Next up: Art in the Hollow

Andrew Stohler
Metropolitan State University

This year’s East Side Cabaret at the Historic Mounds Theatre was a great success. Between the silent auction and ticket sales, a good amount of money was raised for the 8th Annual Art in the Hollow. More donations for this summer’s Art in the Hollow would be welcomed and appreciated greatly. Thanks again to everyone who came to the Cabaret, and don’t forget to mark your calendars for the 9th Annual Art in the Hollow on Saturday, June 3.

It’s not too late to sign up for a spot at Art in the Hollow. Artists and performers are still needed to participate at this year’s event. For only $15.00, you or someone you know could set up for the day. There will be volunteers to help bring the art into the park and set up in the morning. Set up is between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., and the festival runs from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you are a musician and would like to perform on the Swede Hollow stage, there will be performers going all day.

To sign up or for more information, visit artinhollow.org. The Friends of Swede Hollow hope to see you down in the hollow the first Saturday of June. Contact Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 with questions.

Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis moves to Dayton’s Bluff

Greg Cosimini
Forum Staff

In early March, the headquarters of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis moved into a historic Dayton’s Bluff building - the former 3M headquarters, more commonly known as Building 21. The move brings with it 120 employees who had previously worked in three separate buildings near the Cathedral, making it one of the largest employers in the neighborhood.

The archdiocese has a 10-year lease on the building and is its sole occupant. Among the 25 offices now located there are those of the bishops, the vicar general, the chancellors, Latino Ministry, Catholic education, Parish and Clergy Services, Marriage, Family and Life, and financial services. The Communications Office, which among other duties publishes The Catholic Spirit newspaper, and the Office of Archives and Record Management are also housed in the building.

Although the 3M headquarters building at one time had a Bush Ave. address, the official address of the Archdiocese headquarters is now 777 Forest St., with what remains of Bush now being the entrance to the parking lot. It is entered off Forest just north of East 7th St. The headquarters is located behind the new East Side Family Clinic building which was built on the site of old 3M building 42.

Building 21 was the only building of the former 3M East Side campus to survive the St. Paul Port Authority’s redevelopment of the site into what is now called Beacon Bluff. Its construction began in 1939 and it was used as the 3M headquarters until 1962 when the headquarters was moved to Maplewood. It served a variety of other purposes until 3M completely left the area in 2009.

The building’s unique Art Deco/Moderno style of architecture helped it get added to the National Registry of Historic Places in 2015. The exterior and lobby of the building have remained virtually unchanged since its construction. Stepping into the lobby is like taking a trip back in time to the 1940s with the mahogany-paneled walls, semi-circular receptionist station and impressive brass and glass revolving door.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum welcomes the Archdiocese and its employees to Dayton’s Bluff and invites you to explore the community surrounding your new home.

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

New American Community members tell stories; shared values

Amelia Cerling Hennes
Minnesota Senate

A listening session dedicated to learning and hearing from members of Minnesota’s New American Communities was well-attended, reports one of the co-hosts, Sen. Foung Hawj (DFL-St. Paul). New Americans generate $19 billion in income in Minnesota, and $2.1 billion in taxes.

About 40 legislators from both House of Representatives and the Minnesota Senate attended the Thursday listening session. New Americans who attended the hearing expressed their thanks to all the legislators who took time out of their schedules to attend.

“This was a really wonderful opportunity for everyone to hear from some of Minnesota’s newest citizens. The overall impression that I received from the community is that these communities are not looking for a handout, but for acknowledgement and mindful accommodations to strengthen their productivity. We have many shared goals, and we all want to work towards a strong and resilient Minnesota,” said Sen. Hawj.

Amelia Cerling Hennes can be reached at Amelia.Hennes@senate.mn.

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

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Participants of the listening session dedicated to learning and hearing from members of Minnesota’s New American Communities on April 6, 2017.
Friends of Swede Hollow

Watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 3, at 6:30 p.m. Email karin@swedehol-
low.org or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting’s location.

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, May 13. The hike is approximately one and a half to two hours long and will end at Swede Hollow Park or East Side Hergens. Meet, 9:30, ding on the desire of the hikers. Share and learn a little history along the way! Email karin@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550 for more information.

Saint Paul Art Crawl

Join your Dayton’s Bluff and East Side neighbors for the annual Saint Paul Art Crawl! The event will take place on Friday, April 28, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Saturday, April 29, from noon to 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 30, from noon to 5:00 p.m.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The Forum is seeking help with writing, online content, idea generation, and ad sales. Join us at our next meeting on Thursday, May 11, at 7:00 p.m., at Swede Hollow Cafe (725 E. 7th St.). Call 651-776-0550 or email editor@daytonmbluff.org for more information.

Police Communication 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 Minnesota Avenues.

The next meetings are on Wednes-

day, May 17, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Meetings are intended as a time to listen and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

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

¿Necesita más comida saludable para la familia? El programa SNAP le puede ayudar. SNAP proporciona fondos para alimentos que benefician a familias de escasos recursos. Aun si no es ciudadano, si tiene hijos nacidos en este país ellos podrían cali-

ficar participar en el programa SNAP no afectará su estatus migratorio.

