Remembering Monte Bute
1945-2023

Article on Monte Bute is reprinted from the March 2012 issue of the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum with some minor edits.

Mark Gallagher

As a little boy, Monte Bute dreamed of playing centerfield for the St. Louis Cardinals. That dream didn’t come true. Instead, he became a Social Sciences professor at Metropolitan State University right here in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood. He took a long and convoluted road with many twists and some hairpin turns to get to that destination.

Monte earned his high school diploma from the Red Wing Boys’ Reformators. “I was a real juvenile delinquent,” he said. “I was a total screwup. I realized I needed and wanted something better. Austin Junior College became his destination.”

While working in a turkey factory to earn money for college, he was put in the basement of Pillsbury, a company attorney said to him, “Kid, you’re going in a death sentence doesn’t need to slow someone who lives to the fullest and that’s just what Monte Bute did. He often found himself Covington and Technical College but learned. He became obsessed with knowing the ropes of education and in the classroom, Monte said, “All of it, every thing exciting happens to stir people to think, reflect, and con template the world around them. It is absolutely a joy to do every day.”

On his 65th birthday, Monte Bute was diagnosed with stage-3 granular pulmonary lymphoma. When asked how much of his situation he brings to the classroom, Monte said, “All of it, every thing. I very am open about it with stu dents. I use films and fiction that indi rectly lead students to reflect on life and death. I don’t talk about it much, but they’re aware of it; they see stuff on Facebook. I try to be an example of someone who lives to the fullest and that when a death sentence doesn’t need to slow you down.”

Mark Gallagher is the associate editor and a graduate of Metro State University. Mark can be reached at refineeditorial@gmail.com

Solidarity Street Gallery Set for September 8, 9
Solidarity Street Gallery Website

Our juried fine-art exhibition, in it’s fourth year in 2023, will be held in conjunction with the UNIQUELY EASTSIDE FESTIVAL, a communi ty event that celebrates the tapestry of cultures in the Eastside neighbor hood of St. Paul, MN.

This year’s theme for our one-of-a-kind fine-art exhibition is FACES OF OUR COMMUNITIES.

We have invited a diverse range of artists to share their vision and interpreta tion of what community means to them. We have assembled a unique collection of portraits of all facets of community, be they of people, cultures, traditions, insti tutions, urban transformations, streetscapes, parks, scenic beauty, and poignant landmarks!

The artworks in the show capture the essence of what makes our neighbor hoods and local connections a central part in our lives. Some also advance a vision for what bonds us together and how we can build stronger communities.

The street gallery will run Friday, September 8 from 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, September 9 from noon to 7 p.m. Visit solidaritystreetgallery.org for more information.

Events Happening in St. Paul

September 1, 2, 3 Oktoberfest: German Wine Flights @Yoerg Brewery
Every weekend will showcase four fabled German wines from some of Germany’s finest and most distinguished estates. Every wine is from a small, family estate.

September 10 Smoke Out @Keg and Case
Join award-winning Chef Justin Suther land and Mpls.St.Paul Magazine’s Execu tive Editor New Media/Food Stephanie Okonek and Paul, Mandy Angela Du @Grand Ave, St. Paul Grand Avenue’s great pet get together! Literally a pet parade up and down the corridor. Countless local non-profit animal rescue groups partner with Avenue to promote pet foster and adoption, a pet market place, a fun walk, pet blessings, dog races, pet portraits and more. For more information email info@grandave.com.

September 16 Fiesta Latina @CLUES St. Paul, 797 East 7th St. A free, family-friendly community festival celebrating Latino culture with arts, music, dance, health resources, economic stability resources and more.

September 17 Smoke Out @Keg and Case
Join award-winning Chef Justin Suther land and Mpls.St.Paul Magazine’s Execu tive Editor New Media/Food Stephanie March, for the most lip-smacking, mouth-watering, outdoor barbecue event of the fall. This one-of-a-kind day is filled with all-you-can-eat smoked meats and treats, whiskey sips, craft beer, live music from Sophia Eris, Twin Star Rock et and DJ DMil and friends, outdoor games and more!

Time: 1-5 p.m.
Price: $85-$125

September 19 Beefejince, the Musical @Orpheum Theatre
It’s showtime! Based on Tim Burton’s dearly beloved film, this hilarious musical tells the story of Lydia Deetz, a strange and unusual teenager whose whole life changes when she meets a recently deceased couple and a demon with a thing for stripes.

