

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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"The Voice of the Community"

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

Mitzi Beliveau
Special to the Forum

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

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

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

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

Camille's grandfather was Bernard Joseph Pabst, who was born in 1896, and married Catherine M. Pabst in May of 1917. They lived in the 804 Margaret building upstairs for a short time. At that time, there was a pool on the side deck

for the family. After that, Camille remembers living within a few blocks, and many members of the family worked for the family business. That is when Camille's mother, Maria Pabst, born in 1918, married Clarence Allard Ofelt.

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

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

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

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

The East Side Enterprise Center is also open for event space rental. Rooms are available at low cost to local non-profits for events. Watch for the springtime of 2020 for a Grand Reopening with new staff, new ideas, and new partnerships.





Mitzi Beliveau

Pictured at left: The East Side Enterprise Center in 2019. The building, located at 798 and 804 Margaret Street, has a lengthy history on the Bluff.

COATS FOR KIDS

Donations Needed





The Salvation Army Eastside is in need of children and teen coats for our annual community distribution. Please consider donating before 10/16/19 at 1019 Payne Ave East. Saint Paul, MN 55130

Thank you!

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Karin DuPaul

Rick Carey with his beautiful leather art work at the Saint Paul Art Crawl in the Saint Paul Brewing Company, formerly Flat Earth Brewery in the old Hamm's Brewery buildings.

Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike

The Hike will be on the second Saturday of most months. The Dayton's Bluff Take -A- Hike starts at Indian Mounds Park on Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard at **10:30 a.m.** The next hike will be on **November 9.** The hike is about one and a half to two hours long and will end up at Swede Hollow Park or East Side Heritage Park depending on the desire of the hikers. You will be able to share and learn a little history along the way. If you have any questions contact KarinDuPaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550.

Friends of Swede Hollow

Watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meeting. The next monthly meeting is on **Thursday, November 7, at 6:30 p.m.** Email KarinDuPaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The *Forum* is seeking writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales – join us at our next meeting on **Saturday, November 2, at 11:00 a.m.,** at Swede Hollow Cafe at 725 E. 7th Street. Call 651-776-0550 or email daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com for more information.

Police Community Meetings

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

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

¿Necesita más comida saludable para la familia? El programa SNAP le puede ayudar. SNAP proporciona fondos para alimentos que 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 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.**



THE HISTORIC
MOUNDS
THEATRE

Saturday, November 2: *Pasties for Pitties*, a fundraiser for My Pit Bull is Family. Join My Pit Bull is Family and local Minneapolis area performers "to lick discrimination" against pit bulls. The night will be filled with entertainment from the moment you walk through the door. Dress your best and take photos in our Photo Booth, bid on items in our silent auction, partake in beverages sold at the theatre bar, and enjoy the show! What exactly is Pasties for Pitties, you might ask? It's a celebration of all things cabaret and burlesque. Beautiful artists will grace the stage in all their glory to help raise money for My Pit Bull is Family to continue their amazing work in communities across the country and right here at home. **Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Happy Hour 7-8:00 p.m. Show starts at 8:00 p.m.**

Friday, November 15: *Midwest All-Star Wrestling*. See the Mounds Theatre website for details.

Saturday, November 16: *ParaFriend Event*, is a public paranormal investigation event at the Historic Mounds Theatre built in 1922. The event goes from **6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.** Tickets are only \$40.

For more information and to buy tickets visit: parafriendevents.com/mound-sevent2019/

Friday, November 22: *Midwest All-Star Wrestling*. See the Mounds Theatre website for details.

Saturday, November 23: *The I Forgot Follies*, is a cabaret show fundraiser for the NE Seniors for Better Living, a 501c3 non-profit group "I Forgot Fund" which supports people living with memory loss and their caregivers. Silent auction. **Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Show starts at 7:00 p.m. Tickets: \$20 General Admission.**

December 6-28: *It's an Honorable Life: A Star Trek Fan Production*. A Klingon fears he is too great a warrior to die in battle and will instead die of old age. Q leads him on a journey through his life in this mixture of Star Trek and holiday classics. Directed by Jason Kruger and featuring a large cast of talented local Klingons, it's sure to be a lot of fun. The show is presented primarily in Klingon with projected English titles. Written by Bill Stiteler, Tim Wick, Tim Uren, and Brian Watson-Jones, with music by Angela Fox and translation by Chris Lipscombe. **Times: 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; 4:30 p.m. on Sundays.** Tickets: General Admission - \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. VIP -

\$35, includes a concession item and table seating right up front.