¿Llame a CLUES para saber si califi-

ca? 612-746-3536. Nuestro personal tele-

fónico 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 af-

fordable, healthy food directly into un-
der-resourced neighborhoods. The Mobile Market stops at Parkway Gar-

dens Apartments, located at 1145 How-

son Road, on Wednesdays, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

May at the East Side Freedom Library

Tuesday, May 2, at 7:00 p.m., the East Side Freedom Library invites you to enjoy a free screening of the films Red Metal and 1913 Massacre – two re-

cent films which explore the Michigan Upper Peninsula copper miners’ strike and struggle of 1913. These films were made inde-

pendently of each other to mark the 100th anniversary of this historic and tragic event. 1913 Massacre was in-

spired by Woody Guthrie’s powerful

song and features his son Arlo as narra-

tor. Each film is one hour, and together, they provide multiple perspectives on

this important but largely forgotten sto-

ry. This event is free and co-sponsored by AFSCME Local 3800 and the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation.

Historic Payne Avenue Walking Tour

May 21, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Meet at the Arlington Hills Community Center at 1200 Payne Avenue, St. Paul, to join Peter Rachleff, labor historian and founder of the East Side Freedom Li-

brary for a walking tour of historic Payne Avenue. The tour starts at Arlington

Hills Community Center and con-

cludes with the Saint Paul Public Library’s Story Fair. The Story Fair will focus on telling and collecting stories from our community. Sponsored by the Saint Paul Public Library. This event is free, register online at http://arlington-

hillscce.org/register-for-programs.

The East Side Freedom Library is lo-

cated at 1150 California Street. Call 651-230-3294, email info@eastsidefreed-

domlibrary.org for details on these and other upcoming events as they become available.

Business Classes

The Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. Classes last eight weeks and include op-

erations management, marketing, fi-

nancial management, one-on-one assistance with creating 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 ongo-

ing business support services.

The course is sponsored by the Day-

ton’s Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center.

There is a small registration fee based on a sliding scale. Class size is limited. Call Emma Spillman at 651-379-8432.

Dayton’s Bluff on the Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour

The Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour will feature many Dayton’s Bluff homes this year, including: 700 East Third Street, 672 Greenbrier Street, 954 Madison Avenue, 1145 Greenbrier Street, 633 Johnson Parkway, 845 Gateway Street, and special on Sunday only: 170 Maria Avenue. The tour runs on Saturday, April 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Sunday, April 30, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Visit www.msphomeout.com for more information and a printable tour guide.

East Side Elders presents Elder Cafe: Minnesota’s Karen Community

Join the East Side Elders and staff from the Karen Organization of Minne-

toa to learn about the Karen commun-

ity of Saint Paul while enjoying a nourishing meal and engaging conversa-

tion. Call 651-683-2326 to make a reserva-

tion or to request a ride. Elder Cafe can-

not provide transportation due to a reservation. Admission is free for se-

iors age 60 and over; all other guests are invited to make a suggested dona-

tion of $10. This event is presented in partnership between East Side Elders and First Lutheran Church of Dayton’s Bluff.

Ramsey County now hiring lifeguards

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation is now hiring lifeguards (ages 16 and older) for the 2017 summer beach sea-

son. Lifeguards start at $10.50 an hour. Spend your summer enjoying the beach and sun! To apply, fill out a brief in-

terview form at ramseycounty.us/lifeguard.

Baseball Clinic with Ila Borders and Saints Game

On Friday, May 26, join the Minne-

sota Girls Baseball Association at CHS Field in St. Paul for a packed day of fun activities beginning at 10:00 a.m. with a FREE baseball clinic with former St. Paul Saints pitcher, Ila Borders! Stick around for lunch in the dugouts at noon (please bring your own bag lunch) and take the game capital field at 3:30 p.m., and Saints game at 7:05 p.m. Sign up for a drawing to participate in special pre-game and in-game promo-

tions. You could throw out the first pitch, stand with the Saints during the National Anthem, be a bat girl, or par-

ticipate in a bat-and-balls promotion! Ages 6-15, register online at www.saints-

groups.com, use password: MNBG2017
First Native-Indigenous/POC Cultural Arts Center opens in Saint Paul: Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center

Melissa Sastos
Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center

Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center, located at 788 East Seventh Street, will open its doors to the public on Thursday, May 11, with an intimate opening Gathering and Blessings of Community Elders.

Indigenous Roots Cultural Center is a collective of artists and organizations dedicated to building, supporting, and cultivating opportunities for Indigenous peoples and communities of color through cultural arts and activism. This community based multidisciplinary, multigenerational, multicultural center for Native-Indigenous/POC communities in Saint Paul, uniquely presents the many faces and creative expressions blossoming in the cultural scene of Dayton’s Bluff on the East Side.

