

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 31, No. 9
October 2018
daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"

Midwest Special Services hosts open house

*Temperance Brennan
Special to the Forum*

Since 1949, Midwest Special Services has provided individualized programs and support to people with intellectual and physical disabilities. They work to help them reach their personal goals and achieve their full potential. The organization has been in Dayton's Bluff for quite a few years but most residents have never heard of it. That may be why they had an open house that I attended around a month ago.

Even though I have driven down East 7th Street for many years, I had never seen their campus. I found out it was at 900 Ocean Street, one block west of Johnson Parkway. You have to head north on Ocean and fairly soon you see their sign.

It's a very large, tucked-away facility, filled with various kinds of equipment, desks, and other items. During

the open house people could tour the facilities and see some of the activities they offer – I witnessed weaving and silk screening.

There were two food trucks and visitors got a free ticket to eat from their choice of trucks. The St. Paul Fire Department ladder truck showed how to unroll their 50-60 foot ladder.

The tour leader explained some of the things the group offers – employment and job training, adaptive equipment, learning curriculum, facilitated exploration of creative arts, and interpersonal skills.

The organization also has a Mobile Work Crew that provides local business partners with staff for a range of services including light manufacturing, food services, janitorial, and clerical work. Just to the east of the main building is a lawn with benches, trees, flowers, and five small sculptures that are made with metal parts such as tubing wheels, springs, and other metallic items. If you missed the open house, the group is open to visitors. Their hours during the week are from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Call 651-778-1000 or visit mwsservices.org.

Temperance Brennan can be reached at daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.



Erica Crawford

In an extremely early demonstration of civic pride, Carson Crawford took to the streets (okay, the sidewalks) to care for his neighborhood. "This was 100% his idea," says Carson's mom, Erica Crawford. "He really wanted to help clean up the streets and sidewalks. Needless to say, I was proud, not only for his creativity but also genuine interest in community."



Temperance Brennan

Midwest Special Services hosted an open house to welcome visitors to their location and to showcase some of the many activities and opportunities they have offered our community since 1949.



Greg Cosimini

The 2018 Saint Paul Classic Bike Tour was held on Sunday, September 9. These bikers are pedaling west on Burns Avenue past Obb's Sports Bar & Grill as they head towards Indian Mounds Park.

Gold Line BRT update: Mounds Boulevard options

From metrotransit.org

Neighbors gathered at the East Side Enterprise Center in Saint Paul on July 31 to comment on the location for the proposed Gold Line BRT route and station in the Mounds Boulevard area. Two options are being considered (pictured below): A route on Mounds Boulevard with bus-only lanes and a station at 3rd

Street, or a route on Maria Avenue with buses traveling on the road with regular traffic and a station at Conway Street. Neighbors who attended the meeting preferred the route and station location on Mounds Boulevard, and said the location would still be easily accessible for the neighborhood. Concerns with the Maria Avenue option included increased traffic congestion and potential impacts to pedestrians.

Thank you to all who came out to the neighborhood meetings and spoke on behalf of your community!



**Dayton's Bluff
Community Council**
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St. Paul, MN 55106

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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, at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, at 10:30 a.m. The next hike will be on Saturday, October 13. 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, October 4, at 6:30 p.m. Email karin@swedehollow.org 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 Friday, October 5, at 1:00 p.m., at Swede Hollow Cafe at 725 E. 7th Street. Call 651-776-0550 or email daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com 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, October 17, 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 le puede ayudar. SNAP proporciona fondos para alimentos que benefician a familias de escasos recursos.

Aún si no es ciudadano, si tiene hijos nacidos en este país ellos podrían calificar. Participar en el programa SNAP no afectará su estatus migratorio.

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

Need healthy food for your family? The SNAP program provides funds for low-income families to buy food. Even if you are not a citizen, your children born in this country could qualify. Participation in the SNAP program won't affect their immigration status.

Call CLUES to find out if you qualify at 612-746-3500. Our bilingual staff can facilitate the process for your family.

Twin Cities Mobile Market

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



Saturday, October 13: Midwest All-Star Wrestling presents: *Allegro*. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Bell Time at 7:00 p.m. Tickets: Check our website for ticket information.

October 19-28: *Real Haunted Tours*. One hour night-time presentations of our well-known haunted venue. Walk and learn historical information and stories about our resident spirits! For ages 16+. Stairs, darkness, and paranormal company is included. The last tour of the night (11:59 p.m.) has an option to upgrade to a 3-hour tour, a 3-hour tour, which includes the regular tour, plus the basement and time to explore on your own. Sunday the 28th we will run two "Sunset Tours" which give an opportunity for kids 8-15 to take the tour (accompanied by an adult) before sundown so it's a little less intimidating for younger participants. Tickets \$20 (1 hour tours); \$30 (extended 3-hour mid-night tours); \$15 (kids on "Sunset Tours).