Visit website at moundstheatre.org for more information and other events not listed here and to purchase tickets as they become available. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com

November at the Dayton's Bluff Library

The following events take place at the Dayton's Bluff Library, 645 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul.

Tuesday, November 12, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Teens Know Best! Teens have exclusive access to books before they are published.

This group meets on the second Tuesday of every month to share opinions and pizza. *Teens Know Best* members write reviews of the books they read. The reviews are submitted to the publishers to help guide their decisions.

School is in session! The library's got your back. Check out sppl.org/back-to-school for information on homework help, after school snack, and other resources to make your school year a success.

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

Wish List Care Packages

Help East Side Elders distribute food, hygiene items, and more to seniors on the East Side by shopping their Amazon Wish List!

Visit www.amazon.com/registry/wish-list/3KK001OGFO5NJ to have these much-needed items sent right to their office. From there, a team of volunteers will distribute them to seniors in need.

With the help of supporters like you, East Side Elders is able to supply groceries and personal care items to 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. Donations can also be dropped off at East Side Elders, 463 Maria Avenue Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55106.

Grocery Shopping

Did you know that East Side Elders can help you and your loved one with grocery shopping?

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

Grocery shopping is a donation-based service. Donate what you can for the convenience of not having to head out 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.

Volunteer with East Side Elders

Did you know that East Side Elders provided over 1,600 rides to seniors on the East Side last year? With the help of our incredible volunteers, we help older adults get to medical appointments, the bank, the grocery store, and other errands. Each ride helps a senior remain an active, vital part of the community.

As we receive more and more requests for help from our senior neighbors, we need to grow our team of volunteer drivers. Join our team by applying online at EastSideElders.org/Volunteer or by contacting us at 651-683-2326. Volunteer drivers have a flexible schedule and help out when they can, as often as they choose. Gas cards are also available for volunteer drivers!

Business Classes

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

Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services. Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include: graphics, landscaping, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture, art, custom floral design, and exterior and interior painting. The course is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding fee scale. Class sizes are limited, so get enrolled now. Please call 651-379-8113 for an application.

Free Help for East Side Pets

The Animal Humane Society's Community Outreach program offers special clinics for pets on the East Side. The events provide free wellness exams, vaccines, nail trims, spay/neuter appointment scheduling, guidance from the AHS behavior team and St. Paul Animal Control, free pet food, and more.

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

Learn About Medicare and Help Others

Help the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging provide one-on-one counseling to Medicare beneficiaries at community partner sites.


Make a difference in your community by becoming a State Health Insurance Assistance Program certified Medicare Counselor. Help people understand their Medicare options. Visit Metroaging.org/volunteer to learn more.



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MOUNDS PARK PERCUSSION STUDIO

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Family Sponsorship Program seeks holiday donors

Ramsey County Health and Wellness

Many families struggle daily to afford food, clothes or a place to sleep. It is no surprise that these families go without presents and special meals during the holiday season. To help ensure more families in our community thrive during this time of year, Volunteer Services' Family Sponsorship Program matches community sponsors with Ramsey County families in need.

Families, individuals, groups and workplaces are invited to sponsor a family this holiday season. The Family Sponsorship Program is different than other holiday giving opportunities that seek cash donations. Sponsors get the opportunity to personally shop and wrap gifts for their matched family.

Contest : Where in Dayton's Bluff?

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



Non-fiction Book Review

Good Germs, Bad Germs – Health and Survival in a Bacterial World

By Jessica Snyder Sachs

Theresa Wanta
Special to the Forum

Are we too clean? Is antibacterial soap harmful? Do Caesarian births deprive the infant of beneficial microbes? Have antibiotics been overused in our bodies and our food? In this book, learn about the symbiotic relationship between microbes and the human body. While public sanitation and antibiotics have increased the human lifespan, they have also disrupted the balance between humans and essential microorganisms.

There are ten times as many bacteria cells in our

bodies as human cells, though the bacteria cells are smaller than human cells. Viruses and bacteria are much older and have evolved more successfully than we have. This cohabitation of human and microbial cells is called the microbiome; the resident microbes of the human body are called microflora. Overuse of antibiotics results in multi-drug resistance and autoimmune diseases. We become seriously unhealthy in a germ-free environment.