The Indigenous Roots Cultural Center follows a similar model as the East Side Enterprise Center created by the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council. The East Side Enterprise Center is a collaboration focused on increasing economic development opportunities to East Side entrepreneurs and residents, especially its diverse and growing immigrant and people of color populations.

Grand opening weekend kicks-off on Thursday, May 11, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with an Opening Gathering and Blessings of Community Elders. On Friday, May 12, at 7:00 p.m., The Prospectus Exhibit Opening featuring Mexican Artist Emmanuel Sierra, on view until Friday, May 19. On Saturday, May 13, from noon to midnight, take part in the Grand Opening and Community Celebration Fundraiser, a day celebrating arts, culture, and community! Cultural groups including Kalpulli Yacoocontli, El Arco Iris, Afoauty, Native Pride Dancers, Ina Yukka, Wash your Dome, Alma Andina, and many others will be performing on this epic opening day! Finally, on Saturday, May 20, at 3:00 p.m., don’t miss the For Directions exhibit opening.

The For Directions exhibit is a partnership across the Mississippi between Indigenous Roots and All My Relations Gallery in Minneapolis. The Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center is hosting a variety of local artists in its gallery over the coming year — stay tuned for details. This exhibit is open from May 20 to July 31. For more information about the Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center, located at 788 East Seventh Street, visit https://indige

Prosecution exhibit: Emmanuel Sierra is a Mexican visual artist. He was born in Celaya, Guanajuato, but was raised and finally resides in the Allende, Guanajuato. In 2012, he began his studies at the University of Guanajuato studying visual arts. During his studies, Sierra discovered his passion for abstract painting. He has participated in various group and personal projects, both within and outside of the Guanajuato.

In 2013, Sierra was selected to participate in the University of Guanajuato’s annual student art exhibition. In 2016, he presented a private gallery of original works in Leon, Guanajuato. His most recent exhibition was during the 36th Annual Festival of the Caribbean in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba. Prosecution (Prospecting) through the art of painting. Search, explore, experience, draw, create, meditate. Conclusions, forms, solutions, form, harmony, color; these are the stages and fundamental parts that are found during the process and the completion of Sierra’s artwork. Each piece reveals how Sierra has begun the constant search of the possibilities of the matter, the elements to arrive at a harmonious composition that has been sought and through the process of development it completes itself until arriving to its completion.

About the For Directions exhibit: The title of this project, For Directions, is a play on words meant to encompass both the cardinal directions, as well as directions on how to be in digenous in the 21st Century. The concept of this show grew from efforts at Standing Rock where people from an eclectic range of cultures banded together to oppose Big Oil. This means to inspire artists and environmental organizations from all directions to unify and urge others to live sustainably, and help us to combat the corporate entities that mean us harm.

May 20 through July 31, For Directions will exhibit a variety of works by indigenous artists from the region. Shows will take place in venues across the Twin Cities metro including All My Relations Art Gallery. Additional galleries hosting For Directions currently include Two Rivers Gallery, AIM Interpretive Center, Electric Ma chete, and Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center.

Producer Meet & Greets at Mississippi Upcoming Co-op events highlight farmer equity, producer stories, and delicious foods

Matt Frank
Mississippi Market

Join Mississippi Market this spring for three meet and greets with local, fair-trade, and sustainable producers. Each event will highlight a different aspect of Mississippi Market’s favorite foods, farmers, and producers through storytelling and delicious samples. Event themes include global fair trade practices, organic farming, and local fer mented foods. These three free events will be held at our 7th Street location. A $5.00 registration fee is required to attend each event, which will be reimbursed as a $5.00 co-op voucher at the event. Space is limited; register early to ensure your seat.

Exploring Fair Trade Coffee, Chocolate, and Bananas, at 740 East 7th Street, Thursday, April 27, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., join Mississippi Market for an evening learning about and celebrating fair trade with a few of Mississippi Market’s favorite fair trade vendors, Equal Exchange, Alter Eco, and Peace Coffee. Hear their visions and stories, get to know their products, and learn about global fair trade practices. Fair trade samples will be provided.

Sustainable Stories: Wheatfield Hill Organics, at 740 East 7th Street, Thursday, May 4, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., join local farmers from Wheatfield Hill Organics for a fun, enriching evening celebrating our local food community. Meet the farmers behind your favorite Wheatfield products, hear their stories, and join them in celebrating 20 years of farming organically. Wheatfield product samples will be provided.

Taste Local: Ferments, at 740 East 7th Street, Thursday, May 18, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., learn all about fermented foods with local makers Angelica’s Garden and Fierce Ferments! Learn how they got started, what makes them unique, and sample delicious varieties right here at your co-op.

