The East Side Enterprise Building
A fixture in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood with a lengthy history

Mitzi Beliveau
Special to the Forum

I had seen the building at 798 and 804 Margaret Street, when I lived in the neighborhood years ago, but it looked like it had lost its grandeur. A man named Cleo Kelly bought the building in the 1990s. It is now owned by a partnership of the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council and the Latino Economic Development Center. What is now called the East Side Enterprise Center was something different when it was first built in 1885.

I met the great-granddaughter of the man who built the building, Camille Riggs. It was Camille who told me about her great grandfather. He came from Germany with $30,000 cash and his name was George Pabst. Now George did not come alone, he came with his cousin who is better known for starting the beer company with the family last name, Pabst! Both were very successful in business here in America.

It was here in America that George met his wife, Mary Baetz. Together, they started a family and a large business. When George had the elegant building built, he lived upstairs with his wife and children. His businesses, a grocery store, meat store, and liquor store, were on the main floor, and there was a bakery in the basement.

As the family grew, they built a home a few blocks away and lived there. In the upstairs third level of the building, a family of eight children and two adults moved in. That family moved out, and some of the younger family of George moved in to help George run his business. George also acquired other properties from people who had borrowed money from him and could not pay. This allowed for George and his family to grow their businesses. George was known to help many people who did not have food. He shared what he had, but was also a good businessman.

Camille’s grandfather was Bernard Joseph Pabst, who was born in 1896, and married Catherine M. Pabst in May of 1917. They lived in the 804 Margaret building upstairs for a short time. At that time, there was a pool on the side deck for the family. After that, Camille remembers living within a few blocks, and many members of the family worked for the family business. That is when Camille’s mother, Sara Pabst, born in 1918, married Clarence Allard Ofelt.

The next owner was Cleo Kelly in 1990, who used the building for his business Service Master. Service Master was best known for cleanup work after disasters in homes and businesses. There were several loading docks for Service Master workers to load up the trucks to help people in need after massive water leaks, floods, or fires. Service Master was a great Dayton’s Bluff business, and provided jobs for about 20 years on the East Side of Saint Paul. In the building there was an upper loft-style business office that Mr. Kelly used, which still stands today.

The building eventually fell into disarray, needing lots of work after a few years of being vacant. In 2013, the partnership of the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council and The Latino Economic Development Center bought the building with grant and loan money. This provided opportunity for growth in the neighborhood for new businesses and the revitalization of the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood. The building was updated and renovated and now houses many non-profit agencies.

Besides the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council and the Latino Economic Development Center, the East Side Enterprise Center building now houses the Shared Ground Farmers’ Co-op, Twin Cities Mobile Market, Kitchen on the Bluff, WQOT radio station, East Side Area Business Association (ESABA), Lower Phalen Creek Project, and African Economic Development Solutions.

Having all those businesses in one building helps many diverse people who are in need in various ways: helping farmers get their goods to market, helping the poor with access to food by the mobile food shelf, assisting people in need of loans for small businesses, providing training and mentoring to small business, teaching GED classes for the Latino community, working to renew the Phalen Creek area — the list is endless, and helping is rewarding, lifting up the community to be self-sufficient and revitalizing the neighborhood for growth for years to come.

The East Side Enterprise Center is also open for event space rental. Rooms are available at low cost to local non-profits for events. Watch for the springtime of 2020 for a Grand Reopening with new stuff, new ideas, and new partnerships.
Dayton’s Bluff Take-A-Hike
The hike will be on the second Saturday of most months. The Dayton’s Bluff Take-A-Hike starts at Indian Mounds Park on Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard at 10 a.m. The next hike will be on November 9. The hike is about 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. You will be able to study and learn a little history along the way. If you have any questions Karina DuPaul at comcast.net or call 651-776-0550.

Friends of Swede Hollow
Watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meeting. The next monthly meeting is on Thursday, November 7, at 6:30 p.m. Email KarinaDuPaul@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 writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales – join us at our next meeting on Saturday, November 2, at 11:00 a.m., at Swede Hollow Cafe, 725 E. 7th Street. Call 651-776-0550 or email dayton bluffdistrictforum@gmail.com for more information.

Police Community Meetings
The Eastern District Police will host their monthly meetings for community members held at the Eastern District police office at 722 Payne on the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues. The next meetings are on Wednesday November 20, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. The meetings are intended as a time to learn, listen to, and address people’s concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side, Saint Paul Police Eastern District is committed to maintaining and growing the quality of life for all our residents. Bring your neighbors; it is a great way to talk about your neighborhood nuisance issues.