Bacteria develop resistance to antibiotics faster than new ones can be invented. With the development of new antibiotics and continually evolving bacteria, there is a change in how humans and bacteria coexist. In the beginning of the book, the author gives two tragic examples of this: (1) a case of MRSA and (2) an extremely destructive strain of Staph. In the future, we need targeted antibiotics rather than “carpet bombing” the body’s normal microbes whenever we treat infections caused by the occasional invader. We need to restore a balance between fixing the disease and fixing the host.

Each of the seven parts of the book include specific examples that are well researched and documented. At the end, the author gives a helpful summary of the material in the book followed by 33 pages of documentation.

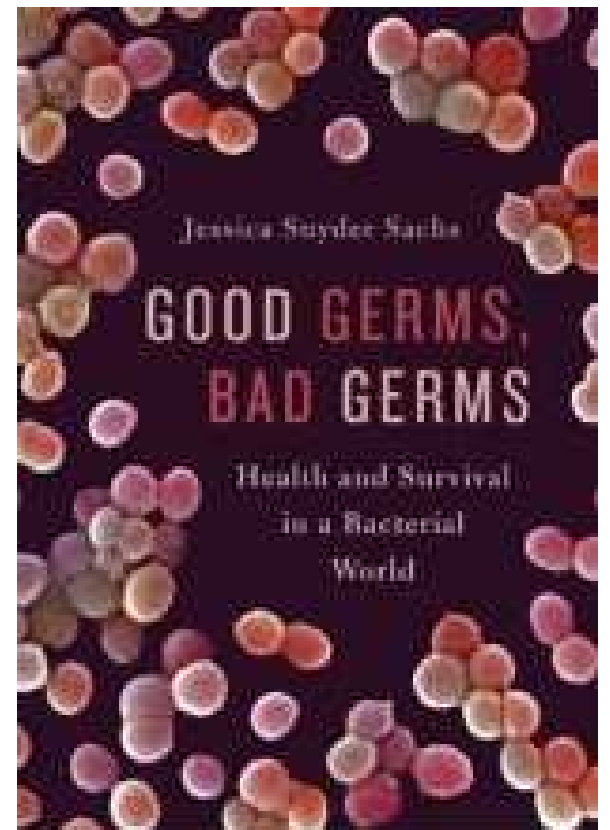


Photo taken from jessicasachs.com

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See Jane run!
Waxaan Tangeersanahay Jane!

¡Estoy a Favor de Jane!
Kuv Txhawb Jane!

PLEASE VOTE!
Absentee voting starts Sept. 20
Early voting starts Oct. 29 • Election Day is Nov. 5

Why Vote?

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

You can register and vote in Minnesota, if you are:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old by Election Day, November 5, 2019
- A resident of Minnesota for 20 days
- Finished with all parts of any felony sentence (including probation, parole or supervised release)

When and how can I vote?

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

Text or call Jane at 651-308-4984 if you need TRANSLATION assistance.

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**You got somethin' to say?
Say it here!**

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* welcomes all opinions and neighborhood anecdotes — send yours to:

daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com

Opinions expressed in contributed articles may not represent the views of the *Forum*.

Deadline for the December issue of the *Forum* is November 10, 2019.

**View From My Porch:
Little Pleasures**

*Sage Holben
Forum Staff*

Eleven-year-old Katar rang my doorbell at 9:10 Friday evening. "Could I visit with you?" he asked. He was at home, waiting for his mom and sister to return from shopping. He usually enjoys that time, but as sometimes happens, alone at night, sounds and imagined figures in the dark can create a need to seek company.

We sat outside on the porch so we could watch for his mom's return. The weather was warm and humid, and mosquitos were biting. We sprayed ourselves with mosquito repellent and talked about who mosquitos bit, their span of life and death, where and when they fell after biting; they died after biting, right? We talked about the number of lightening bugs we were

seeing lately...I shared how my siblings and I were able to catch jars full of them and use them as lanterns when I was his age. I'm never sure if the kids believe me when I share the magic of the past. We compared moths to butterflies; do moths light up like fireflies? If every living thing has a purpose, what is that of the mosquito? Simply to be another's food? What about June bugs? Big and ugly is the general thought as they bang themselves against windows, doors and people. I hadn't seen many of them since I was a kid, visiting my grandmother in Roodhouse, Illinois — hot summers on her porch, watching the 'dry heat' lightening in the far distance.