Time: 7:30-10 p.m.

The Friends of Swede Hollow Summer 2023 Photo Contest Continues Until September 22

Whether you enjoy flora or fauna, macro or micro, or if your hardware is SLR, smartphone or an old er digital camera, it’s time to head to the Hollow and submit your photo(s) for the Friends of Swede Hol low 2023 Summer Photo Contest. All photos must be taken in Swede Hollow Park up until work as a reporter.

The job seemed to fit this stage of his life because he could write well and there weren’t many requirements to being a reporter. In 1967, Monte Bute organized an anti-war march in Austin, Minnesota.

The Haight-Ashbury of San Francisco seemed to be the place where things were happening, so he loaded up a trunk full of books and headed out to California. He joined the counter-culture movement to protest, to organize protests, and to read. Monte was a voracious reader.

Haight-Ashbury was the apprenticeship that prepared Monte for his place in the social science niche where he excels. Even before he had a BA degree, he was asked to come to Metropolitan State Uni versity and teach a sociology course he developed himself. Monte taught in the Sociology Department for seven years without that elusive degree but had trans ferred in more credits than were needed for a BA degree. Metropolitan State Uni versity eventually granted him a degree. “The best thing about being a professor at Metro State is that clocks don’t exist,” Monte said in his profound way. “It isn’t a job to me. I would do this for free; don’t tell my wife that. Yeah, this isn’t a job — this is a calling. Everyday something exciting happens to stir people to have ideas and to think, reflect, and com template the world around them. It is ab solutely a joy to do every day.”

The Friends of Swede Hollow Summer 2023 Photo Contest
Read the paper online at daytonsbuffludistrictforum.org
Support Our Local Businesses
Greg Cosimini

The construction of the Metro Gold Line BRT on Hudson Road is wreaking havoc on the businesses located near the Earl St.-Hudson Rd. intersection. The total closure of Hudson Road for the next three to four months, plus dirt, noise, and a lack of parking will be making access very difficult.

Our friends in that area would be grateful for your continued patronage. Please support the Mounds Theatre, Saint Paul Saloon, MNS Grocery & Tobacco, Overall Beauty Bar, Lee’s Chow Mein and Cheers Pub during these trying times. And don’t forget Jumbo Wash Laundromat at Hudson and Cypress.

Photos provided by Greg Cosimini.

Friends of Swede Hollow

If you have a passion for history and preserving nature, please join us for our monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of every month. Our meetings are held at the historic William Hamm’s mansion, 668 Greenbrier St.

In the spirit of the area’s past, we serve Hamm’s beer along with other beverages and snacks. The meeting is September 19 and starts at 6:30 p.m. and is an excellent resource for park updates and events. For more updates email taylor772@comcast.net or call Michel at 651-442-3366.

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, September 1 at 11 a.m.

If you’d like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email daytonbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com for more information. We are currently meeting at the Dayton’s Bluff Library.

Need Groceries?

If you are 60 or older, you may be eligible to receive a box of nutritious food every month from Second Harvest. This box is part of a program called NAPS, and we can help you apply! Give us a call at 651-683-2326, and someone will assist you with your application.

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.

Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Saint Paul Police 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 meetings are intended as a time to learn, listen, and address people’s concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Policing meetings are held at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. Bring your neighbors!

Call or email Robyn at 651-266-5580 or robyn.brewis.ci.stpaul.mn.us to ensure the meetings have not been canceled.

Family Homeless Assistance Program

Family Homelessness Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP) funds can help single folks, too. Here is a list of agencies that help with deposit and/or rent assistance through FHPAP:

- Neighborhood House: 651-789-2500
- MN Community Care: 651-266-1290
- American Indian Family Center: 651-793-3003

Call 612-746-3550, YMCA: 763-493-3052, or email Face-to-Face: 651-224-9644 for more information.

New National Suicide Prevention Hotline

988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Text or Dial. 988 just launched as an alternative to calling 911.

Xcel Phone Numbers


Call 811 before you dig: Before starting that rototiller or heaving that shovel into the ground for anything, call 811. At no charge, Xcel will have a trained technician check the area on your property or on the boulevard to make sure there are no wires, pipes, other hidden surprises in the designated digging area. Usually, someone checks within a day, marking the ‘no-dig’ area with painted lines...and everyone is safe!