SNAP Food Program at CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio)
¡Necesita más comida saludable para la familia? El programa SNAP le puede ayudar. SNAP proporciona fondos para alimentos que beneficien a familias de escasos recursos.
Aún si no es ciudadano, si tiene hijos nacidos en este país ellos podrían calificar. Para más información y otras eventos no listados aquí y a comprar tickets as they become available. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com

November at the Dayton’s Bluff Library
The following events take place at the Dayton’s Bluff Library, 645 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul.
Tuesday, November 12, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Teens Know Best! Teens have exclusive access to books before they are published. This group meets on the second Tuesday of every month to share opinions and pizza. Teens Know Best members write reviews of the books they read. The reviews are submitted to the publisher to help guide their decisions.
School is in session! The library’s got your back. Check out spll.org/back-to-school for information on homework help, after school snack, and other resources to make your school year a success.
For information about these and other fun events, check spll.org or call 651-793-1699. The Dayton’s Bluff Library shares its home with Metropolitan State University at 645 East 7th Street.

Wish List Card Packages
Help East Side Elders distribute food, hygiene items, and more to seniors on the East Side by shopping their Amazon Wish List! Visit Amazon.com/registry/wishlist/3KJK01010GF55J to have these needed items shipped right to your office. From there, a team of volunteers will distribute them to seniors in need.
With the help of supporters like you, East Side Elders is able to support families and personal care items to seniors in the community at no charge to them. These items help them manage their limited budgets and give them access to healthy food and much-needed personal care products. Donations can also be dropped off at East Side Elders, 463 Maria Avenue Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55106.

Grocery Shopping
Did you know that East Side Elders can help you and your loved one with grocery shopping? Let East Side Elders take a chore off your long to-do list! To get help with grocery shopping, call 651-683-2236 or email Info@EastSideElders.org with a detailed list. From there, East Side Elders staff will put a call out to their grocery shopping team and schedule a day and time that works for you and the volunteer for delivery.
Grocery shopping is a donation-based service. Donate what you can for the convenience of not having to head out your local store. Reimbursement for groceries can be done directly with the volunteer - they will bring you a receipt when they make their delivery.

Free Help for East Side Pets
The Animal Humane Society’s Community Outreach program offers special clinics for pets on the East Side. The events provide free wellness exams, vaccines, nail trims, spay/neuter appointments, and care information about these and other events and organizations. For more information, visit sppl.org or call 651-379-8113 for an application.

Learn About Medicare and Help Others
Help the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging provide one-on-one counseling to Medicare beneficiaries at community partner sites.
Make a difference in your community by becoming a State Health Insurance Information Volunteer. Learn about Medicare. Help people understand their Medicare options. Visit Metroaging.org/volunteer to learn more.

Business Classes
Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class. This program helps startup and young businesses on the East Side. East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. Class training lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with creating a successful business, and preparing a business plan, plus eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor.
Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services. Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include: graphic design, web design, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture, art, custom floral design, and interior and exterior painting. The course is sponsored by the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding scale fee. Class sizes are limited, so get enrolled now. Please call 651-379-8113 for an application.

Dayton's Bluff neighborhood history tour. Tour the neighborhood and learn about the unique history of the streetscape.

November 9. The hike is about 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. You will be able to study and learn a little history along the way. If you have any questions Karina DuPaul at comcast.net or call 651-776-0550.

Dayton's Bluff neighborhood history tour. Tour the neighborhood and learn about the unique history of the streetscape.

Sirens of the hikers. You will be able to share your personal story and experience with the hikers. The hike is about 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. You will be able to study and learn a little history along the way. If you have any questions Karina DuPaul at comcast.net or call 651-776-0550.

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Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood history tour. Tour the neighborhood and learn about the unique history of the streetscape.
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Family Sponsorship Program seeks holiday donors

Ramsey County Health and Wellness

Many families struggle daily to afford food, clothes or a place to sleep. It is no surprise that these families go without presents and special meals during the holiday season. To help ensure more families in our community thrive during this time of year, Volunteer Services’ Family Sponsorship Program matches community sponsors with Ramsey County families in need. Families, individuals, groups and workplaces are invited to sponsor a family this holiday season. The Family Sponsorship Program is different than other holiday giving opportunities that seek cash donations. Sponsors get the opportunity to personally shop and wrap gifts for their matched family.

