts. Eastsiders have told me this city charge is unreasonably high.

As a result, my city council colleagues and I have asked city finance staff and the haulers to sharpen their pencils: for the city to find a way to lower the administrative costs, and for haulers to lower the price of small and every other way we can. Through the process of writing this, both parties have agreed to do their best.

Finally, negligently independent haulers have implored us to pass: KEEP THE CITY OUT OF BUSINESS! I know that lots of our neighbors – maybe you – don’t appreciate any more government intervention – especially in your relationship with your private trash hauler.

To these neighbors, I want to point out that Saint Paul is one of the only remaining large cities in America without coordinated trash collection. A city of our size cannot continue to leave property owners to their own devices, which is why the Saint Paul city council has committed to finding a solution to our city’s nearly $300K per year. Under the city of Minneapolis coordinated collection system, the cost of illegal dumping is a mere $13K per year. The city and the hauler system need to arrive at a plan that will come back to the city council for final contract approval this fall. I want to hear what’s best for you in order to best serve our city. Please call me anytime to talk a little trash – at 651-266-8670 or ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

I feel like giving up sometimes. How many more times do I break up a physical or political fight in the street? Ignore the loud “no!” of the church across the street, the weep, or of the neighbor next door? Can I get a kid steals a bike out of a neighborhood yard, a threat to ‘cap’ an adult; do I stop caring about cars running, hopped into car #2 with the stranger who stops to clean out his car, dump all his fast food trash onto our street and drives away? The ‘adults’ who drop their panties, open their flies to pee and defecate on our boulevards? And it is getting worse. These quality of life indignities eat at a person’s sanity...but I am digressing.

How tied are officers’ hands? As of this writing, I didn’t get an answer when I called the Eastern District office (someone would call me), and I didn’t get an answer at the monthly community/police meeting. There was talk about compiling and tracking information; continuing calls to Ramsey County Dispatch; and not being able to move simply on assumptions of the caller; I know all that. But who is tying the hands, what policies are in effect, and how is it affecting law enforcement? When hands of the law are tied and a resident feels, what are our options? Does the system simply stop working and homeless people hung up? Damn right, I feel frustrated! I certainly can’t be the only one.

Sage Holben can be reached at editor@dayton bluff.org.

A view from our porch

Pat Prinsenvale Sage Glissendorf Special to the Forum

This letter is being offered in response to an article which appeared in the July 2017 edition of the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum, written by Forum staff member, Sage Holben.

Apparently, Ms. Holben was not too excited to have the Cambric built in her neighborhood. We are responding on behalf of the majority of residents at the Cambric Senior Apartments. We understand the reality of community living, Ms. Holben clearly misrepresented the majority of our neighbors by only speaking for a disgruntled few. There were many inconsistencies and untruths about certain issues and in the future we invite Ms. Holben to hear our opinion before publishing such a derogatory article about us and our home.

Ms. Holden discussed the need for on-site staff during the evenings and weekends. The Cambric is not a nursing home but rather an independent living residence. If residents command the presence of staff for assistance, perhaps independent living is not suited for them.

Next, frankly, it is no one’s business the Cambric is a home for seniors in need of assistance or services. This is a personal decision by the elders to enter this lifestyle. How tied are officers’ hands? As of this writing, I didn’t get an answer when I called the Eastern District office (someone would call me), and I didn’t get an answer at the monthly community/police meeting. There was talk about compiling and tracking information; continuing calls to Ramsey County Dispatch; and not being able to move simply on assumptions of the caller; I know all that. But who is tying the hands, what policies are in effect, and how is it affecting law enforcement? When hands of the law are tied and a resident feels, what are our options? Does the system simply stop working and homeless people hung up? Damn right, I feel frustrated! I certainly can’t be the only one.

Sage Holben can be reached at editor@daytonbluff.org.

In response to “Listening House” opinion pieces published in the August Forum, “I’ve been collecting signatures of neighbors who are in favor of the relocation of Listening House,” said Mandy Okunek. Pictured above is the “Google Map I created of the 111 signatures I’ve received from neighbors so far.” Okunek continues, “I think the photo makes a really important point that the neighbors who live on or near Swede Hollow Park are not in favor of Listening House continuing their services at their current location of 464 Maria Avenue.”

View from my porch: Our hands are tied

Sage Holben
Forum Staff

“Our hands are tied,” the responding officer informed me. He suggested I contact my city council person and the mayoral candidate whose election sign I displayed in my window. I had called 911 because I saw the Cadillac bust out the street from the west, make a left turn, and park on the cross street. After a few seconds, a second car pulled up across the street from the Cadillac. The Cadillac driver got out of his car, left it running, hopped into car #2 with the driver. Seeing the Cadillac left running and empty, I called the police. About nine minutes later, the pickup car returned, dropping off the Cadillac driver who got into his car and drove away.