Dayton’s Bluff Community Council Board of Directors Meeting

The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council is inviting everyone to attend the Annual Meeting on Monday, September 11 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the East Side Enterprise Center at 804 Margaret Street.

Come meet your neighbors, share your ideas, hear from others, and elect board members. Your voice matters!

Welcome address from the Board President, remarks from other local officials, open discussion with your neighbors, and board members are on the schedule. Looking forward to seeing you and serving your neighborhood needs. All are welcome.

Free Legal Services for Low-Income People

Call Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services at 1-888-575-2954 or go to smrsls.org to see if you qualify for free legal assistance with: family law, government benefits, housing, education, seniors, and more. You can also call if you’re behind on your bills, having problems with credit or creditors, or have other civil legal issues, etc. If an interpreter is needed, SMRLS will provide it.

Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 to 11:45 a.m.; 1 to 3 p.m.

Visit moundstheatre.org to purchase tickets and get more information on upcoming events.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com

Chess Club

Come join us at Karibu Grocery and Deli, located at 719 Payne Ave. in St. Paul for a weekly game of chess. All levels are welcome. We play every Wednesday from 6-9 p.m.

Read the paper online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org
Back to School with Dayton's Bluff Library

Summer is winding down, the school year is starting up, and the library is here to help students of all ages succeed in school! If you haven’t been to a Saint Paul Public Library recently, you may not realize what lies inside or online: many essential tools for ensuring a great academic year. Online homework help offers one-to-one assistance from trained tutors to anyone with a library card — and it is available free every day from 1 to 11 p.m. in English and Spanish. For students who want in-person homework help, check out the Homework Center at Arlington Hills Library, 1200 Payne Ave., open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, 4-7 p.m., starting September 25. The Homework Center is a great place to study independently or to get help from trained volunteer tutors. Learn more about what the library has to offer students at splpl.org/homework. Access dozens of online homework resources for any grade level. Kids can delve into Explora Kids to learn about science, social studies, language arts, geography, and more. Older kids can use the Science Reference Center or Britannica School to find articles and information they need to complete homework assignments. See the full list of resources at splpl.org/digital-resources.

Dayton’s Bluff Library, and all Saint Paul Public Library locations, have computers that anyone can use to do homework as well as low-cost printing. The library is a welcoming place where everyone can come in to study and stay as long as they would like. A library card is the most important item on your back-to-school list — it’s your ticket to many things the library has to offer. To make it even easier, the Library has partnered with Saint Paul Public Schools and several charter schools so that students can access library resources with a Library Go card they automatically receive when they enroll in school. Learn more about Library Go at splpl.org/library-go.

Out and About

G.B. LeRoy

Well, it’s been really hot, and I don’t do a lot of walking around exploring these days, but I want to mention three places that might interest some of you readers. First, you might have seen that there is a new sign up at 788 East Seventh advertising Roots Café. It was the idea of a group of kids and is run by them. They specialize in different coffees and teas and are open at 8 a.m. and close at noon. They also provide hot chocolate. The second finding includes a sign. Well, really a message written on paper on a window. It is in the former Size Matters at 851 East 7th St. that said, “Coming Soon East Side Cannabis.” I’ll have to wait and see what “coming soon” means. Another retail store in Dayton’s Bluff. The third thing to announce is that in September CLUES will be having another art show. It will start in late August and will continue until September 22. Hours of the Latino art show will be open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and will be free. CLUES is located at 797 E Seventh and there is a sizeable gallery if you enter from the parking area.

New Fish Consumption Guidance Issued

Ramsey County

The State of Minnesota has updated fish consumption guidance to advise that certain people not eat fish from two bodies of water in the Twin Cities metro area. Those waters are the Mississippi River from the Ford Dam in Saint Paul to Hastings Dam (known as Pool 2) and Lake Rebecca near Hastings.

People who should avoid eating fish from these locations include: Children under age 15. People who are, or could become, pregnant. Individuals who currently or plan to breastfeed/chestfeed.