December 7-29: *A Klingon Christmas Carol*. The classic tale of SQuja' learning the true meaning of courage and honor on the eve of the Long Night. Presented in the original Klingon with English supertitles. Seating is reserved, and some shows will sell out, so advance ticket purchases are encouraged. Tickets \$18 (general); \$35 (VIP table).

Visit moundstheatre.org for information on upcoming events as it becomes available. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com.

October at the Dayton's Bluff Library

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

Saturdays, from noon to 2:00 p.m., *Maker Space in the FunZONE!* Play computer games like Minecraft, and enjoy other hands-on fun in the Zone.

Tuesday, October 9, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 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 are expected to write reviews of the books they read. The reviews are submitted directly to the publishers to help guide their decisions. New members can register at the meeting. Call 651-632-3873 for more information.

Did you know that you can check out board games at the library? Library visitors can play the games in the library or check them out for two weeks. The full list of games can be viewed at

<http://bit.ly/MetroGames> and all are available to the public.

See the full calendar of events happening in September at the Dayton's Bluff Library on page 3.

For information about these and other events check sppl.org or call 651-793-1699. The Dayton's Bluff Library shares its home with Metropolitan State University at 645 East 7th Street.

Business Classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur class helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. Class training lasts 12 weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with creating a successful business, and developing a business plan, plus eight hours of one-on-one assistance with creating and preparing a business plan.

Those who successfully complete the course are eligible for ongoing business support services (they don't have to locate their business in target neighborhoods to be eligible).

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. Class size is limited, so sign up now. Please call the training department at 651-379-8113.

Wish List Care Packages

Did you know that you can help East Side Elders distribute food, hygiene items, and more to seniors on the East Side by shopping our Amazon Wish List? Visit www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/3KK0O1OGFO5NJ.

You can have these much-needed items sent right to our office. From there, our team of volunteers will distribute them to seniors in need. Help us make a bigger impact and shop our wish list today!

Seeking Donations: *Shampoo!* With the help of supporters like you, we are able to supply groceries and personal care items to nine seniors in the community, at no charge to them. These items help stretch their monthly budgets and give them access to healthy food and much-needed personal care products. Right now, we are in need of donations

of shampoo for our clients. All brands are accepted. Please consider including shampoo for different hair types and textures.

For ideas, visit our Amazon Wish List. When you purchase from our Wish List, the items are sent directly to our office. Donations can also be dropped off at our office: East Side Elders, 463 Maria Avenue Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55106. A printable wish list can also be found on our website.

Grocery Shopping

Did you know that East Side Elders can help you and your loved one with grocery shopping? We want to be part of your support team!

Let East Side Elders take a chore off your long to-do list! To get help with grocery shopping, simply give us a call at 651-683-2326 or email us at Info@EastSideElders.org with a detailed list. From there, we put a call out to our grocery shopping team and schedule a day and time that works for you and the volunteer for delivery.

As with our other services, grocery shopping is donation-based. You can donate what you can for the convenience of not having to head out to the store. Reimbursement for the 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 has special indoor and outdoor clinics for pets on the East Side. The events offer free wellness exams, vaccines, nail trims, spay/neuter appointment scheduling, guidance from the AHS behavior team and St. Paul Animal Control, free pet food, and more.

For information on upcoming events and locations call 651-788-4685 or visit <http://animalhumanesociety.org/outreach-services-frogtown-and-east-st-paul>.

The Smilin' Cowboys

Popular Twin Cities party band, *The Smilin' Cowboys*, will perform at the Minnesota Music Café, located at 500 Payne Avenue on the second Thursday of each month. Music begins at 8:00 p.m.

Church of St. Mary



Why not join us for some
peace and friendship?

FALL EVENTS

Blessing of the Pets
September 30, 11:45 am

Annual Booya & Fall Festival
October 7, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Turkey Bingo
November 10, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

St. Mary's is a Roman Catholic Church located in downtown Saint Paul
Only minutes from Dayton's Bluff via Third St. or Seventh St.
Ample off-street free parking - Easily accessible by bus.
261 E. 8th St., St. Paul, MN 55101

Pastor: Father Benny Mekkatt, CFIC
Weekend Mass Schedule: Saturday 4:30 pm; Sunday 7:30 & 10:30 am
Phone: 651-222-2619; Email: office@stmarystpaul.org
Website: www.stmarystpaul.org

Dayton's Bluff Library

OCTOBER 2018

PLUS:

Wherever you see the pumpkins...