We watched the bright, partial moon sidle across the sky, accompanied by one star. How might that star change as it nears the earth? Would it produce great heat? We shared how our imaginations might get the best of us. How we see figures in the swirls of paint on a ceiling, in the dark shadows between

houses; formations of clouds during the day, fading soap suds in a bathtub.

A car pulled to the curb up the next block from us. I wondered if it was an unmarked police car. No, my friend stated. It's a woman in a tee. The driver never got out of the car, nor turned on interior lights. I questioned Katar's super sight. 'No, my eyes are really good. She's caramel like me, with lighter hair, and she's thin. Were my eyes really that bad? No, I had long ago nicknamed him the Trickster. He was playing with my mind. This kid will do well in life. 'I already am,' he assured me.

As he pulled up the lightweight cotton quilt as protection against the mosquitoes, I felt oddly comforted and at peace, sitting next to him on the glider. He wanted company in the dark and aloneness. Yet he shared the cherished gift of simply being, through quiet talk and wonder.

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

**Merrick Community Services —
Celebrating 111 Years**

*Mark Gallagher
Associate Editor*

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

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

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

"The Christ Child Society would knit layettes. A layette is what you wrap an infant in, so if you think about the Christ Child story where Mary and Joseph wrap the Christ Child in swaddling clothing, that is what it was — recognizing that infants needed that kind of support.

"I think soon after The Christ Child Society of St. Paul was founded, people recognized that not only did the infants have needs, but their mothers had needs, the other siblings had needs, fathers had needs, and other members of the family had needs — then bit by bit more services began.

"Merrick was founded in the tradition of "settlement houses." A settlement house was a movement that started in the 19th century and went over to the 20th century. It was started in Europe but primarily in England."

A settlement house was a place for new arrivals and immigrants, in particular, to receive services to get settled in a new place. There they could become full citizens, so they would have classes on citizenship, classes on how to speak English, classes on job training, and they took those classes so that they could be successful. It was a place where kids could have some positive role models, and programming.

There were activities for the girls, as well. It was a safe place for people new to an area who may not have been citizens, or may not have spoken English, or may not have a lot of skills, to become successful and fully embedded in the American society.

Merrick Community Services has many programs that benefit the residents of the East Side of St. Paul. "We have five program areas," said Rodriguez, "and I will list them in no particular order. The first one is for youth, and we have programs after school and out of school. The youth are currently working with Urban Roots on the East Side where we have a garden. The youth also work at a food shelf where they are getting career readiness-focused, and they have an opportunity to earn a little money.

"Then we have a seniors program. We have one of the largest 'Meals on Wheels' programs in Ramsey County where we deliver hot meals every day with our volunteers to upwards of 90 or so people, and those people are all on the East Side. We actually do serve some people outside of St. Paul in South Washington County who might be in Woodbury. We also serve people in Oakdale.

"The other programs include: family services where we serve people who are in crisis. Often times we are dealing with domestic violence, other instability, and homelessness. We have a county contract where we will provide services for individuals there, and we also have career or employment services where we provide support and training to individuals who are unemployed or underemployed. Working with various funders, we provide credentials and work with employers who can get people to work for livable wages.

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

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

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

"We are very fortunate to have pro bono support from 3M as we were recreating our logo," said Rodriguez. "It's a multi-colored logo, which represents the diversity and multiple colors of people we serve in the community. It's a circle, which also represents community. It's a circle that has a part of it missing, which is as we say is the 'incomplete work' that has yet to be done. To some people it looks like a budding flower ready to bloom. We think that

could represent the work yet to be done on the East Side in individuals' lives, so their potential can be fully realized. We realize that it is in full bloom, a very positive 'glass is half full' view of things — which is how we see things. If you look at it to be an "N" some people see a heart, like the heart of the community. So it means different things to different people. Our topline is "Growing. Stronger. Together." That's really important because we really believe the only way we grow is together, and when we grow together, we are stronger.



MERRICK
Community Services
Growing. Stronger. Together.