For more information on safe-eating guidelines for fish in Minnesota, refer to the Minnesota Department of Health’s Fish Consumption Guidance website.
Work Ethic
Sage Holben

One morning at Swede Hollow Cafe, I sat at an inside window table overlooking the patio. Three young men, perhaps around 16 or 17 years old, mesmerized me with their work process. They were part of a team repaving the cafe’s upper patio. I sensed a camaraderie among them, yet they didn’t stop and chat as I would expect of youth. Just outside my window was a large pile of bricks that had been removed from the original patio; some bricks were broken, others almost pristine, and many had chunks of cement clinging to them. Each young worker went to the pile; quickly and with deliberation, selected a particular brick, chipping off, if necessary, any cement waste. He then took the brick to a worker out of my view— I could see hands fitting each brick into its spot and being pounded securely in place, perfectly fitting the expanding patio. For 20 to 30 minutes, I followed the pace of these workers. I compared it to many of my neighborhood youth and even adults and thought of the lack of commitment and work ethic lacking in many of the adults and youth who have come asking for work; asking for whatever reason I don’t know 25 dollars an hour; even the 12-year-olds. Very occasionally there is one who follows through with adult direction. Work ethic is something that doesn’t appear to be widely taught at home or by any example. In my two-block area, several of us neighbors, who have hired youth to do odd jobs, agreed among ourselves how and what we would teach our young workers about completing a job, wages, expectations of worker and employer, and general work ethic. These are basics that children can and I believe should start learning from toddler age. They begin with simple tasks like putting away toys, learning to help with yard care, clearing snow, pre-teens need to learn how to use the washer and dryer, prepare simple meals (instead of Door Dash or fast food as staples). With the above, children need to learn safety measures: what to do with a stove fire, exit plans, strangers at the door, running with scissors (perhaps reading the book might help the adults). Preparing our children to take responsibility for themselves; seeing and stepping in to help others with needs; learning to be self-sufficient in living on their own: earning and saving money, meal prep, laundry; knowing they are responsible for all that goes with independence—paying perhaps mortgage, utilities, maintaining ownership of a vehicle, including insurance, valid driver’s license, registration, up to date tabs, working headlights, and actually practicing safe driving laws. Using common sense in all or life, living and driving, whether car, scooter, or walking while focusing on their cell phone. Adages like “expect the unexpected” come to mind. We need to think ahead. How we treat our children; what and how we teach our children; respect oneself and others; hold high, attainable expectations; plan ahead, for education, work, or driving one’s vehicle with the expectation that the other vehicle may not stop at the four-way, or a person may unexpectedly step into traffic. The unexpected come in many forms. We can teach and demonstrate to our children, and they ARE our children, how to respect and themselves and others. With respect comes confidence, understanding, and the ever-growing wisdom that we all have much to learn from others. We need to truly listen and see, not simply hear and look. This is what the three youths at Swede Hollow Cafe demonstrated. When I went out to meet them, I realized I had been watching so intently I have may seemed rather creepy to them. I introduced myself to them and the three men, relating what I had been observing, and asked where the youths learned their work ethic. They enthusiastically pointed to the lead man, Tue Dinh. I asked how this crew came to be. “Our fathers. We’ve all known each other for years.” The smiles from fathers and sons and the sense of connection translated to a male intimacy that permeated the sunny patio. Tue Dinh, the crew leader, owns and operates the Forest Lake Tue Dinh’s Landscaping. “We do everything outside,” Tue said. “Patios, yard work, trees, limbs. We do it.”

Gold Line BRT Construction Update

Compiled from information provided by Metro Transit
metrotransit.org/gold-line-project

The Metro Gold Line will be a bus rapid transit (BRT) line that operates primarily within bus-only lanes. Gold Line will provide frequent, 10-15 minute, all-day service in both directions, seven days a week. The planned 10-mile route is between St. Paul and Woodbury with bus-only lanes being constructed generally north of and near the Interstate 94 corridor. It will become operational in 2025.

News:
* Gold Line project staff will host construction walking tours in St. Paul and Woodbury with bus-only lanes being constructed generally north of and near Interstate 94. It will become operational in 2025.