About Mississippi Market Natural Foods Co-op: Mississippi Market Natural Foods Co-op has been offering local, organic food at a fair price to our St. Paul neighbors for nearly 40 years. As an owner-operated grocery store, Mississippi Market provides high-quality, fair-priced goods and services, and works toward a sustainable local economy and global environment. We offer a number of classes and events each month on health, nutrition, cooking, and sustainable living.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church saw an egg-cellent turnout for its annual egg hunt at Indian Mounds Park on Saturday, April 15.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is a multicultural, intergenerational neighbor- bhood congregation located at 1049 Euclid Street in Dayton’s Bluff. Sunday worship begins at 10:30 a.m. On Sunday, May 14, we’ll celebrate Mother’s Day with a special gift for every woman in the congregation. Bring your yard, and openly explore your faith within a community of respect and openness. All are invited!

Weekly in May: After-School Program for area youth, sponsored by McVay Youth Partnership of Hamline University. This is an after-school program for all community youth in grades 1-5. 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 Kreutz at 612-581-4978 for more information.

Wednesday, May 13: Beginning at noon, Community Friendship gathering with hot lunch. Enjoy a hot lunch of turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, cranberry sauce, rolls, and dessert. Following the meal, JoAnn Bolles, talented singer, guitarist, and recording artist will perform her many songs. This is a community gath ering — ALL are invited to come; the focus is on persons ages 55 and over. A donation of $8.00 is suggested.

Looking for some help with a home project around your place this June? Urban CROSS will have teams ready to help local residents and non-profits with projects such as indoor and outdoor painting, yard work, gardening, landscaping, simple construction, and cleanup. You may submit your request by calling the church office at 651-774-8736 or mailing in a form available on our website: www.moundsparkumc.org/urbancross.html. Deadline for project submission is May 15.

If you are a member of the community and would like to be a part of Urban CROSS as a partner, please call the church or check out the website for further information. Campers arrive to Indian Mounds Regional Park on Sunday, June 11, at 3:00 p.m. and go home on Saturday, June 17, around 10:00 a.m. Campers will spend the nights sleeping at a local church and all meals will be provided by Urban CROSS. The total cost for the week is $236.00, but scholarships are available through Urban CROSS and through the Minnesota Annual Conference Camping Office. Camper registrations are also due by May 15.

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A group learning to make paper flowers at the Dayton’s Bluff Library. Pictured from left to right are Barbara Rose, Mai Vang, library staff and teacher, and Nicole Sum, library volunteer.

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Go everywhere, talk to everyone, eat everything

Jane Prince
Ward 7 City Council

On a trip to visit family in Washington DC in April, I happened to stop at Eastern Market on a weekend street fair and farmer’s market near Capit- ol Hill, with streets lined with booths of local artists, crafters, and musicians, attracting all ages of very diverse, happy, and engaged human beings and their dogs.

While taking in the scene, I came across a hand- painted sign that read: “GO EVERYWHERE. TALK TO EVERYONE. EAT EVERYTHING.” Thinking about it in my diverse and dynamic city of Saint Paul, I realized that these words were not just a prescription for living, but for building strong, connected communities.

Once I started to “talk to everyone” at East Park, my walk became a lot more meaningful. I met an amazing artist named “zayyab,” a warm and friendly young man who incorporated deep hues and bright colors into rural scenes of musicians and field workers. The Turkish towel vendor sold beau- tiful and affordable linens, and her sharp and witty banter about international politics made my day. A jewelry artist who crafted beautiful, sophisticated designs from stainless steel nuts, bolts, screws and washers, shared his views of Minnesota craft fairs. I learned from a Tibetan vendor that Chomolungma is the Tibetan name for Mount Everest.

That’s when I decided to parse this slogan for my monthly article.

Go Everywhere. Rather than jet off to somewhere else, become a tourist right here in Saint Paul and “eat” the local food scene. We can walk and bike anywhere here on the East Side. Have you been to the Hmong Village? Pedal up to 1001 Johnson Parkway and step inside for a glimpse of another world, complete with food. Fresh farmers market, live music and vendors, it’s like a food court you can’t beat. From our world class network of parks and trails to our historic and cul- tural points of interest, it’s easy to go everywhere even with only a bicycle and a water bottle!

Talk to Everyone. As Minnesotans, we naturally tend to mind our own business, and let other people mind theirs. But there’s no better way to make con- nections and build community than to smile and say hello to passersby. We’ve heard from young people in our neighborhood that they actually feel bad when we adults fail to make eye contact and extend a friendly greeting. Now that the warm weather is finally upon us, I’ve learned that we should start inspired this summer to go door to door to meet new neighbors and start getting to know each other. Per- haps our elderly neighbors could use some help with yard work, and we can match up with young people looking to earn a bit of spending mon- ey! Eat Everything. It took me awhile getting over the fuzzy eating habits of my childhood, but the re- sults of trying new foods while living on the East Side are deliciously, and deliciously within a few blocks of your home. At Hmong Village alone, you can nosh on pa- paya salad, pho, spring rolls, Hmong sausage, pork belly, noodles and more. At East Side neighborhood events like last year’s Edible Streetscape Communi- ty Meal in June and the Interfaith Cultural Culinary Meal in December, neighbors met each other over the dinner table, and new friendships were launched.