Monday thru Wednesday
12-3 pm: Open Lab
4-4:30 pm: Snack in the ZONE
4-7 pm: Homework Help in the ZONE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6-8 pm Dayton's Bluff Book Club	4 10:30-11 am Storytime in English	5 11-11:30 am Baby Storytime	6 2-4 pm FunZONE Games & Makepace
7	8 ALL SPPL LIBRARIES CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING	9 6:30-8:30 pm Teens Know Best	10 10:30-11 am Storytime in English	11 10:30-11 am Storytime in English	12 11-11:30 am Baby Storytime	13 2-4 pm FunZONE Games & Makepace
14	15	16	17 10:30-11 am Storytime in English	18 10:30-11 am Storytime in English	19 11-11:30 am Baby Storytime 3-5 pm Puzzles & Games Unplugged	20 2-4 pm FunZONE Games & Makepace
21	22	23	24 10:30-11 am Storytime in English	25 10:30-11 am Storytime in English	26 11-11:30 am Baby Storytime	27 2-4 pm FunZONE Games & Makepace
28	29	30	31	= event co-sponsored by Metropolitan State University		

Dayton's Bluff Library
645 East 7th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-793-1699
E-mail: daytonsbhuff@ci.stpaul.mn.us

SAINT PAUL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mounds Park United Methodist Church


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

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is a multicultural, intergenerational neighborhood congregation located at 1049 Euclid Street in Dayton's Bluff. Sunday worship begins at **10:30 a.m.**

Saturday, October 27: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., join MPUMC for their annual *Rummage and Bake Sale!* Stop by and get some treasures for your home along with some delicious baked treats!

Sundays: Multi-Generational Sunday School Class. Class meets every **Sunday at 9:15 a.m.** in the lounge of the church. This class follows an adult curriculum and has a participant age range of 80 years! Youth start in worship at 10:30 a.m. Following kid's time, children aged 0-4 years go to the staffed nursery, grades K-5 go to the upstairs Sunday School room, and children grades 6-12 go downstairs for classes. Breakfast is served during Sunday School. The nursery is staffed for those children aged 0-4 years who do not want to start in worship. Please call the church with any questions.

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Elder Café

Thursday, October 11, 2018
12:00 Noon – 2:30 PM
463 Maria Avenue, St. Paul MN 55106
(Note this program is longer than the usual Elder Café)



“A change is gonna come”

(apologies to Sam Cooke)



Effective January 1, 2019, your Medicare insurance provider will no longer offer Medicare Cost Plans. Representatives from Senior Linkage Line will help us understand the changes and guide us through the Open Enrollment Period.

Hope you can join us for a nourishing meal and great conversation!

Call (651) 683-2326 to make a reservation* or to request a free ride!

The cost of the event is \$5.00 per person.
Punch cards can be purchased at the door.

*We cannot guarantee a meal without a reservation.



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Contest: Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Send your guess to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com with the location of the neighborhood curiosity pictured below for a chance to win great prizes from local businesses. The reader who submits the first correct entry will be notified and the winner will be announced in the November edition of the *Forum*.



Grand Opening of Sepak Takraw Courts

*Seeley Booth
Forum Contributor*

The East Side made history on Saturday, September 8, with the opening of the first publicly constructed courts in the United States for the popular southeast Asian game of Sepak Takraw. There are now three courts at the Duluth and Case Recreation Center and two others in Marydale Park.

The sport is native to Southeast Asia and the name consists of two words meaning kick and ball. Sepak is the Malay word for kick and takraw is Thai for a woven ball. It is sometimes called kick volleyball, but unlike that game, here you cannot use your hands and have to get a ball over a net with your feet, head, or chest.

The Hmong community has worked for years with the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department to finish the project. Until now, people had been playing by putting up their own nets in make-shift locations. In spite of that, athletes from St. Paul have been repre-

senting this country at international Sepak Takraw competitions. The new facility was primarily funded through donations.

There were speeches from a variety of Hmong leaders and other public officials. There was food, dances by two different groups, and several demonstrations of the game at the new facilities.

Seeley Booth can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.



Seeley Booth

A group of Sepak Takraw players demonstrating their sport at the grand opening of the new courts located at the Duluth and Case Recreation Center.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

804 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-776-0550 E-mail: daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Nick Duncan, Karin DuPaul, Sage Holben, Steve Trimble

Editor/layout: Jennifer Gascoigne; Associate Editor: Mark Gallagher

Photographer: Lou "The Photo Guy" Michaels

Next issue: November 2018. **Deadline for material: October 10, 2018.**

VOTE
Rafael
ORTEGA
Your County Commissioner



NOVEMBER 6th

DFL/LABOR/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ENDORSED

RAFAEL IS WORKING FOR YOU TO:

- Build a complete regional transit system including the Riverview Transit Line connecting the Union Depot to the airport and mall, Gold Line to Woodbury and Rush Line to White Bear Lake.
- Redevelop the former West Building and Rice Creek Commons (formerly the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant in Arden Hills) to create more jobs and housing and expand the Ramsey County tax base.
- Make the Dorothy Day Expansion serve people who are homeless in Ramsey County in new and better ways.