Continuing work on the Gold Line BRT on the East Side:
* Pile driving continues near the Pacific Street and Mound Street intersection for the new Maple Street pedestrian bridge abutment.
* Crews continue pouring concrete for the new Maple Street pedestrian bridge near Maple Street and Hudson Road.
* Work continues on Hudson Road between Maria Avenue and Griffith Street as crews install water mains, noise walls, sanitary and storm water sewers.
* Crews continue pouring concrete for retaining walls near the Earl station area.
* At the Etna Street area, crews continue to construct the new Etna Street Station platform foundations and construct bridge decking.
* Crews construct walls for the new bridge near the intersection of Ruth Street and Old Hudson Road. Crews also continue constructing the new Hazel Station platform foundations and pour concrete for retaining walls.
* Northbound Mounds Boulevard is closed through fall 2023.
* Southbound Mounds Boulevard is closed through fall 2023.
* Northbound Mounds Boulevard between the eastbound 1-94 on-ramp and Kellogg Boulevard is closed through fall 2023.
* Southbound Mounds Boulevard between 6th Street and Kellogg Boulevard is closed through one lane.

This is a very complex and dynamic project so changes to this schedule could occur. For updated information on the Gold Line project, questions, comments or concerns, visit metrotransit.org/gold-line-project, email goldline@metrotransit.org or call 651-602-1919.

All photos to the right provided by Greg Cosimini.
Environmental Groups Support Ramsey County Proposal to Move BRT Route off Vento Trail
Amy Gage
Stroll north on the Bruce Vento Trail just east of Lake Phalen, beginning at Arlington Avenue, and you’ll hear a va-riety of bird calls, enjoy the cool canopy of shade trees, and see any number of trail users—from cyclists and walkers to in-line skaters and babies in strollers.

Now picture that same stretch narrowed to one-third its current width to make room for a dedicated bus lane in each direction. This is why the East Side neighbors who use this amenity in St. Paul support moving the proposed Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit route off Bruce Vento Trail and onto White Bear Avenue.

Ramsey County officials announced the possible route adjustment this past May. Although the affected stretch of the trail is only a couple of miles, “it’s an urban wildlife corridor in a moderate-in-coming neighborhood,” according to envi-ronmental activist Kathy Sides, a board member with Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County. Both Friends of the Parks and Trails and the Friends of Swede Hollow sup-port the county proposal to relocate the Purple Line (formerly known as the Rush Line) off the Bruce Vento trail. The county’s Route Modification Study will continue throughout 2023 and beyond; details are available online.

To learn more about the Purple Line BRT Project—a collaboration of Metro Transit, Ramsey County and the Metro-politan Council—sign up for email up-dates at the website metrortransit.org/pur-ple-line-project. Look for the “Stay Informed” instructions midway down the page.

Purple Line outreach specialist-Liz Jones and Colin Owens will be visiting the Friends of the Parks and Trails board meeting on Thursday, October 5, at 6 p.m. For details, contact Amy Gage, amy@friendsoftheparks.org.

Submitted by Amy Gage, executive di-rector, Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County. Contact: 612-381-4110 (mobiles) or amy@friend-softheparks.org

Photo courtesy of Bruce Vento Regional Trail page on Facebook: facebook.com/pages/Bruce-Vento-Regional-Trail/132284556408657.

Contest: Where in Dayton’s Bluff?
Send your guess to daytonsb-luffdistrictforum@gmail.com with the location of the neighbor-hood curiosity pictured on the right.

The reader who submits the correct entry will be notified, and the win-ner(s) will be announced in the Oc-tober edition of the Forum.

Dayton’s Bluff Woman and the A-Bomb
Steve Trimble
One of the blockbuster movies this summer is Oppenheimer. Yes, I know about Barbie, but she doesn’t fit into this story.

I thought it would be timely to tell part of the story of Kathryn Piccolo, who lived a lengthy time on Maple Street in Dayton’s Bluff. She grew up on the Iron Range of Minnesota and in the 1940s joined the Women’s Army Corps (WACs). I was looking through some of the information in my computer and dis-covered saved information about Picco-lo. I’m pretty sure I didn’t write it and it seemed to be from an interview since the text is full of her words. I don’t know who put it together, but here is some of it. My thanks to whomsoever penned the work and hope they won’t be upset. I’m sorry I can’t cite them.

After a trip to Europe, she volunteered for the Women’s Army Corps and after basic training was sent to a clerk’s school. Her dream was to be sent back to Europe, however at one point, the Army gathered 210 WACs in a room and inter-viewed them. They told Piccolo, who was Private Filippi at the time, to stand off to one side. “I was so excited because I thought they were going to send me to Europe.” Instead, she was informed that she was assigned to a top-secret project in New York in the Manhattan District of the Army Corp of Engineers. “I thought I was going on a transport ship, I said, ‘Oh, phooey.’” Maybe because I took a science class in high school, but “I really have no idea why they picked me.”