The officer arrived, took the information, looked at my photos of the individual, and said, “Our hands are tied.” The officer indicated that going after this person would likely result in an accusation of profiling. I could understand that, and the history behind it, but I wondered then what the relationship is between the mayor’s office, the city council, and the police. How much is politically based, the tensions between elected officials and law enforcement; and then citizens.

Do citizens give up, too?
Opinion: Listening House will improve Dayton’s Bluff
Cassandra Moe Special to the Forum

Good thing or bad thing: A non-profit organization that serves the needs of the community, including people without neighborhood, moves into your neighborhood.

Some people say bad thing! They say it attracts trouble people people who play guitars, litter, shout, drink alcohol, fight, urinate in public, sleep in their cars, and inject drugs intravenously with needles. The solution is to get rid of “those people,” and the way to do that is to get rid of the attracting organization. They say this neighborhood has its own problems, it doesn’t need any more. This neighborhood cannot absorb the costs of these “extra” needy people — we have needy people who live here right now, and it’s all we can do to support them.

I say this is a GOOD THING! People in our community can benefit from the services of this organization. People can be connected with access to housing, jobs, food, health, body, soul, community, and resources to this public health crisis. The organization provides community a place to go, to connect, to find support, get a private bathroom, have a resume reviewed. When these connections are made, then people who are in distress – chronic or acute, long-term or transitional or permanent – have a better chance at finding their way out of that distress. And our community gets stronger because the individuals who make up that community can live better for themselves and their families.

In Dayton’s Bluff, this is not a hypothetical situation. We are presently debating the merits of Listening House staying in our community. Has Listening House created (since opening in June) a homeless helicopter vortex that will never be solved? Bluff into other Bluff and crash our fragile housing market? Or has it begun addressing difficult issues that have existed in our community for a long time, and will it say all in doing so, improve the neighborhood?

People who lived without housing on the margins and fringes of Dayton’s Bluff before Listening House — in their cars, in tents, in the woods, sometimes with the assistance of First Lutheran Church for a few rainy nights, sometimes at the Motel 6 on White Bear Avenue when they can scrape together $20 for a room. They will continue to do so even if Listening House is forced out. Some Listening House visitors have felt “disposed of” by society, but Listening House workers have worked to reverse that process of that disposal. Listening House works toward making our community a better place to live, to rebranding the TIRE community, including those without housing. Sweeping homelessness and all of its associated issues under the rug as we move through an era of escalating housing challenges will hurt Dayton’s Bluff in the long run. The quick fix of eliminating Listening House will not work, Dayton’s Bluff, in hopes that this will push the homeless population to some other location, is not only heartless, it is also foolish.

Opinion: Motivated by Mission
Chelsee DeArmound Special to the Forum

I would like to offer a counterview to the opinions expressed about First Lutheran Church (FLC) as a “slumlord” in the August issue of the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum.
Besides its most recent tenant, the Listening House, the church hosts many organizations that enrich my community, like Urban Roots, East Side Elders, Young Artists Initiative, Fire on the Bluff, Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAH), and others.

First Lutheran Church has been the recipient of many neighborhood awards for its “Love Grows Here” Wellness Center, including Metropolitan State University Presidents’ Community Partner Award for “a community-based organization that has enhanced the quality of life in the community in meaningful and measurable ways.” Lutheran Social Services “Servant of Christ” award for “Expressing the love of Christ through service and making your community a better place to live.” Lutheran Social Services “Community Hero” award for “your years of steadfast and passionate advocacy for dignity, racial and social justice for all.”

Earlier this year, Dayton’s Bluff Community Council added FLC to the Neighborhood Honor Roll for “improv[m]ing the community of St. Paul by providing wellness checks, health education, referrals to health providers and pastoral support through a collaboration of providers.”

I was present at the meeting where FLC’s pastor referred to her grandmother living in Swede Hollow in the early 1900s. Many East St. Paul families were descendants of the immigrant families who settled in the hollow. There is no shame in this. In fact, Friends of Swede Hollow hosted an annual “Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery” where people who still remember living in the hollow share and celebrate their stories. I understood the point of the pastor’s reference to her grandmother as being that her roots in this community go back generations.

Both opinion pieces suggested that FLC kept the news about the Listening House’s arrival a secret from the neighbors. I have not been a part of that discussion for many years. When Listening House approached First Lutheran about partnering, it was a lawyer away from the Church Council who thoroughly discussed, dissected, and deliberated over the proposal. We sought counsel and approval from the congregation. When the Block Nurse program, Ministering Angels, and a variety of other organizations serve the community. We share our space with many others: El Salvadorian youth, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Hmong Elders, Young Artists Initiative, Elder Café, Head Start, East Side Market, Alcoholics Anonymous, and so many more than I keep track of.

