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 unravel 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, flow- ers, 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 daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

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.”

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 metrortransit.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 Take-a-Hike
On the second Saturday of most months, the Dayton’s Bluff Take-a-Hike will begin at Indian Mounds Park, at East 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 karin@swedehollow.org or call 615-776-0550 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 615-776-0550 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 615-776-0550 or email daytonbluffdistrictforum@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 Avenue, on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m., and the last Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. The 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)

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 3:30 p.m.

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.

- **Saturday, 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 615-652-3873 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 615-793-1699. 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 10-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 615-379-8113.

Wish List Card 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.comregistry/wishlist/3K0QG5M4J4TMA and 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 them stay lively, 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, we are notified directly by email. Donations can also be dropped off at our office: East Side Elders, 463 Maria Avenue Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55104. Our printable wish list can also be found on our website.

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. Information on upcoming events and locations call 615-788-4685 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 Cafe, 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 Booma & Fall Festival**
October 7, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Turkey Bingo**
November 16, 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 parking - Easily accessible by bus.

261 E. 8th St., St. Paul, MN 55101
Pastor: Father Benny Mekkatt, CFIC
Weekend Mass Schedule: Saturday: 4:30 p.m.; Sunday 7:30 & 10:30 am
Phone: 651-222-2419; Email: office@stmarystpaul.org
Website: www.stmarystpaul.org

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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.
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 representing 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.

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

Matt Roznowski
Office of Senator Foung Hawj

Senator Foung 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.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum
804 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-776-0550 E-mail: daytonshuffdistrictforum@gmail.com

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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Nick Duncan, Karin DaPaul, Sage Holben, Steve Trimble
Editor/layout: Jennifer Gascoigne; Associate Editor: Mark Gallagher
Photographer: Lou “The Photo Guy” Michaels

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

Mark Gallagher
Associate Editor

Mark Murnane wasn’t born a sales man, 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.

“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, 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.

Mark Murnane: Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

Page 5

October 2018

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

Rep. Sheldon Johnson

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

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 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,

Sheldon Johnson

Rep. Sheldon Johnson

State Representative

SHELDON JOHNSON

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100 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
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Paid for by the Volunteers for Johnson Committee, 2031 Howard St. S., St. Paul, MN 55119
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 of decisions at 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 po- lice, 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 smoke/smoke. Renters will have fewer rights to clean air when smoking weed, whether medicinally or recreationally, be- comes 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 office manager and reported the cigarette smoke (the stench was seeping into her apartment). She was told the only solution she had was to renegotiate the lease, which stated ‘no smoking,’ no one was smoking. She had already reminded the guilty person that the building was not designated as a smoking building, and he was running off. 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, start- ed calling the police to have them visit, vascular that other renters were smoking marijuana. He was calling not for an ar- rest or prosecution, simply verification. As a result, the city called a renter who notified his property manager and the pot smoking stopped. When recreational marijuana becomes legal, there will be no such recourse that when the landlord does not check the outside.

From my experience, it is bad enough to have the smell coming into my person- al space from the public sidewalk, street, or cars, but hours of it inside my apart- ment sicken me. ‘Breathing free’ will not be a choice. Our senators and representa- tives 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 strength- ened. A complete ARTICLE WILL be forth- coming, so all I will try to keep this brief. It appears to me that some of our city em- ployees, from planning on down, need a less- ion in understanding (beyond a cursory- verbal ‘I understand’) that every neigh- borhood, beyond its basic social behaviors, is not the same physically or in its residential composition, i.e. cultural and economic behaviors; in that making decisions that refer to the people who live on a block or in that neighborhood, city decision-makers/information-gatherers must supplement the paperwork, the digi- tal map, and the computer-generated information, with an actual visit (three would be better) to the ‘in-reality’ neigh- borhoods they are making in 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 of- fice: talk with residents about how they learn when the most people are out and about, when the most vehicle and foot traffic use intersections and roadways, when is the best time of the week to visit the neighborhood at an ACTUAL time, sit on a porch with a neighbor or two and OBSERVE for more than five minutes... could 45 minutes be worth the city time in making an informed decision? How would residents inform you? What do they see? They don’t see things the same; they see activated differently, how they perceive activity from different personal perspectives; what do they suggest? I’ll bet it will be different than the dated mate- rials of standards your department is using.

In answer to traffic complaints in my neighborhood, at least three different de- partments have come for a ‘walk’ 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. There is a legal way to count traffic use intersections and roadways, but in reality, one people came at a realistic time to check out a problem. She talked with two neighbors to get a background; then visited two intersections. She talked with a few of the area, staying off the sidewalk for about half to three quarters of an hour to watch the activity, asking questions of residents. To catch the liveliest activity of the neighborhood at different departure, 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 neigh- borhood in ‘real time.’