Contest : Where in Dayton’s Bluff?

Send your guess to daytons-bluffdistrictforum@gmail.com with the location of the neighborhood curiosity pictured at right. The reader who submits the first correct entry will be notified and the winner will be announced in the December edition of the Forum. Congratulations to Sherry Jasper, winner of the October contest with a correct location of Selby Ornamental Iron.

Non-fiction Book Review

Good Germs, Bad Germs – Health and Survival in a Bacterial World
By Jessica Snyder Sachs

Theresa Wanta
Special to the Forum

Are we too clean? Is antibacterial soap harmful? Do Caesarian births deprive the infant of beneficial microbes? Have antibiotics been overused in our bodies and our food? In this book, learn about the symbiotic relationship between microbes and the human body. While public sanitation and antibiotics have increased the human lifespan, they have also disrupted the balance between humans and essential microorganisms. There are ten times as many bacteria cells in our bodies as human cells, though the bacteria cells are smaller than human cells. Viruses and bacteria are much older and have evolved more successfully than we have. This cohabitation of human and microbial cells is called the microbiome; the resident microbes of the human body are called microflora.

Overuse of antibiotics results in multi-drug resistance and autoimmune diseases. We become seriously unhealthy in a germ-free environment. Bacteria develop resistance to antibiotics faster than new ones can be invented. With the development of new antibiotics and continually evolving bacteria, there is a change in how humans and bacteria coexist. In the beginning of the book, the author gives two tragic examples of this: (1) a case of MRSA and (2) an extremely destructive strain of Staph. In the future, we need targeted antibiotics rather than “carpet bombing” the body’s normal microbes whenever we treat infections caused by the occasional invader. We need to restore a balance between fixing the disease and fixing the host. Each of the seven parts of the book include specific examples that are well researched and documented. At the end, the author gives a helpful summary of the material in the book followed by 33 pages of documentation.

Why Vote?

Your VOTE is your VOICE in our democracy. As East Siders we need our voices heard at all levels of government. Your vote means that you care about our East Side community and that you expect the East Side to receive the same level of care and investment that you see across Saint Paul.

You can register and vote in Minnesota, if you are:
• A U.S. citizen
• At least 18 years old by Election Day, November 5, 2019
• A resident of Minnesota for 20 days
• Finished with all parts of any felony sentence (including probation, parole or supervised release)

When and how can I vote?
• Absentee voting starts September 20. For an application, call Ramsey County Elections at 651-266-2171.
• Early voting starts October 29 at Arlington Hills Community Center, 1200 Payne or at Ramsey County Elections, 90 Plato Boulevard.
• Election Day is November 5. Call 651-266-2171 to find your polling place.

Text or call Jane at 651-308-4984 if you need TRANSLATION assistance.
At Metropolitan State University, Ramsey County Workforce Solutions is now offering career readiness services!

Get help with:

- Career and interest assessments.
- Career pathway exploration.
- Resume and cover letter writing/review.
- Upcoming job fairs and job leads information.
- Job search strategies.
- Job application assistance.
- LinkedIn creation and use.
- Interviewing tips and mock interviews.
- CareerForce workshops.
- Other county and community services and resources.
- And more!

A career navigator from Workforce Solutions will be located in the Metropolitan State University Library and Learning Center Room 115 on the first Tuesday from 1 - 4 p.m. and the third Thursday from 9 a.m. - noon, every month.

Questions? 651-266-4750

Metropolitan State University
Library and Learning Center
645 E. Seventh Street
Saint Paul, MN 55106

ramseycounty.us/jobseekerservices
metrostate.edu
Merrick Community Services — Celebrating 111 Years

Mark Gallagher
Associate Editor

Merrick Community Services started off as the Christ Child Society of St. Paul back in 1908 as a branch of the Christ Child Society that Mary Virginia Merrick had started earlier. Mrs. Quinlan, who had traveled out east to Washington D.C., was enumerated with Mrs. Merrick and decided to start a chapter here in 1908. A little before that, The Christ Child Society became disassociated with the Catholic Church. "In 1990, we were chartered again with the state of Minnesota when we changed our name from The Christ Child Society of St. Paul to Merrick Community Services as an homage to Mary Virginia Merrick who passed away in 1955."