Prepared and Paid for by Friends for Ortega

Senator Hawj celebrates grand opening of first public Sepak Takraw courts in America

*Matt Roznowski
Office of Senator Founng Hawj*

Senator Founng Hawj (DFL-St. Paul) on September 8, participated in a grand opening ceremony for new Sepak Takraw courts at the Duluth and Case Recreation Center in St. Paul – the first courts of their kind in the nation. The celebration featured officials from Sepak Takraw of the USA, Inc., the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department, and the Saint Paul Parks Conservancy, who formed a joint fundraising campaign to help finance the project.

"I am pleased that youth and adults will now have a new place to gather, be safe, and have fun in St. Paul," said Sen. Hawj. "A lot of people worked hard to turn this project into a reality, starting with community leaders who organized at the grassroots to bring this idea to our public officials. Thank you to everyone who got involved. The best Sepak Takraw players are here in our state. I know that every time Team Minnesota sets foot on the court, the other side would tremble. That is the pride I like to have for us and for Minnesota. I invite Minnesotans of all cultures to visit the recreation center, learn about the sport, and try it out yourself. This is an opportunity to bring people together to build more vibrant, inclusive communities."

Sepak Takraw, or Kato, is a traditional Southeast Asian sport that mostly resembles volleyball but requires players to use

only their feet, knees, head, and chest, much like soccer. The ball is roughly 5 1/2" in diameter and woven rattan (traditionally) or synthetic rubber. Typically, two teams of three players each play on a 20' x 44' court separated by a 5' high net. An official match is won by the best of 3 games each played to 21 points.

Below is an excerpt of remarks made by Mike Hahm, Director of City of St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department, at the September 8 grand opening ceremony.

"In order to have a city that works for all, you need a recreation program that works for all. I could not be more proud of the people and professional staff that came together to build our sepak takraw courts and run facilities like this here every day."

In addition to a joint fundraising campaign, sources of financing included the NFL Super Bowl Host Committee, Minnesota Humanities Center, Saint Paul District 5 Council, Sepak Takraw of USA, Inc., and Ramsey County.



Photo Courtesy of Facebook/Senator Founng Hawj

Representatives Peter Fischer, Leon Lillie, and Senator Founng Hawj sponsored legislation to the First Sepak Takraw Courts in the United States.

**Rep. Sheldon Johnson wants you to:
REGISTER & VOTE NOVEMBER 6th**

We just marked the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. Make sure you and your family are registered to vote, and that you get out to vote on November 6th, 2018!

Voting is a crucial part of a keeping our democracy strong and our community engaged. I know many of you are actively engaged in the electoral process, but this is also an important reminder to talk to your friends, family members, and neighbors about registering to vote.

While Minnesota has more than 3.2 million registered voters, but there's nearly 1 million citizens who are eligible but have not yet registered to vote. Together we make sure those 1 million people get registered and participate in our democracy.

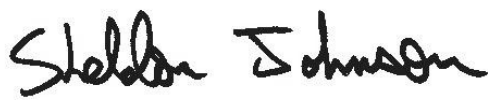
You can register to vote, and find more information at:

www.mnvotes.org

and don't forget to

Vote on Tuesday, November 6th

Sincerely,



Rep. Sheldon Johnson



**State
Representative
SHELDON
JOHNSON**

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

(651) 296-4201

rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn

www.house.mn/67B
www.sheldonjohnson.com

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

Mark Murnane: Dayton's Bluff and Florida developer and entrepreneur

*Mark Gallagher
Associate Editor*

Mark Murnane wasn't born a salesman, but he was definitely influenced by many family members who were involved in sales. In fact, his grandfather, Stanley T. Murnane, was a salesman for the Anchor-Hocking Company, a manufacturer of glass since 1905. An article on Stanley T. Murnane was published in the July 2018 issue of the *Dayton's Bluff Forum*.

Murnane started on the sales road in second grade when he made his first dollar. "I went down alleys and looked through people's garbage containers and pulled out items that I thought were of value," Murnane said. "My first two finds were men's top hats that were in great condition, and I brought them home.

"A couple days later, my aunt and un-

cle stopped by, and I offered him the hats for \$.50 apiece because he wore hats on a day-to-day basis. My uncle bought both of them, so the first dollar I made was selling him those two hats."