I want to thank whoever came up with the headline, “Slumlords for Jesus” (Dayton’s Bluff District Forum, August 2017) — I am proud to be that Slumlord for Jesus. I wish more of my neighbors would join me, and maybe there would be fewer people homeless.

Opinion: Re: “Slumlords for Jesus”
Wade ‘Chip’ Morn Special to the Forum

Most mornings for the past 16 years, I’ve walked my dogs in my neighborhood in Indian Mounds Park, and elsewhere. I have worked as an engineer for a local switching railroad, also for the past 16 years. I have observed homeless people walking on the job, along the railroad tracks all over the Twin Cities. In the past five years, I have observed an increase in the number of people in these situations. I feel a moral obligation to help these people in need.

When my family sought out a place of worship a few years ago, we found a home at First Lutheran Church. You may notice when you walk by our church that there is a red, airport-like text: ALL ARE WELCOME. This church lives this phrase in an ethic called Radical Hospitality. I am proud to be a congregant, proud of the way this church lives out its mission, and proud of the difficult and humbling work that this church has fearlessly embraced since its founding in 1854.

I am also proud to serve on the church council since 2013, including a couple of years as president. Members of the church and the church council have ongoing discussions about how to serve the community — who is the community? What are the needs? What issues are we best suited to address? How can we address these issues? Creating a safe space within our sanctuary building (built at this location 100 years ago in 1917) to reach out to and serve our neighbors is one population has been part of that discussion for many years.

When Listening House approached First Lutheran about partnering, it was a lawyer away from the Church Council who thoroughly discussed, dissected, and deliberated over the proposal. We sought counsel and approval from the congregation. We moved forward after involving Jane Prince, our Saint Paul City Council representative, and by gaining all the required permits and approvals from the City.

Our partnership with Listening House is absolutely and perfectly aligned with our mission and with the activities that we have very publicly pursued for decades. We host Wellness Wednesdays in which a meal is served at the Block Nurse Program, Ministering Angels, and a variety of other organizations serve the community. We share our space with many others: El Salvadorian youth, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Hmong Elders, Young Artists Initiative, Elder Café, Head Start, East Side Market, Alcoholics Anonymous, and so many more than I keep track of.

I want to thank whoever came up with the headline, “Slumlords for Jesus” (Dayton’s Bluff District Forum, August 2017) — I am proud to be that Slumlord for Jesus. I wish more of my neighbors would join me, and maybe there would be fewer people homeless.

Of course we at First Lutheran Church want revenue for our church, with the purpose and purpose only — to keep our Christian community alive and to have a place to do God’s work. I see Listening House as a place for the homeless neighborhood population to come and have a place to connect with others, get resources from the counselors for jobs, schooling, health issues, housing, food etc. Listening House is forced to close. I hope that we can work together to get city, county, and state officials to dedicate significant attention and resources to this public health crisis on our doorsteps. Thanks for listening.
The Story of 103 Bates Street

Steve Trimbble
Forum Historian

I was at the recent National Night Out gathering at Indian Mounds Park when Dean Johnson came up to me and wanted to discuss the history of Dayton’s Bluff. He was not from our neighborhood, but some of his ancestors lived here and many had resided at 103 Bates. I could almost spit across the street from my house and hit the place. He said his great aunt had written a booklet about her life there, and I was hooked. The result is this article.

Dean’s great aunt Elaine wrote a book titled “The House That Charlie Built” shortly before her death. It started with German-born Charles William Kämpfer coming to Minnesota as a two-year-old. When he married Minnie Kuck, he and his father built a small house at 79 Urban Place which stood in what is now Indian Mounds Park. They were Lutherans, but soon became members of the German Baptist Church at Fifth and Mendota.

With the birth of a son and a daughter, they needed a larger home and in 1904 built one at 103 Bates on the corner of Urban Place. In her book, Elaine wrote about a “peek into the kitchen… and its huge oak table with the thick post legs and three extension leaves nailed together to serve our family of nine.” There was a “big black-iron stove in front of which we dressed for school on the cold winter mornings… The lower portion of the walls was covered with wainscoting, a narrow wood paneling, placed vertically. The plastered walls were protected by the paneling, but the grooves were dirt catchers… The sink was not large but it had an enamel cast-iron drain board on the right side and a roller towel on the left… Papa’s razor strap hung next to the roller and it was also a deterrent for rebels and mischievous boys. Behind the stove wall was the narrow wood paneling, placed vertically.