Summer brings street fair and community festi- vals – and lots of opportunities to “go everywhere, talk to everyone, and eat everything!” Mark your schedules for the East Side Peace Celebration set for Saturday, July 22, 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Battle Creek Recreation Center, 75 South Winthrop Street. With games, a bike ride and all kind of activities for children, music, and food, let’s get together and make the East Side the place to be! Jane Prince can be reached at ward7@g- ci.spaulmn.us.

Ecocentric: Art, Ecology and Engagement – a new exhibit

Poh Lin Khoo
Metropolitan State University

In the upcoming Metropolitan State University (MSU) Art, Ecocentric: Art, Ecology and Engagement, the featured artists address environmental issues through their work and engage the public in their creative medium.

“Ecocentric is a term that was coined in recent years to denote a na- ture-centered system of values; that which directly opposes anthropocen- trism (the idea that humans are the center of the universe),” says gallery director Eric Rasmussen about the exhibit. “Like the deep environmentalism that seeks to protect the natural environment, ecocentrism intends to challenge Western practices associated with culture, science and politics. In the arts, there has also been an emerging of ecologically minded individuals who seek to raise our consciousness about pressing envi- ronmental issues through solution based artworks. Each of these artists not only addresses environmental is- sues through their work, but also en- gages the public in their creative practice.”

Exhibition participants include Mi- randa Brandon, Rachel Breen, and Mary Johnson. Brandon is an eco-friendly artist and rehabilitation counselor. Her D11 Animal Populator is a participa- tory series of die-cut postcards that fea- ture animal cutouts and a “notice of conservation concern.” Accompany- ing the series are archival prints of the featured die-cut animals re-pho- tographed in natural environments. These fabricated wildlife photographs model the interaction Brandon hopes for participants to have, prompting for a more harmonious relationship with the land and a creating a shared story while pondering our place and con- nection to this web of life and being. Viewers are encouraged to choose a die-cut poster to participate in the practice of empathy building and arti- ficial, photographic population bol- ster, while uploading images to an electronic platform to share with oth- ers.

Breen is an advocate for the prac- tice of saving heirloom seeds. With this show she hopes to educate us about the past that we hope to pass on to future generations. Through her charcoal drawings made directly on the gallery walls and ceil- ing, Breen honors the ancient practice of saving seeds as a way to protect environmental diversity. Breen’s drawings are often accompanied by instructions provided on how to plant and save the seeds, encouraging individuals to be- come active in preserving sustainabil- ity.

Johnson organizes water steward- ship projects and gathers discarded materials from other public sites. The collected debris is then used in a col- lection of dimensional objects that address the importance of environ- mental preservation. For this exhibi- tion, Johnson will present a number of colorful sculptures entitled Ex- tremophiles, constructed from storm drains, trash. The exhibit will be on display through July 13.

Screenings are Fridays at 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, and 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday. The gallery is locat- ed at the university’s Library and Learning Commons, 455 East University Street. For more information about the exhibit, contact Eric Rasmussen, gallery director, at 651-999-5942 or eric.rasmussen@metrostate.edu.

Indian Mounds Park Splash Pad: Let’s Rethink the Plan

Decmond Juan
Dayton’s Bluff Community Council staff

The City of St. Paul has a master plan for Mounds Park that includes building a children’s splash pad to the existing park improvements. While some community members had input into the plan when it was created in 2011, members of the Dakota Nation were not represented in the planning process. Mounds Park is an ancient burial site and is still considered to be sacred land for the Dakota Nation. On April 11, 2017, a third meeting was held at Ceremonial Senior Care Center, 200 Earl Street, to consider new con- struction in the park. The plans for the proposed splash pad in Mounds Park were presented for discussion and community input. In attendance were St. Paul Parks and Recreation staff, Council Member Jane Prince, many members of the Dakota Nation, mem- bers of Friends of Mounds Park, and other community residents.

Dakota Nation community mem- bers expressed deep concern and re- fusal to embrace any plans that further disrupt the land, which is not just a park to them. It is a place where ancestors live in Dayton’s Bluff today. The City of St. Paul and Council Member Jane Prince have agreed to work with the Dakota Nation and the City of St. Paul and Parks and Recreation and listen and heard the testimonies of the Dakota Nation and other commu- nity members in support of relocating the splash pad to a place other than Mounds Park. They support pausing the project and researching how the future project can support the ancestors and serve the community that lives in Dayton’s Bluff today. The City of St. Paul and Council Member Jane Prince have agreed to work with the Dakota Nation and the City of St. Paul and Parks and Recreation Districts on the East Side.