Before it became Merrick Community Services, the Christ Child Society was originally located at Railroad Island, which was a port of entry for immigrants and new arrivals in St. Paul. Railroad Island is an area that was closed off by railroads on at least three sides, so it was bordered by Payne Avenue on the east, 35E on the west, and Phalen Boulevard on the north. It is now located in Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, which is at 1669 Arcade Street, Suite 4, in St. Paul.

"The original mission when the Christ Child Society of St. Paul first started," said Dan Rodriguez, Executive Director of Merrick Community Services, "was to provide services to anybody who was in need, particularly immigrants and new arrivals. Originally, it was probably limited to people who were part of the Catholic Church. Back then immigrants would have been Germans, Swedes, and Italians. It was primarily focused on women and their children.

"The Christ Child Society would knit layettes. A layette looks like a budding flower ready to bloom. We think that the circle, which also represents community. It's a circle that can see the impact we are having. I think this year we are fortunate to have funders, volunteers, and donors who support our work. And again, it's a belief in the innate resiliency of the people we serve. We have a county contract were we will provide services to individuals there, and we also have shelter or employment services where we provide support and training to individuals who are unemployed or underemployed. Working with various funders, we provide scholarships to help individuals get to work for living wages."

"Last year, our largest program is our food shelf where we served over 10,000 households. It's kind of sad that so many people are hungry in this country of affluence. It's a shame, actually, but we're still fortunate to have funders, volunteers, and donors who support our programs. So many people who are hungry. Many people come to the food shelf once a month, and that is the guideline we use, although we don't turn anyone away.

"Then again, that's 10,000 households, so you can imagine if there are two, three or more people per family, you can see the impact we are having. I think this year we are on pace to serve over 700,000 pounds of food. The donations come from corporations, businesses, families, and churches that do food drives for us. Second Harvest Food Shelf is a close partner with us, along with Hunger Solutions, and we could not do that work without our volunteers and our donors.

"Another program that Merrick Community Services has that benefits the residents of the East Side of St. Paul is the Christmas Gift Distribution, which is usually held a week or two before Christmas. They have developed a program over 30 years with the Salvation Army. Individuals in the Salvation Army have a partnership with the Marine's Toys for Tots, which receive gifts, and Merrick Gifts as well. Merrick Community Services has other partners, and they have also have a relationship with the Salvation Army, and the Marine's Toys for Tots. It's because Merrick believes that the generosity of those previously mentioned organizations and of the churches and individuals who donate toys is how Merrick is able to serve over 700 to 750 families during the Christmas season.

"We are very fortunate to have pro bono support from 3M as we were recreating our logo," said Rodriguez. "It's a black and white, red, and green logo that represents the diversity of people who are not just two or three, but multiple colors of people we serve in the community. It's a circle, which also represents community. It's a part of that is missing, which is as we say is the 'incomplete work' that needs to be done. Some people sometimes it looks like a budding flower ready to bloom. We think that we will need to revisit this program even to do better this year.

"Our whole organization is stronger, the community is stronger, and most importantly the people we serve are stronger. The periods after the three words in the Merrick logo are by design, not by accident. We say that Merrick and the people we serve are each one of those things independent of each other.

"Merrick Community Services is growing and has potential, and that's a positive affirmation of the organization, of the community of the East Side, which has not always been viewed positively. Most importantly, the people we serve have the potential for growth and they are growing. They are strong and in fact they're getting stronger, and again, it's a belief in the resiliency of the people we serve, the East Side, and the organization. And lastly, none of that can occur unless we do it together. In fact, we say that we know a lot about community because, after all, our middle name is around lives.

"There are so many people in our society who are made to feel less than, and that's not who they are," said Rodriguez. "That is one of the reasons I'm so happy to be at Merrick because of the kind of work that we do. People who have deep lives. If someone is dealing with domestic violence, or homelessness, or unemployment, or hunger, or wanting to stay in their own home as a senior, or a youth who is trying to figure out what they want to do with their lives, Merrick has been a great place for me to be able to continue to serve those people, which has been a motivation for me all through my life.

"Our mission is to provide an opportunity for everyone to improve their lives. And that's our mission, and that's what we do."