Incidentally, those two hats were pulled from Harold and Marie Slawik's garbage can. Mr. and Mrs. Slawik were the first owners of HarMar Mall. They lived on the other side of the block from Murnane's house on Summit Ave. HarMar is a combination of their first names.

After that first sales success, Murnane continued to go up and down alleys looking for stuff. "I had a bicycle with a cart, a lawn cart that was towed behind my bicycle," he said. "I filled it up with pop and beer bottles then brought them to the store to get a refund on them. Large bottles were worth seven cents, beer bottles were a penny, and if you had a whole case, you could get a quarter, so I just kept doing that.

"A little later our family moved across the street from St. Thomas College, and all those college kids used to throw their beer bottles out by the ton — it was crazy! So some friends and I

would go over and fill the cart up with beer bottles from this big dumpster and we just kept doing that. It was like heaven in a bottle!"

In the fifth grade, Murnane started cutting grass for a couple of his neighbors during the summer, and he removed snow from their sidewalks and driveways in the winter. "It grew and grew, and it expanded into Highland Park after I got my driver's license," he said. "I got more and more customers, and all of them were by word of mouth because we didn't have the internet at that time. I got up to 60 accounts, and that was by myself because I just liked to cut grass, so I worked whenever I had the chance or the time."

His dad got a magazine called *Hemmings Motor News* that showcased collector cars, and Murnane saw a Rolls Royce highlighted in the magazine. He wanted that car so bad and thought to himself: *Someday...* He cut out those little pictures of the Rolls Royce, put them in his bedroom, and thought about that car day and night — that was all he could think about. Murnane eventually got the exclusive car, which at the time

was 40 years old. "I have an extremely focused mind and have financial goals I want to meet," Murnane said.

All through high school, Murnane cut grass. He received a grant to go to St. Thomas College, where his father had graduated, but the young Murnane stayed in college only two weeks. He remembers sitting in geology class, thinking: *What am I ever going to do with rocks? The sun is going down, and I've got grass to cut.*

"I did work at McDonald's for probably two weeks," Murnane said. "I'm just not employable; I don't work well for other people at all — I just never have.

"But I am still cutting grass while trying those other jobs, and my parents were so disappointed in me that they had these different professionals speak to me about staying in school. They said, 'You know Mark, you need to have this education at St. Thomas if you are ever going to be anything in life.' My parents had five people, including my two uncles, come over to our house and talk to me, but it just didn't work out.

See "Mark Murnane," continued on page 6.

You got somethin' to say? Say it here!

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* welcomes all opinions and neighborhood anecdotes – send yours to:
daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Deadline for the November 2018 issue of the *Forum* is October 10, 2018.

View from my porch

Sage Holben
Forum Staff

I've been noticing a disappointing pattern in government decision-making. I see laws and codes being enacted by state or city, and in that process, the domino effect on the next lower levels are discounted or not at all considered. Legalization of marijuana and traffic planning are two such areas.

It is inevitable, I have been told by police, that recreational marijuana will soon be legal. I won't go into pros and cons of recreational or medicinal use or driver safety. My focus is second hand smell/smoke. Renters will have fewer rights to clean air when smoking weed, whether medicinally or recreationally, becomes legal. In reality, the Minnesota Clean Air Act does not and will not protect those who live in four-plexes or smaller. In the past, when other renters were smoking, one area renter noted, where the leases for the apartments designated her building as non-smoking, she called the off-site manager and reported the cigarette smoking (the stench was seeping into her apartment). She was told that because the renters had signed the lease, which stated 'no smoking,' no one was smoking. She had already reminded the guilty person that the building was non-smoking, and he came running and yelling at her, cornering her at the bottom of the stairs. I had a very similar experience. Unlike noise, which can be taped, there is no way to capture a smell as proof.

A neighbor, in a similar situation, started calling the police to have them visit, verifying that other renters were smoking marijuana. He was calling not for an arrest or prosecution, simply verification. After several such calls and visits, police notified his property manager and the pot smoking stopped. When recreational marijuana becomes legal, there will be no such recourse when the landlord doesn't check out the offense.

From my experience, it is bad enough to have the smell coming into my personal space from the public sidewalk, street, or cars, but hours of it inside my apartment sicken me. 'Breathing free' will not be a choice. Our senators and representatives will make the decision and never consider the collateral effect or how to curb it. I have brought up the topic with several candidates and received glazed looks or slight, amused smiles.