The “next steps” listed in the notes include the commitment that parks will: Continue with the process re- spected Dakota Nation’s cultural heritage and bargaining agreement for the water feature to a cultural resource study for the park and interpretive plan; relay the dates of the Metropoli- tan Council hearings and meetings and provide information about the most productive ways to support this reallocation of funds; work with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and Minnesota Indian Affairs Council to establish protocol for future deci- sions about parks within our system; keep relevant information updated on the city’s website; involve the commu- nity in the process for the cultural resources work and interpretive plan- ning as we determine the next steps.
Memorandum of Understanding: Metropolitan State University and Nagasaki University

Mark Gallagher
Associate Editor

History: Back in 1945, General Dwight D. Eisenhower emerged from World War II, having seen the horrors of battle. Eisenhower tried to persuade President Truman not to drop the atomic bomb on Japan because Japan was already so close to surrendering. After Eisenhower became president, he started a People-to-People program so an American city could become sister cities with a Japanese city, in the hope that if they got to know each other and became friends, they would avoid future wars.

In 2015, St. Paul and Nagasaki celebrated the 60th anniversary of the St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City relationship, the oldest Sister City relationship between a U.S. city and an Asian city.

Memorandum of Understanding: On February 15, 2017, Metropolitan State University took that Sister City friendship a step further and hosted the signing of a "Memorandum of Understanding" to become "academic partners" with Nagasaki University.

Metropolitan State University history professor Sumiko Otsubo explains, "A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is a formal agreement between two parties. In this case, Metropolitan State University and Nagasaki University agreed to establish an exchange program. The two universities desired to create this new partnership precisely because St. Paul and Nagasaki have been sister cities since 1955.

Metropolitan State University already had this "community partner" theme embedded in its mission statement: Within the context of lifelong learning, the university will build on its national reputation for innovative student-centered programs that enable students to develop the personal, professional, and cultural goals the university is committed to academic excellence and community partnerships through curriculum, research, scholarship, and policies designed to support an urban mission.

One of the principal inspirations for the exchange program happened in October 2015, when St. Paul Mayor Christopher Coleman and Metropolitan State University Interim President Dr. Devinder Malhotra visited Nagasaki in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the St. Paul-Nagasaki sister city relationship as well as a commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb.

What steps could they take toward "new er again"?

Their host, Dr. Takayuki Miyaniashi, president of the Nagasaki-St. Paul Sister City Committee, is also Professor of Environmental Science at Nagasaki University.

Dr. Miyaniashi discussed the idea of creating a relationship between the two universities with JoAnn Blatchley, co-president of the St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee. Otsubo explained, "Once Blatchley knew of Dr. Miyaniashi's desire to have that relationship, she told me, 'Here is an opportunity.'"

How It Works: Dr. Otsubo coordinated the MoU on this end. She explains how the exchange program works:

"Nagasaki University will select the students it wants for this exchange program. It is a requirement that the prospective students have a minimum level of English proficiency to enter the program, but that level is really basic.

"I personally asked our Nagasaki University colleagues to please send really good environmental science majors to Metropolitan State University who are interested in going to Nagasaki University as exchange students to the two universities to learn about war and peace issues as well as their course of study.

"Stachko's story is a critical reminder that we must never go back to the conditions that flared into World War II. To combat populism, nationalism, propaganda, hate, witchcraft, racism, and the flames of hate, we need stories like Sachiko to remind us of both the horror of war and the destruction it can cause and that we should never have a nuclear war.

"This year Nagasaki University is looking for up to two students to come to Metro State in June. They will be here for three weeks.

"We set up two courses just for them. Those courses will be Communications and Environmental Science 499. Both classes are upper-division undergradu- ate courses. These are essentially set up for Japanese students but are open to American students.

"Professor Michail Moshkov, who will teach COMM 499, is thinking about as- signing reading material that is available in both Japanese and English. Her idea is to put students from both universities together so they will interact while doing their assignments — they will have to talk.

"They'll have to share the information because English is pretty tough for Japa- nese students. Most Japanese are not bilingual, but I would guess one of the motivations they have is to get better in English communication. This is a won- derful opportunity.

"Professor Julie Maxon, who will teach ESCI 489, will take a small group of students from the two universities to urban farms and a lake. They will take soil samples to analyze chemical make- ups and sedimentation patterns."

Sachiko Scholarship for Peace: A new scholarship has been created to facilitate student exchange between Metropolitan State University and Nagasaki University.

"The Sachiko Scholarship for Peace was established by Carmen Spank, author of the book Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Sur- vivor's Story," Otsubo says. "The schol- arship's send money ($1500) was generously donated by Mr. Adam Lerner, Publisher and CEO of Lerner Publishing Group and St. Paul resident. Metropolitan State Uni- versity students will use this Sachiko Scholarship for Peace to travel to Nagasa- ki.

"The idea of a Sachiko Scholarship for Peace to support a student exchange pro- gram was always in the back of my mind from the time I was writing Sachiko. I knew if I could get Sachiko published, I would want to support St. Paul-Nagasaki youth exchange scholarship with portions of the book's proceeds. Sachiko has won numerous national awards, including being long-listed for a National Book Award (Young Adult's Literature)."

"My intention was to offer a $500 scholarship to each of two students selected to be Metropolitan State University and Nagasaki University students," Stelson said. "My other inten- tion was to encourage students who are inter- ested in going to Nagasaki University as exchange students to consider not only war and peace issues but also cultural issues as well.