The family had an outhouse for a time and “had no central heating but had to depend on the warmth of the furnace to rise up through the open stairway and into our rooms.” Her mother “made heavy patch-work quilts, made from old coats and blankets that we used on our beds.”

Elaine wrote mostly of happy times, but tragedy struck the family in the fall of 1912 when her mother Minnie was ill from inflammatory rheumatism and was hospitalized. She seemed to be getting better and her mother entered the room “to administer some medicine, but she had mistakenly entered the wrong room and injected Minnie with the medication resulting in her death.” For the next ten years she did domestic chores and “she became her new mother’s chief helper at home.”

“Papa was away so much of the time, on the road selling the plans he had drawn for creameries in many milk and cheese producing towns in Minnesota and Wisconsin.” He had become a contractor and even received at least two patents for some of the equipment he designed. Many late nights Charles “sat at his drawing table in the dining room of the family house on Bates Avenue, wrestling with layout enigmas.”

Elaine also wrote about how the children and the family entertained themselves. In 1907, “Papa bought a brand new piano…” that “brought much joy and entertainment to the whole family for many years.”

During the winter and spring, the children all attended Mound Park School on Pacific Street. The boys spent the summers climbing the cliffs, playing baseball, hiking, and swimming. The girls “learned how to roller skate and enjoyed gliding along the sidewalks and probably around the block and down McLean hill,” and for much of the spring and summer months her sister’s “knees and legs were decorated with huge scabs.”

Sometimes Papa would give them nickels for Saturday matinees at the Mounds Theatre.

“Every summer we would hear a familiar whistle as the Pop-Corn wagon toured our neighborhood. In the front window of the wagon was a sign that read ‘Here Comes Gus’ and as it drove away we read the words ‘There Goes Gus’.”

103 Bates was also the site of several births. “It was spring and Mama’s bed had been moved to the dining room in preparation for the birth of the new baby.” Elaine wrote, “Doctor Stolpen had been called and was soon to arrive.” The children were hurried into a car and were driven around until the baby was born.

At the start of the book, Elaine said that she had written it because many family members wanted her to put down her memories so they could read them. She agreed and now you have been able to see some of her writing. Perchance it might inspire some of our readers to do the same so future residents could understand some of what it was like to grow up in Dayton’s Bluff.

Steve Trimbble can be reached at editor@daytonsbuff.org.
Have Forum, will travel...

Henry Johnston and Peyton Egley-Jones, both University of Texas students, sailing through the Forum newspaper in Newport Beach, California.

Several readers send 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.

Many thanks to our 2017 donors:

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Friends of the Forum

Dear Reader,

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1980s, and has always operated on a minimal budget. 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 below. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations, or include the Forum in your legacy planning.

If you have been our Friend in the past, please renew your membership with a donation in 2017. Our goal for the year is $2,000; as of this printing we have raised $1,390.00 – Will you help us?

Sincerely,

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

East Side Eating – Trimble’s Taste Trek

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

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A few kind folks sometimes accompany me on the East Side Eating adventure. This day it was Ashlee Olds, who is the founder of Sweet Science Ice Cream, a gourmet dessert with many unique flavors. She favors Asian food, and since it was noonish, we decided to go to a spot with a buffet, so onto Ho Ho Gourmet.

They actually offer two separate buffets: one from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and another from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. There were around ten different choices when we were there, including fried rice, lo mein, beef with broccoli, chicken wings, and pork dishes. There was a selection of fruit and cookies for dessert.

Appetizers include pot stickers, cheese puffs, and fantail shrimp. Ten soups are available, including corn soup, hot and sour, and nooodle soups. There are pan-fried noodles and different kinds of chow mein and chop suey. There are also a dozen “chef suggestions.” Other offerings are Hot Pot seafood—mostly shrimp—but one of them had lobster sauce. There were twice-cooked pork, shredded chicken, various kinds of lo mein, stir-fried vegetables with chicken, beef, or pork, and Szechuan style family dinners for two to four.

Combination plates including a “new style American menu,” featuring shrimp with French fries and fried chicken wings.

I did notice that a majority of customers were Asian, suggesting that the food was seen as close to the traditional fare. We talked with one of the owners, who was born in China. She wondered how we liked some of the new things, such as enclosing the old sunroom area and adding a high ceiling so the name could be seen from the freeway.

I said I liked the changes but was somewhat disappointed that the soft serve vanilla that I liked was gone. I was told that because of a technical problem, it had been eliminated. But being that I was with a creator of fine ice cream, perchance I can convince her to deal with my ice cream craving in the future.

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

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