Mark Gallagher is associate editor of the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum and a graduate of Metropolitan State University. Mark Gallagher can be reached at refereineditorial@gmail.com.
Disconnected
Sage Holben
District Forum Staff

“Nothing wrong with car shopping.” The words and body language seemed a bit defensive in response to my opinion of a youth seen a few nights before, exiting a neighbor’s street-parked vehicle near midnight. The boys, 14, 15 years old, insisted there is nothing wrong with entering an unlocked car and taking what they want or ‘need’; some change, cigarettes…what do they matter?

I was told later that access had been gained by breaking a window. Is there a felony or misdemeanor difference in Minnesota depending on the vehicle being locked or unlocked? At what point does the ‘morality slide’ in a person’s mind move from ‘it’s not locked, so it’s ok’ to making an absolute decision to break a law – not only to steal, but to also vandalize, jeopardize a person’s sense of security?

I felt angry about the act. It happens too often in my neighborhood, and anyone who carries vehicle insurance is punished by rising rates because we live in 55106. Consequently, I’m finding more reports are not made. I am vexed because I am, once again, explaining right and wrong - how our actions affect others’ to an age that I would hope knows better.

Further on the continuum is killing other people. Beyond the moment when one is lost in absolute madness, how does one plan, maintain the drive, and then mindfully physically destroy a life along with the ‘collateral’ human damage? That’s a rhetorical question; I don’t expect answers which might explain the soul or heart.

Are some individuals so emotionally disconnected from their families, neighbors, generally other humans whose paths cross with theirs? Is there really such a deep lack of empathy in growing pockets of our society? Have the socioeconomic disparities numbed us to our surroundings, to humanity? If a community’s strength originates from its many neighbors, will ALL persons in our community ever find and be a living part of the financial and social security that makes up our social fabric?

Is there even one common thread, however fine, that connects each household, each resident, each member to others in your neighborhood? A generation or two ago, a neighborhood was likely bound or connected because most everyone attended the same school, the same church, worked at the same company...what is the commonality today? It may be more abstract - is it love of our children, keeping aware and in touch with each other? Perhaps it is simply the joy of experiencing acts of kindness with one another.

When some are lacking, will others in the neighborhood see and act? Will empathy win out? How do we model this? Yes, at times we need to set boundaries and limits as to what we can do or are willing to do. Weigh this carefully. Note the difference between looking and seeing. Be willing to err on the side of helping rather than shrugging off what may seem like a burden. Be willing to be unappreciated, ignored, taken advantage of...it may be years before results of your kindness and your efforts flourish...some plants take years or centuries to reach maturity or bloom. You may never see the results, but do believe that your life, as well as the life of another, has meaning and act on that belief.

Sage Holben can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Family Events at Mounds Park United Methodist
Eric Buck
Mounds Park United Methodist

Urban CROSS is hosting Family Night on Sunday, November 10, from 4-6:00 p.m. We will be showing "Aladdin" (the 1992 Animated version) on our BIG screen, and providing hot dogs, chips, and Plaza theater popcorn. This is a free event. Join us at Mounds Park United Methodist Church at 1049 Euclid St. Parents/guardians/adults are required to attend with kids and youth. Free-will donations are appreciated.

Dayton’s Bluff Community Services is having its monthly Grocery Give-away on Saturday, November 23, from 10a.m.-noon. There will be opportunity for conversation with a cup of coffee, and we have a Prayer Journal that you can add your concerns and joys to. Please come to Mounds Park United Methodist Church at 1049 Euclid St. Urban CROSS will be holding its annual Silent Auction on Sunday, November 24, from 11:45a.m.-12:30 p.m. Items are donated by individuals, families, and groups from Urban CROSS and Mounds Park United Methodist Church, as well as local businesses. All proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund for Dayton’s Bluff youth who attend Urban CROSS.

If you would like to donate items or baskets of items, please contact Eric Buck at urbancross.stpaul@gmail.com or 651-774-8736. Donations are welcome through Friday, November 22.

Terrific Tree Trek
Seeley Booth
Forum Contributor

If you are an outdoory person as I am, let me tell you about an experience I just found out about. It is the Tree Trek, a recreational opportunity in our own neighborhood. It is all within Indian Mounds Park and contains 31 different tree species. Each tree’s sign has a QR code that link to more information. Get your kids off screen and do some walking and learning outdoors. Think of it the next time your children or grandchildren are asked to do a school or scout project about trees or leaves. Take your out-of-town visitors to this special spot.