Traffic planning, or any neighborhood issue for that matter, is another area of decision-making that could be strengthened. A complete article WILL be forthcoming, so all I will try to keep this brief. It appears to me that some of our city employees, from the top down, need a lesson in understanding (beyond a cursory-verbal 'I understand') that every neighborhood, beyond very basic human behaviors, is not the same physically or in its residential composition, i.e. cultural and economic behaviors; that in making decisions that affect the people who live on a block or in that neighborhood, city decision-makers/information-gatherers must supplement the paperwork, the digi-

tal maps, and the computer-generated information, with an actual visit (three would be better) to the 'in-reality' neighborhood. Granted, neighborhoods change in make-up over time, and this is to be considered.

My advice is to get out of your car, talk with some neighbors and ask their opinions of the potential changes. BUT, if you are so bold as to get out of your office: talk with residents ahead of time and learn when the most people are out and about, when the most vehicle and foot traffic use intersections and roadways, when is the block the most active. VISIT the neighborhood at an ACTIVE time, sit on a porch with a neighbor or two and OBSERVE for more than five minutes... could 45 minutes be worth the city's time in making an informed decision? How would residents inform you? What do they see? They don't see things the same; they see activity at different times; they perceive activity from different personal perspectives; what do they suggest? I'll bet it'll be different than the dated manual of standards your department is using.

In answer to traffic complaints in my neighborhood, at least three different departments have come for a walk- or run-through around 10:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. And 1:00 or 2:00 in the afternoon. These are generally very quiet, almost desolate times of day on Fourth Street. Area drug dealers are not yet up and out, kids are in school or babysitting inside, and employed people are at their job sites. Fewer vehicles are cutting through the intersection; yet city employees will tell us they visited the area and saw no problems. To our knowledge, only one city employee came at a realistic time to check out a problem. She talked with two neighbors to get a background; then visited two ends of the area, observing a primary area for about half to three quarters of an hour to watch the activity, asking questions of residents. To catch the liveliest activity of our neighborhood, after department staff hours, i.e. from 5:30 p.m. on would be necessary. It doesn't often happen that city employees are willing to reschedule their work schedules to visit our neighborhood in 'real time.'

You can (anonymously) see the world in action from my corner porch; with more realism than sitting in a City of St. Paul vehicle, or a marked squad car on the corner filled with unreal expectations. We would welcome you.

Perhaps we could look at updating the traffic signage standards? Habits of drivers have changed in the last 10-15 years - let's not rely on old norms. Consider this: My younger friends remind me that they want to get from point A to point B... fast. Stoplights take too long. Stop signs offer more of a suggestion than a demand. I see many drivers with a smart phone on the steering wheel. When they come to an intersection, they don't look left or right (beyond, perhaps, a slight tweak of the head); the driver looks up (maybe) from the phone and straight ahead. Why not place the stop sign, or other 'suggestion' in the middle of the intersection as much of Great Britain has been doing? Perhaps drivers will have a better chance of 'seeing?'

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

Continued from page 5:

Mark Murnane

"Needless to say, my parents were a little upset because they had some money just sitting there for my education, but I just never cared for school and that was the extent of my college education. I did no more schooling."

Murnane's first investment (the first time he actually paid for a product) was a portable crank-up Victrola record player he bought at an estate sale before he started driving. He paid nine dollars for the record player, took it to an antique shop, and sold it for \$16. That was Murnane's first actual cash investment, but there were many products before the Victrola that he had gotten for free: he would find old chests and antique items to bring home, give them a coat of paint, and sell them in the Thrifties.



Mark Gallagher

Mark Murnane, Dayton's Bluff and Florida developer and entrepreneur.

In 1986, Murnane started a real estate management company, and started managing a 20-unit apartment building. He bought a house in Dayton's Bluff, moved there, and started investing in the neighborhood. "Our management company started buying property in Dayton's Bluff," Murnane said, "which were mostly single-family homes, duplexes, and some apartment buildings.

"We worked with the Historic Dayton's Bluff Association and Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhoods Association and bought a lot of HUD houses, foreclosures, and vacant buildings that were registered with the City of St. Paul. Our management company brought most of them from disrepair to livable conditions."

In addition to the house Murnane and his wife, Linda, own in Dayton's Bluff, they also had a house and own a resort in Cape Coral, Florida, a city in which there are 400 miles of canals — more than in Venice, Italy. A couple of years ago, they moved to Fort Meyer, Florida, because they wanted an old house that was built on an acreage.

"My wife and I have the resort hotel in Florida and also restore houses there but on a much smaller scale than we did

in Dayton's Bluff," Murnane said. "We basically flip the houses, and I don't have a crew there because my wife and I do most of the work ourselves — it's more of a hobby for us.

"We have a management company there called MarLin Management of Minnesota, which is a little different variation of what we have here in Minnesota. We have apartment buildings, two fourplexes, three houses, and the resort hotel in Florida.