"In the first year, 2016, I was able to offer a single scholarship. The recipient is a junior at Metropolitan State University. She is in the Peace and Justice Studies Program. "The idea of a Sachiko Scholarship for Peace is one of the most exciting things that has happened to me as an educator," Otsubo says. "The scholar- ship got the book out there, and people are eager to hear the story of Sachiko."

Consider the advice of the last surviving Nagasaki atomic bomb sur- vivors, Sachiko Yasui: "What is peace? What is it to people? Do you keep pursuing answers to these questions?"

Mark Gallagher is associate editor of the Dayton's Bluff District Forum and a graduate of Metropolitan State Universi- ty. Mark can be reached at refineEditori- al@gmail.com.

Weekly group for parents with a son or daughter battling addiction offers hope through education and support

Rohyn Koger Kidd
Parents of Addicted Loved Ones

A new support group is starting in our community at the Mounds Park United Methodist Church, 409 Eu- cild Street (corner of Earl Street and Euclid Streets), meeting each Tuesday, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., starting April 4. The group is open to parents of any faith or background who have a child battling addic- tion.

According to recent research cited by the National Institute for Drug Abuse, opioid/heroin deaths now ex- ceed annual deaths from car crashes. An article in the New York Times notes, "The rising death rates for those young white adults, ages 25 to 34, make them the first generation since the Vietnam War years of the mid-1960s to experience higher death rates in early adult- hood than the generation that preceded it," directly tying this rise to drug overdoses. Also, former President Obama in February, 2016, reported $1.5 billion in spending to combat the issue of opioid/heroin abuse alone, noting it is an epidemic in our country. And as is commonly reported, the vast majority of those in our prisons are there in connection with drug or drug relat- ed offenses. Years of working as a substance abuse counselor taught Mike Speakman that overcoming addiction isn't just about treatment for the individual; it takes support from the family as well. "A good example is diabetes," Speakman said. "You can't do it, but if your child had it you might want to learn about it so you could help better."

Each PAL (Parents of Addicted Loved ones) meeting, which is designed for parents or spouses of loved ones going through an addiction, begins with a prayer, fol- lowed by introductions. The group is then present with one of nine sessions; which include "Healthy Helping" and "The Four Stages of Growth in Recovery." After some discussion of the lesson, the members of the group give an update about what's going on in their lives and then the meeting ends with prayer. The group is designed for each individual to learn at their own pace. The challenge is that much of the education goes through single weekend sessions.

Mike is also the author of the Four Seasons of Recovery, for Parents of Alcoholics and Addicts.

The first meeting took place in July of 2006, at the Calvary Addiction Recovery Center, and has since spread across the Phoenix, Arizona Valley, and Tuscon. PAL also expanded out of Arizona and currently has meetings in California, Louisiana, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon, and Washington. The PAL group in Saint Paul, along with another in Rochester, also starting April 4, will be one of the first two in Minnesota.

"The PAL group is important for parents or spouses to find a support group like PAL so that they don't feel so alone. "It's critical," he said. "It's the only way to survive. You feel like, 'What did I do wrong?' You didn't do anything wrong. This is reality."

You can learn more about PAL online at PAL-Group.org.
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 pa- per, but at least 59 may now be found online at daytonblesbluffdistrictfo- rum.org; click on “East Side Eating” at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at editor@daytonsbluff.org.

Alimama’s Mediterranean Grill
690 East Seventh Street
(612) 323-0069

Monday-Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday: Closed

www.sambusaland.com

Unlike my own remembrance of bland college cuisine in the olden days, people tell me that things have changed. So, I decided to check out the food at Metropolitan State Uni- versity’s new restaurant. It is one of the few places in St. Paul where you can find both African and Middle Eastern food. While designed for Metro students, the general public is welcome. A word to the wise: parking is a little difficult. There are a few one-hour spots on their side of East Seventh. Other than that, you might find spots across the street on Maria or Bates Avenues.

I went around 1:00 p.m., hoping to avoid a noon rush. I did – there were only a few people there – mostly by themselves and looked to be studying. The area inside was bright and roomy with a two-story open-feature. The north wall is comprised of huge windows that allow a scenic view of East Seventh Street traffic. The area inside was bright and roomy with a two-story open-feature. There is also a somewhat separated area of the large room that has nine additional tables which seemed to be primarily a study spot. There is a counter where you order the food. They give you a number on a stand- up number-holder and bring the food to you. Appetizers include two sambusas with a side as such as salad, fries, falafel balls served with special home made dips, rice and beans, basmati rice served with pinto beans, and hummus, which consists of chick- peas, olive oil, tahini, lemon juice, garlic, salt, and pepper.

There are several burgers – after all, the main diners are college stu- dents. Some are falafel served in American style buns or in gyros. The Alimama also features a double cheese- burger, grilled chicken with hummus, and burritos. Another speciality is ground lamb gyros. There is also a build your own salad™ option. They’re also going to offer smoothies at some point in the future.