You can (anonymously) see the world in action from your 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 wouldn’t have you.

Perhaps we could look at updating the traffic signage standards? Habits of driv- ers have changed in the last 10-15 years - let’s not rely on romans. 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 look down (beyond, perhaps a slight tweak of the head); the driver looks up (maybe) from the phone and straight ahead. Why not put the stop sign or other traffic signage in the middle of the intersection as much of Great Britain has been doing? Perhaps drivers will have a better chance of ‘see- ing?’

Sage Holben can be reached at day- tonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Continued from page 5.

Mark Murnane

Needless to say, my parents were a little upset because they had some mon- ey 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.

Mark’s first investment (the first time he actually paid for a product) was a portable crank-up Victoria record player he bought at an estate sale before he started driving. He paid nine dollars for the record player, took it to an an- tique shop, and sold it for $16. That was Murnane’s first actual cash investment, but there were many more. He and his wife, Linda, 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 Meyier, Florida, because they wanted an old house that was built on an acreage.

“My fondest memory of my grandfa- ther’s advice is to get out of your car, but I just never cared for school and that was the extent of my college education. I did no more schooling.”

In 1986, Murnane started a real estate management company, and started man- aging very 20-unit apartment building. He bought a house in Dayton’s Bluff, moved there, and started investing in the neighborhood. “Our management com- pany started buying property in Day- ton’s Bluff,” Murnane said, “which were mostly single-family homes, du- plexes, and some apartment buildings.

“We worked with the Historic Day- ton’s Bluff Association and Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhood Associa- tion 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 Meyier, 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 from what we have here in Minne- sota. We have apartment buildings, two fourplexes, three houses, and the re- soaring hotel in Florida.

“My fondest memory of my grandfa- ther (Stanley T. Murnane) is just going over to his house,” Mark said, “and talking to his Grandpa Twins baseball with him. That was totally, totally his pastime, just sit- ting in the living room. My dad and I were over at my grandfather’s house ev- ery 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? Everyone’s had that little little thing that you could put a little pane of glass into the antenna going up, so that was very funny to us.

Murnane’s grandfather taught him the process of selling: you have to sell your- self to your prospective customer, and their satisfaction in the transaction is al- ways the most important. ‘Breathing free’ would residents inform you? What do they see? They don’t see things the same; they see activated differently, how they perceive activity from different personal perspectives; what do they suggest? I’ll bet it will be different than the dated mate- rials of standards your department is using.

In answer to traffic complaints in my neighborhood, at least three different de- partments have come for a ‘walk’ 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. There is a legal way to count traffic use intersections and roadways, but in reality, one people came at a realistic time to check out a problem. She talked with two neighbors to get a background; then visited two intersections. She talked with a few of the area, staying off the sidewalk for about half to three quarters of an hour to watch the activity, asking questions of residents. To catch the liveliest activity of the neighborhood at different departure, 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 neigh- borhood in ‘real time.’

You can (anonymously) see the world in action from your 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 wouldn’t have you.

Perhaps we could look at updating the traffic signage standards? Habits of driv- ers have changed in the last 10-15 years - let’s not rely on romans. 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 look down (beyond, perhaps a slight tweak of the head); the driver looks up (maybe) from the phone and straight ahead. Why not put the stop sign or other traffic signage in the middle of the intersection as much of Great Britain has been doing? Perhaps drivers will have a better chance of ‘see- ing?’

Sage Holben can be reached at day- tonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

A humble ode to art
Daniel Shanklin
Forum Contributor

No matter how adamently 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 19 of them!) recently, he has been visiting restaurants that opened since then. All of Steve’s reviews can be found at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.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
Tuesday-Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday: Closed

Steve Trimble, owner of TAMALLI, a new restaurant located at 990 Payne Avenue.

How about the so-called American hot dogs? Here you can find sencillo, jacho, and El perro varieties. Under the menu category you can find Mexico. It features tamales tamal oaque and oxenago with chicken whose origins are in the Oaxaca 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 tlapache bienvivo, 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.

Vianey Trimble can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

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 reminded me of a scar, that mile-long ditch from Johnson Park way to the Thrifty Way grocery entrance. The supermarket that was 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 drive in to the impression of pulling 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 Avenue (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 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 to 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 Amblers. I spent grades 1 through 8 at St. John’s Parochial School on Fifth and El perro varieties.

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 every 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 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 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 hill. He careened through the shrubbery he hit 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 “hunch bucket’s” or blue-collar area, there wasn’t a great deal of loose money or what might now be called “discretionary income” floating around. A $1.5 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 $6.16 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.daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org and clicking on “past issues.”
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.

If you have been our Friend in the past, please renew your membership with a donation in 2018. Our goal for 2018 is $8,000; thanks to readers like you, we’ve raised $4,300 to date – will you help us reach our goal in 2018?

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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Thank you for your support!