She was never told what the project was about. “Well, we kind of had a hint it was a bomb, but that’s about all. What made it hard to understand was that the project was being run through the Corps of Engineers and not the Army’s Ordinance Department. “I supposed they did that to confuse the enemy.”

Piccolo lived a year in Dayton’s Bluff, beginning in June 1943, in a Manhattan hotel. Her job, along with six or seven other WACs, was to handle, process and destroy top secret documents that were flooding in from the various sites around the country where work was being done on the diffi-culties of splitting the atom.

One incident that Piccolo remembers involved a time when she suspected that somebody was trying to steal the code from her cryptographic machine. “We had been told that if we even suspected that somebody was trying to get the code, that we should immediately de-stroy the machine.”

Taking the order very seriously, Piccolo took an axe to the machine and smashed it to pieces. Years later, at a function at the University of Minnesota, Piccolo met Niels Bohr, one of the top scientists working of the atom bomb project again. When she found him again, she said, “Oh, I remember. This is the little lady with the axe.”

Piccolo quickly advanced through the ranks, helped by the priority given the Manhattan Project. She was a private on Oct. 10, 1942, and was promoted to staff sergeant by March of 1943. She quickly advanced to first sergeant and master sergeant by February of 1944. However, her race up the ladder wasn’t over. Piccolo took an OCS in 1942, entered Officer’s Candidate School and by Feb. 17, 1945, was commis-sioned a second lieutenant. “(By the time she left the service in 1950, she was a captain.)

When she returned from OCS, she was put in charge of the WAC detachment at the Clinton Engineering Works at Oak Ridge.

“Just coordinating that job took all the time I had. It was so interesting.” Piccolo made trips to Los Alamos to work with the WAC group assigned there. “There had been some friction between the WACs and Dr. Oppenheimer,” who over-saw the massive bomb-building project. Piccolo straightened out the Army per-sonnel about Oppenheimer she stated. “He was a genius. He knew the whole shebang. He was a very outstanding indi-vidual. He was nice to me, he treated me nice.”

Oh, if you have any Oppenheimer or Atom Bomb stories, maybe the Forum can print them in our next issue. Maybe even if you have memories of Barbie and Ken dolls please get in touch.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum
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We are currently printing and distributing our newspaper quarterly. The paper is available online at daytonsblluffdistrictforum.org. This publication of Hopewell Communications, Inc., a nonprofit organization, is intended to provide a forum for the ideas and opinions of its readers and to be an instrument for developing community awareness and pride. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Forum. Material from this paper may be reprinted if it is attributed to the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum and to the author, if any. Articles and letters to the editor are welcome and may be emailed to daytonsblluffdistrictforum@gmail.com, or mailed to the ad-dress above. The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum is delivered free to businesses in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood when the budget permits. To find out where you can pick up a printed issue, send an email to the address above.

Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Sage Holben, Jennifer Gascoigne, Steve Trimble
Editor/layout: Allison Lund-Zalewski; Editorial Associate: Mark Gallagher
Staff: Mandy Okonek

Retirement can be a time of change and growth, providing opportunities to pursue new interests and explore new ways of living. For instance, the transition from a career to retirement often involves a shift in focus from a professional role to personal fulfillment. This may include engaging in hobbies, volunteering, or pursuing creative projects. Additionally, retirement allows for more time to focus on family, travel, and other personal passions. It’s a time to reflect on one’s life’s work and to look forward to new adventures and experiences. As seen in the image, people at different times in their lives are reflected in the frame, highlighting the diverse ways in which retirement can be approached and experienced. Whether one chooses to travel the world, spend time with loved ones, or engage in new learning opportunities, retirement offers a chance to redefine one’s priorities and find new sources of joy and satisfaction.
Senator Foung Hawj Secures $586,486 for Cerenity Senior Care Marian on St. Paul's East Side

Marc Kimball

Senator Foung Hawj said that he secured $586,486 for Cerenity Senior Care Marian on St. Paul’s East Side as part of a major nursing home package passed during the recent legislative session. The funding was distributed this week and will help the facility stabilize finances and ensure adequate staffing and quality services for residents.

The funding was part of a bipartisan $173 million package to help struggling nursing homes across Minnesota. The funds for Cerenity Senior Care Marian sent out this week are the first of two rounds of direct payments made to nursing homes statewide. The second round of payments will go out in August of 2024.