I don’t remember ever having a sambusa – a stuffed triangular pastry – so I ordered two with beef. I chose French fries for my side. They were very crispy and I found out that they are treated with spices, with added flour, and initially frozen. They had a huge selection of juices and waters, but no alcoholic drinks. Look, this isn’t like the beer-serving student center in Madison, Wiscon- sin. However, they do serve Ethiopi- an light coffee and chai tea which (I looked it up) is a black tea with heavy milk, spices, and a sweetener.

Mohamed Omer, from the Oromo area in northeast Africa, is the owner of the grill. He’s lived all over East Africa and the Middle East. He came to the U.S. to get a degree and worked in an import-export company for a time. He wanted a business of his own – noting that when he went to company potlucks, people loved what he brought, so he decided to start a wholesale sambusa operation. They now have a food truck and the Metro location, named for an older family member, and headed up by ex- ecutive chef Nasra Omer. “Our food isn’t like anyone else’s,” he says, “be- cause it’s from here and there and from everywhere.”

Steve Trimble can be reached at editor@daytonsbluff.org.
There once was a Post Siding
Steve Trimble
Forum Historian

Today, the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood includes the area in and around Earl and Seventh Streets, but that was not always the case. There once was a place known as “Post Siding.” It was sometimes called Post’s Siding because Dr. William Post, an early settler, owned a great deal of land there. The western section of today’s neighborhood was part of the walking city – close enough to downtown that people could easily walk there for work or shopping. Beyond that it was much empty space.

However, there was something called a “railroad suburb” by some urban historians. Before the streetcars came to the area, railroads allowed people to live fairly far outside of the central city and get there by setting up stops that could take residents to and from downtown. Post Siding was among them and had a train depot at Earl and East Seventh.

St. Paul Harvester Works, circa 1874.

It is hard to find extensive information about the Post Siding and its surroundings. The 1879 city directory found that Charles M. James of Post Siding was a “coremaker” a person who makes cores for foundry molds. In 1901, a woman named Hannah was a seamstress and a border at the Post Siding House. That same year a Scandinavian wrote that he was looking for any kind of work, “wages no problem.” He also wanted to learn a trade.

There were also bits and pieces in the St. Paul Globe. In April 1899, the paper noted that Sidney Young was injured while jumping from a freight train at Post Siding. He was doing nicely “despite the amputation of his right arm.” Other short notices said that The Post Siding Prohibition Club would be meeting Saturday evening at 7:00 at the Presbyterian Church. There was an announcement that on “A Saturday in 1884, at 2 o’clock, a real estate man named Kavanagh would “dis- pose of six lots on Ross Street, corner of Earl Street, one-half block from Seventh Street, and one block from the Post Siding depot.”

Not all news in the Globe was good. “Of the man found dead in an orchard on Atlantic St., Post Siding, nothing was known at the time, and all the efforts of the local detective force have since failed to develop a clue,” one piece stated.

Another spoke of a dangerous prank by two boys. Leonard Bohn, living at 810 Atlantic, and Elgin Wingerd of 1208 East Seventh Street, were arrested for “loosening brakes on freight cars in the railroad yards at Post Siding.” They admitted their guilt “but pleaded that they did not realize the dangerous nature of their amusement.” They were turned over to their parents for discipline.

In September 1903, six “lads” from eleven to sixteen years old were in police court charged with “breaking into Northern Pacific freight cat at Post Siding.” They had made off “with 10,000 cartridges and had placed them a few blocks away. Detective Moran “discovered the plant and watched till some of the boys came to get the cartridges.”

The longest article I found was in a June 1886 Globe and it showed a growing sense of civic action for the area. It said “about a hundred of the representative tax payers and citizens living at Post Siding gathered in the rink on East Seventh street at that place last evening to form an organization similar in object to the Dayton’s Bluff Citizens’ Union.” They elected a temporary chairman and secretary. The object of the organization was “to look after needed improvements and the general interests of that section of St. Paul lying back of Dayton’s Bluff, and a paper to that effect was placed in the secretary’s hands for signatures.” A committee of five was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws to be submitted at the next meeting “after which the assemblage adjourned to meet June 14, at 8 p.m. at the rink.”

Steve Trimble can be reached at editor@daytonsbuff.org.
Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

May 2017

Many thanks to our 2017 donors:

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Dear Reader,

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

If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out the form at right. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations, or include the Forum in your legacy planning.

If you have been our Friend in the past, please renew your membership with a donation in 2017.

Our goal for the year is $2,000; as of this printing we have raised $1260.00 – Will you help us?

Sincerely,
The Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Thank you for your support!

Have Forum, will travel...

“We greatly enjoy this publication, so we decided to take it with us halfway around the world,” said Lindsey and Alex Bode, who recently traveled to the Cook Islands. This photo was taken at Muri Beach in Rarotong.

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.

Contest: Where in Dayton’s Bluff?

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

Congratulations to Anne Paterson, winner of the April contest with her correct guess of the location in the photo: Taqueria Los Paisanos.

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