"My fondest memory of my grandfather (Stanley T. Murnane) is just going over to his house," Mark said, "and watching Twins baseball with him. That was totally, totally his pastime, just sitting in the living room. My dad and I were over at my grandfather's house every Saturday.

"He didn't like the sportscasters on the television, so the TV was on, but the sound came out of the radio because he liked the sportscasters on the radio. Yeah, it was a black and white console TV, and I could never figure it out — why doesn't this knob turn the sound down? My grandfather always had this little Panasonic radio with the antenna going up, so that was very funny to us."

Murnane's grandfather taught him the process of selling: you have to sell yourself to your prospective customer, and their satisfaction in the transaction is always your number one priority. "My grandfather always said that a salesman should put customer satisfaction above the financial part of the business in order to have a happy customer," Murnane said. "The customer was more important to him than the revenue part."

Mark Murnane has taken his grandfather's advice to heart. "We have people who like to sew come from Canada during the winter and stay at our resort for four weeks," he said. "When they get to their rooms, they will have a sewing machine there. When those same people come to our resort the next year, there will again be a sewing machine in their room.

"So that's what my grandfather was always telling me — customer satisfaction — that's what it's all about, and the way you keep people coming back."

Mark Murnane has been happily married for 30 years, and he and his wife, Linda, have two children. Their daughter, Morgan, is 29, and their son, Kyle, is 27. Kyle dabbles in real estate, but his primary job is running the hotel. Murnane bought his first apartment building when he was 23, and Kyle bought his first apartment building when he was also 23, so Kyle is following in his dad's footsteps.

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

A humble ode to art

Daniel Shanklin
Forum Contributor

No matter how adamantly one might search
There will always be new art to experience
Contemporary or not
There will always be
A painting that has yet to give perspective

A statue that has yet to astound
A song that has yet to slap and tickle your soul
Art that has yet to imprint upon your selfdom
The collection of earthly art ensures
That we will always have inspiration
If we so choose to seek it.

East Side Eating – Trimble's Taste Trek

In 2015, Forum contributor Steve Trimble set out to eat at every locally-owned, sit-down restaurant on the East Side (all 59 of them!)

Recently, he has been visting restaurants that opened since then. All of Steve's reviews can be found at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org under the "East Side Eating" tab.

TAMALLI
(651) 444-8308
990 Payne Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55130

Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For catering: Tamallimn@gmail.com

I had previously visited the site of the small restaurant inside 990 Payne Avenue. When I was there the first time, it was a Salvadorian spot featuring pupusas and other traditional foods. It later housed Hamburguesa El Gordo, which specialized in the fattest hamburgers I had ever seen. For two months now it has been TAMALLI, offering "authentic Mexican tamales." There are other dining options in the large area, so each one shares the décor and seating which is tables and booths. There was a variety of tamales—green tamales with chicken, red tamales filled with pork, Rajas tamales featuring jalapenos and cheese, a pineapple tamale, and a black bean tamale that is vegan.

There are lots of other kinds of food, most having touches of Latino cuisine influence. There are hamburgers such as Hamburguesas Mexicana with mozzarella cheese and jalapeno aioli, Hawaiian burgers that add bacon and pineapple, as well as a kids mini hamburger.

How about the so-called American hot dogs? Here you can find sencillo, jocho, and El perro varieties. Under the menu category you can find Mexico. It features tande tamal oaque and oxageno with chicken whose origins are in the Oaxacan area of Mexico.

There is no table service offered, you order at the counter and are signaled when your food is ready. When I approached, I saw a sign that said "The Special Del Dia" (special of the day was Pambozos). Since it was not on any of the computerized menu boards and I might not get another chance to sample it, I went for it. The dish is made of Mexican white bread, a huge bun that is dipped in a red pepper sauce that gives it a reddish tint, filled with potato, cheese, chorizo, lettuce, and onions, then cooked until crispy. Since the special included a soft drink, I grabbed a Coke which the can said was the "original taste."

They offer a variety of other soft drinks as well as coffee, rice with milk, and champurrado, which is a warm chocolate-based thick drink that is based on a corn dough sometimes flavored with cinnamon.

On Saturdays and Sundays they make tepache bienfrio, a cool drink made of slightly fermented pineapple and other spices. TAMALLI does not have beer or wine, but the adjacent Mexican steak house can provide those libations if desired.

Vianey Rameriz is the owner and operator. She has been working in the food industry for 13 years and finally decided she was tired of working for others. She learned to cook most of the recipes of her mother who grew up in Oaxaca and lived in Mexico City.

There is a parking lot on the east side of the building. If you are hosting a meeting or party, TAMALLI offers catering.

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



Steve Trimble

Vianey Rameriz, owner of TAMALLI, a new restaurant located at 990 Payne Avenue.