“Nursing homes are critically important to the well-being of families and communities on St. Paul’s East Side and across Minnesota. The funding for Cerenity Senior Care Marian will ensure the facility will have the resources they need to deliver quality services to seniors,” said Senator Hawj. “I worked hard to secure this funding to help the facility maintain skilled staff and to provide excellent care for their residents. This funding will go a long way toward that goal.”
**East Side Eating 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 daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org. Click on “East Side Eating,” at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

**Boga Ice Cream and Burg**

1440 Minnehaha Ave E.
St. Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-200-3185
Hours: Closed Mondays
Tuesday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Wednesday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Thursday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Friday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Easter Siders have been patiently waiting to see when the new business will open in the former Dari-ette. There has been a sign on the old sign saying Boga-Ice Cream and Burgers and now, as Paul Harvey would say on his radio show, “Here’s the rest of the story.”

The new restaurant is open and still making small changes. Father-son duo Loay and Layth Abukhdair run Boga as well as a restaurant in Columbia Heights that features Mediterranean food, but they decided this neighborhood could use a place with good burgers and ice cream on the menu. The restaurants I review can’t be a chain and need to have indoor seating. But rules are sometimes made to break, so I decided to write this about an eatery that people seem to like. Here goes:

Here are some of the featured items: Like the name of the restaurant promises, there are several burgers: Hamburger is topped with lettuce, tomato, onion, ketchup, and mayo. Gyro Burger is topped with lettuce, onion, mayo, tzatziki sauce, and American cheddar cheese. Veggie Burger is topped with tomato, lettuce, onions, and ketchup. Gluten free buns are available. There is also a Pizza Burger, Philly Steak Burger as well as a Mushroom Swiss Burger. There is a Cheeseburger topped with lettuce, tomato, onion, ketchup, mayo, and American cheddar. Kid’s Burger is made with tomato, lettuce, onions, and ketchup.

Three-piece chicken strips with fries and a drink of choice.

Bowls: All have rice, salad, and protein.

There are Gyro Bowl, Chicken Bowl and Combo Bowl.

Here are the sides I could find: cheese curds, onion rings, and a side salad with none of the ingredients given. French fries with an option of beverage.

On the list for ice cream are: milk shakes that come in either vanilla, chocolate, or strawberry. For a little extra you can add toppings to the shakes with Oreos, Reese’s cups, M & M’s, and Heath Bars. Another choice of ice cream is gelato, technically speaking, more dense and higher milk to cream ratio.

Boga serves a few classic Italian flavors like pistachio and hazelnut custard, chocolate, and salted caramel. Some of the sorbets include lemon and raspberry. And don’t forget the Mango Strawberry Smoothies and two other tart fruit smoothies.

The bottled beverages are Mexican Coke, Mexican Fanta, Sprite, orange soda, Coke, diet Coke, Pepsi, Dr. Pepper, and water. If you want juice, they provide Capri Sun. There is hot coffee or iced coffee drinks like lattes and espresso single or double, mocha and cappuccino. There is also a coffee of the day for those who are adventuresome.

The restaurant will have a grand opening sometime in the coming weeks once the roads open up. Minnehaha Avenue East is currently under construction, and it is hard to get there. Hopefully by the time of a new Forum, things will change. But even with car traffic diminished, the community response has been great.

Everyone in the community has been extremely nice and extremely patient. I couldn’t have asked for a better kind of neighborhood or community to be placed in,” one of the owners said.

Boga has kept some of the Dari-ette’s old features, like the sign that says it is a drive-in and put blinking lights around part of the sign. There are remnants of the call-in boxes that customers would contact staff with their orders from their cars in the parking lot, but only the metal poles remain. There is plenty of off-street parking. Now you go to an ordering window, and you can pick it up in a second window when it is ready. Although there are no indoor booths, there are several colored metal tables and benches so you can consume your orders outdoors if weather permits.

*Photos taken by Steve Trimble.*

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**Many thanks to our Friends of the Forum 2023 donors:**

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**Dear Reader,**

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1980s and has always operated on a minimal budget. Each issue costs around $1,000 to produce per month. We have found a new printer and have adjusted the cost to print each 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 consider making a donation in 2023. Our goal for 2023 is $2,500; will you help us reach our goal?

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