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

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

"There are so many people in our society who are made to feel less than, and that's not who they are," said Ro-



Photo courtesy of Merrick Community Services

driguez. "That is one of the reasons I'm so happy to be at Merrick because of the difference we can make in people's lives. If someone is dealing with domestic violence, or homelessness, or unemployment, or hunger, or wanting to stay in their own home as a senior, or a youth who is trying to figure out what they want to do with their lives, Merrick has been a great place for me to be able to continue to serve those people, which has been a motivation for me all through my life."

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

Disconnected

Sage Holben
District Forum Staff

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

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

I felt angry about the act. It happens too often in

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

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

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

Is there even one common thread, however fine, that

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

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

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

Family Events at Mounds Park United Methodist

Eric Buck
Mounds Park United Methodist

Urban CROSS is hosting Family Night on Sunday, November 10, from 4-6:00 p.m. We will be showing "Aladdin" (the 1992 Animated version) on our BIG

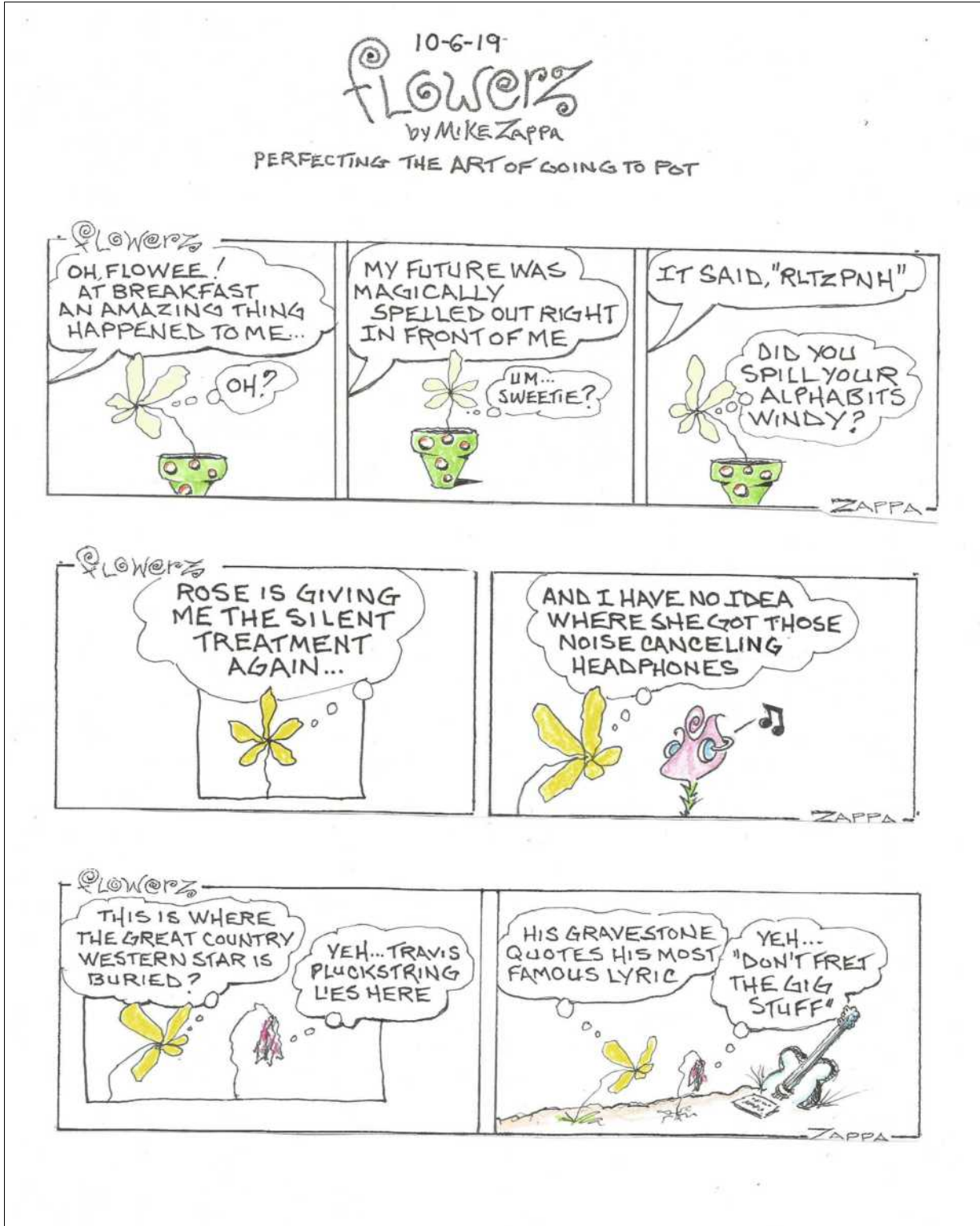
screen, and providing hot dogs, chips, and Plaza theater popcorn. This is a free event. Join us at Mounds Park United Methodist Church at 1049 Euclid St. Parents/guardians/adults are required to attend with kids and youth. Free-will donations are appreciated.