Mounds Theatre Memories – Life in the Depression

James P. Perrier
Special to the Forum

This short memoir is an attempt to share some of the feelings I have for "The Mounds."

At one time there was a hamburger shop directly across the street from the theater as well as Johnson's grocers up on the corner. Many of my childhood friends once lived on that same side of the street to the west near Cypress and Forest. Their homes were taken for the freeway. Depression or no Depression, those were fascinating times for kids.

I was driving back to my home in South Minneapolis after attending the funeral of an old friend in Amery, Wisconsin. My route coming into St. Paul along I-94 took me through what reminds me of a scar, that mile-long ditch from Johnson Parkway to the Third Street bridge that the highway department gouged out of my old neighborhood during the creation of the interstate system back in the 1950s. I suppose it's true that you can't relive the past, but it's been 60 years since our family moved away and I still sometimes give in to the impulse to pull off the freeway and visit once again the neighborhood where I grew up, slowly cruising the streets, matching houses with the names of the families that used to live there back in the '30s and '40s.

Most of the streets still have the same names that they had back then except for Hastings (renamed Hudson Road) and Wilson, which used to be Hudson Avenue.

My family lived in the home that my dad had built in 1916 at 947 Wakefield Avenue, just three doors west of the big old Wakefield home, which gave the street its name. My Dad was a railroad man and my mother a housewife and mother to five boys and one girl.

"The Bluff," as it was known, was a great place for a kid to grow up. A few blocks to the east, right behind the city dump, were the brickyards - an open area which pretty well marked the eastern boundary of the city. If you loved skiing and sliding or tobogganing, it was a hilly paradise. If team sports were your favorite activities you had only to walk a few blocks west to reach the Tuxedo playground near Maria and Hastings. The crown jewel of the area was Indian Mounds Park, sitting atop the bluffs that overlooked the Mississippi River and the airport.

The views were spectacular in three directions. You didn't have far to go to reach Mounds Park Elementary School. It was just a few blocks to the north on McLean and could boast of having an angel watching over its kindergarten. Her name was Miss Ambler. I spent grades 1 through 8 at St. John's Parochial School on Fifth and Forest where classmates named McLaughlin, Burns, and O'Connell shared my classroom. If your folks were German they might have preferred Sacred Heart Grade School also on Fifth, just two blocks west of St.

Johns.

The entertainment center for the neighborhood was the Mounds Theatre on Hastings Avenue between Earl and Cypress. It shared the block with Brozek's Grocery to the west and Basta's Bakery, Olson's Department Store, and Otto's Drug Store to the east.

In those years before television, the Mounds was everyone's full-service provider. The bill changed three times a week with showings at 7:00 and 9:00 each evening and matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Many of the theatre's customers attended more than once a week. There were daily advertisements in the newspaper and playbills at your doorstep every Saturday morning. My three older brothers were among the lucky teenagers who got to deliver those playbills in exchange for free passes to the movies. As my brother Gene now explains it, there were three, four, and seven pass routes with two kids sharing a route, each taking one side of the street.

My brother, Gene, still remembers



Photo courtesy of agentbenedict.com

The Mounds Theatre, circa 1930s-1940s.

the winter day when he and his friends were sliding near the Mounds Park ski jump. They were skiing down the big jump's landing hill on simple skis, which were held on by a single leather strap and reinforced by a large rubber band cut from an automobile inner tube.

Before good sense could prevail Gene was hurtling down the scaffold and off into the air where the wind caught his skis and pointed them in every direction except straight ahead. When he finally stopped bouncing and careening through the shrubbery he was a bloody mess of cuts and bruises.

The 1930s were depression years and the unemployment rate was near 20%. Even if you were lucky enough to have a job in those days you might still have to take a wage cut of 10% or more to hold that job. Since the neighborhood around the Mounds Theatre was considered to be a "lunch buckets" or blue-collar area, there wasn't a great deal of loose money or what might now be called "discretionary income" floating around. A \$.15 ticket to the movies might seem insignificant now, but in the prewar years of the 1930s, a skilled aircraft mechanic at the St. Paul airport was considered to be well compensated making \$.16 an hour.

Editor's note: What you have read is an edited down version of an article that ran in the March 2003 edition of the Forum. If you would like to read the complete text, you can find it by visiting www.daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org and clicking on "past issues."

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Tracy Behrends is so dedicated to her work as beloved Dayton's Bluff mail-carrier, she went as far as delivering the *Forum* to Dallas, Texas!

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 daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.



Making the most of the hot summer, the two sixth-grade entrepreneurs pictured at left sold refreshing Kool-Aid to visitors of Indian Mounds Park.

Photo by Steve Trimble

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. 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 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.

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The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*

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