Visit www.moundsparktreetrek.weebly.com, to download a map with the location of each identified tree and a looped trail that starts and ends at the pavilion at Earl and Mounds Boulevard.
East Side Eating – Trimble’s Taste Trek

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

There are more restaurants than there is room for in the monthly paper, but at least 60 may now be found on-line at daytonsbloffiddistrictforum.org: click on “East Side Eating” at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbloffiddistrictforum@gmail.com.

Mounds Park Sports Bar

Phones: Bar (651) 340-0319 Kitchen (651) 340-6336
1067 Hudson Road
St. Paul, MN 55106

Monday-Friday: 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Facebook: @MoundsParkSportsBar

I try to keep track of new sit-down restaurants on the East Side (by the way, if you know of a new one in a remote area let me know and I’ll mention your name) so I was happy to hear that an older spot was now going to offer more than a typical frozen pizza. You may remember it as the Mounds Park Lounge. For the last five years or so it has been known as the Mounds Park Sports Bar.

Owner Bill Spiess has done a lot of remodeling recently and now the establishment offers an array of food. The remodel made room for a kitchen and a bar set up in the basement for parties and other events needing room for large groups.

Jennifer Gascoigne and Nick Duncan, two long-time members of the Forum newspaper crew, wanted to accompany me on the latest Taste Trek, so we met there on a recent Friday. It was not packed when we arrived around 6:15 p.m., but it was definitely lively with a good mix of upstairs and downstairs customers. There are two colorful pull tab machines and an antique Hammond’s electric lighted wall decoration with the running words on the wall that has been in place on the wall for years. There are now two large flat screen televisions that keep track of the sports that give the establishment its name. There are eight tables with several chairs near the front windows and another eight tables in the back. There is a long bar on the western wall that has 15 stools and a full selection of various liquors. Check out the “Drink of the Day.”

Year-round Christmas-style lights are strung up on the top of the walls and there are some decorations hanging from the ceiling. There are two electronic dartboards as well as a high-tech pinball machine. A mighty jukebox was playing a mixture of recent tunes and oldies. There are two colorful pull tab machines and an antique Hammond’s electric lighted wall decoration with the running words on-screen.

Some of the appetizers are deep fried mushrooms, mozzarella sticks, pepper peppers, onion rings, and garlic butter toast. Entrees are grilled ham and cheese, club sandwiches on rye bread, and a BLT and chips for Thursday. Show up on Friday if you crave chicken tenders and fries. The weekend has quarter pound burgers and fries. Monday through Friday, burgers are only $1.50 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. You may now add this spot to the various St. Paul eateries that offer a handmade “hot dog.”

Here’s what you find in the newly minted Mounds Park Burger: Two patties of beef, two cheeses, four pieces of bacon, tomato, and lettuce, topped with onion and a “secret sauce.” All food specials can be taken out.

Nick and I chose to share the signature pizza and a pitcher of beer. It consisted of a crust, of course, and topped with house sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms, onion, peppers, and cheese. When we ordered a large pizza we accepted the complimentary pitcher of beer. Jennifer ate a bit of pizza but sated her hunger with chicken tenders and fries, washed down with a gin and tonic (as you do, when dining on chicken tenders).

In addition to food, there is entertainment. If you like singing, show up for karaoke at 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday and 8:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Cash bingo is on Wednesday starting at 7:00 p.m. Traditional meat raffles occur on Friday at 5:00 p.m., Saturday at 2:00 p.m., and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Texas Hold ‘Em poker starts at 7:00 p.m. on Monday and Saturday at 2:00 p.m. They have a golf tournament and sometimes a bocce ball tournament. On some weekends there is live music from local bands.

There is street parking and the spaces in Leo’s Chow Mein’s lot next door may be used if the restaurant is closed. When we were there we met the kitchen crew. They were both graduates of Johnson High School and confirmed that they now have the pizza ovens and some other cooking items from recently-closed Romulo’s Restaurant. Bob Spiess, the owner, is also a “Govic,” but makes sure Harding grads are welcome by painting their colors on the wall as well as those of his old school.

Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbloffiddistrictforum@gmail.com.

Nick Duncan and Jennifer Gascoigne ready to take on some delicious pizza at the Mounds Park Sports Bar.

Many thanks to our 2019 donors:

Gloria Allen
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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. Each issue costs around $1,900 to produce and mail, per month.

For the past three years we have been soliciting donations through our Friends of the Forum program. Thanks to the donations from 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.

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Sincerely,

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

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.

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Thank you for your support!