Dayton's Bluff Community Services is having it's monthly Grocery Give-away on Saturday, November 23, from 10a.m.-noon. There will be opportunity for conversation with a cup of coffee, and we have a Prayer Journal that you can add your concerns and joys to. Please come to Mounds Park United Methodist Church at 1049 Euclid St.

Urban CROSS will be holding its annual Silent

Auction on Sunday, November 24, from 11:45a.m.-12:30 p.m.. Items are donated by individuals, families, and groups from Urban CROSS and Mounds Park United Methodist Church, as well as local businesses. All proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund for Dayton's Bluff youth who attend Urban CROSS.

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



Terrific Tree Trek

Seeley Booth
Forum Contributor

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

Visit www.moundsparktreerek.weebly.com, to download a map with the location of each identified tree and a looped trail that starts and ends at the pavilion at Earl and Mounds Boulevard.



Steve Trimble

A Tamarack tree at Indian Mounds Park.

East Side Eating – Trimble's Taste Trek

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

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

Mounds Park Sports Bar

Phones: Bar (651) 340-0319 Kitchen (651) 340-6336
1067 Hudson Road
St. Paul, MN 55106
Monday-Friday: 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Facebook: @MoundsParkSportsBar

I try to keep track of new sit-down restaurants on the East Side (by the way, if you know of a new one in a remote area let me know and I'll mention your name) so I was happy to hear that an older spot was now going to offer more than a typical frozen pizza. You may remember it as the Mounds Park Lounge. For the last five years or so it has been known as the Mounds Park Sports Bar. Owner Bill Spiess has done a lot of remodeling recently and now the establishment offers an array of food. The remodel made room for a kitchen and a bar set up in the basement for parties and other events needing room for large groups.

Jennifer Gascoigne and Nick Duncan, two long-time members of the *Forum* newspaper crew, wanted to accompany me on the latest Taste Trek, so we met there on a recent Friday. It was not packed when we arrived around 6:15 p.m., but it was definitely lively with a good-sized clientele. Inside we found six large flat screen televisions that keep track of the sports that give the establishment its name. There are eight tables with several chairs near the front windows and another eight tables in the back. There is a long bar on the western wall that has 15 stools and a full selection of various liquors. Check out the "Drink of the Day."

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

Some of the appetizers are deep fried mushrooms, mozzarella sticks, pepper poppers, onion rings, and garlic butter toast. Entrees are grilled ham and cheese, club sandwich, a classic BLT, two piece chicken drumsticks, shrimp, fish dinner, and a fish sandwich. There are also a variety of pizzas made on the spot. Breakfast is served

on Saturday and Sunday.

There are weekly specials. Monday features Coney's; Tuesday offers deep fried tacos; there is Wing Wednesday, and a BLT and chips for Thursday. Show up on Friday if you crave chicken tenders and fries. The weekend has quarter pound burgers and fries. Monday through Friday, burgers are only \$1.50 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. You may now add this spot to the various St. Paul eateries that offer a handmade "hot dago."

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



Steve Trimble

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

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

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

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

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

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The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1980s and has always operated on a minimal budget. Each issue costs around \$1,900 to produce and mail, per month.

For the past three years we have been soliciting donations through our *Friends of the Forum* program. Thanks to the donations from readers like you, we have been able to keep the paper up and running.

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

If you have been our *Friend* in the past, please renew your membership with a donation in 2019. **Our goal for 2019 is \$18,000; thanks to readers like you, we've raised \$1,815 to date – will you help us reach our goal in 2019?**

Sincerely,

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*

Yes, I will become a *Friend of the Forum*. My tax-deductible check is enclosed, for:

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Or give online: razoo.com/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated.

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