Stop for Me pedestrian safety campaign comes to Dayton's Bluff

Sage Holben
Forum Staff

Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit update
Public influences recommendations on Mounds Blvd., White Bear Ave. and Hudson Rd.

From metrotransit.org

Over the summer, Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit project staff held open houses, attended community events and knocked on doors of residents to gather input on important design decisions. The Corridor Management Committee (CMC) heard that input and made the following recent design recommendations:

Mounds Boulevard Station and Route

The CMC recommended that the station be located at Mounds Boulevard, and buses travel on bus-only lanes beginning at Mounds Boulevard and 3rd Street. This option was selected instead of a route on Maria Avenue with buses traveling in mixed traffic and a station at Eton Avenue. The CMC’s decision was based on the City of Saint Paul’s preference for Mounds Boulevard, and feedback from residents and bus operators who expressed concern with Maria Avenue’s narrow traffic lanes, winter snow piles, and sight-line issues.

White Bear Avenue Station

Between White Bear Avenue and Ruth Street, Gold Line buses would travel on bus-only lanes that will be built south of Old Hudson Road. There are two potential locations for the station: either at Van Dyke Street or Hazel Street. The CMC asked that project staff move forward with both station location options for the Environmental Assessment (EA), so both locations are still under consideration.

Hudson Road between Etna Street and White Bear Avenue

The CMC recommended that Gold Line buses travel in mixed traffic on Hudson Road between Etna Street and White Bear Avenue rather than in bus-only lanes. In making their decision, the CMC kept in mind residents’ preferences for keeping on-street parking and two-way traffic and weighed the additional cost to build bus-only lanes in this area to the minimal gain in travel time.

The next steps include analyzing these design decisions as part of the EA, which looks at the transportation, social, and environmental impacts of these design options. The EA document will be available for public comment in summer 2019. For more information on the Gold Line visit: www.metrotransit.org/gold-line-project

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

Sgt. Brown and Commander Jeremy Ellison emphasized to participants that pedestrians, as well as drivers, own responsibilities when using intersections: 1. Pedestrians need to take a step into the roadway to show their intent to cross. Standing on the curb sends a mixed message with their hands or arms to help communicate to drivers they want to cross. *look up from the cell phone! 3. Vehicles need a certain amount of stopping distance going 30 mph. Vehicles should be yielding to pedestrians if they are more than 193 feet from the crosswalk, and the pedestrian has stepped into the roadway.

People often ask if tickets are always issued, or are only warnings given. Sgt. Brown’s summary states: “During the Stop for Me event, three police officers conducted 15 traffic stops, issued 13 citations and one warning to vehicles who failed to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk; one citation was issued for ‘other violations’.”

This year, according to St. Paul’s “Stop for Me” web page, officers have been marking a new “Endangerment” box: Often, the driver that pulls around the stopped vehicle is unaware that a pedestrian is crossing the street—hence the reason the first vehicle stopped. This year, officers will be more likely to check the “Endangerment” box on citations when drivers who failed to stop have endangered life or property—meaning the driver must appear in court rather than simply pay a fine.

“This is a very serious violation and that’s why the city’s police officers will be taking the extra step to ‘check the box’ when it is reasonable to do so,” said St. Paul Police Chief Todd Axtell. “Every one of these crashes is avoidable. We all need to do our part to drive safely and obey the law.”

‘Stop for Me’ has wound down its 2018 schedule, but Sgt. Brown and Commander Ellison encourage scheduling a 2019 safety event for a crossing they deem as dangerous. Sage Holben can be reached at daytonsbldistrictforum@gmail.com.

Sgt. Kathleen Brown describes the crossing area:

“Third St. is a 2-lane city street, the speed limit is 30 mph, east to west at this intersection. There is a marked crosswalk at the intersection both on the east and west side of the intersection. There was heavy traffic due to the time (rush hour) from downtown to the east. There was some compliance but also a number of violators. This is a highly residential area and there were several citizens crossing at the corner and out walking. Dayton’s Bluff School and Rec Center is one block south from this intersection and many youth were out walking. Participants expressed the concern of crossing there, especially when traffic speeds are up at various points during the day.”

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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 Tuesdays from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 10: Midwest All-Star Wrestling presents: Rightful Heir. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Bell Time at 7:00 p.m. Tickets: Check our website for ticket information.

Saturday, December 1: Midwest All-Star Wrestling presents: The Best is Yet to Come. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Bell Time at 7:00 p.m. Tickets: Check our website for ticket information.

Tuesday, November 13, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Teens Know Best. The Dayton's Bluff Library shares its home with Metropolitan State University at 645 East 7th Street. East Side SNAP Food Program at CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio)

¿Necesita más comida saludable para su familia? El programa SNAP puede ayudar. SNAP proporciona fondos para alimentos que beneficiarán a familias de escasos recursos.


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

November at the Dayton's Bluff Library

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

Tuesday, November 19, from 6 to 8 p.m., The Dayton’s Bluff Library and Metropolitan State University Library invite you to a showcase of student WCCO Radio meteorologist Mike Lynch! Mike will introduce us to some famous—and perhaps not so famous—stars and planets.

The fun begins in the COS Atrium of the Science Education Center at Metropolitan State University and then continues outside. You can also check out the university’s biodome.

The event is FREE and no reservations are required. Light refreshments will be served. We’ll gather rain or shine, so dress for the outdoors!

For more information, call 651-776-0550 for more information.

East Side Elders: We’re More Than Lunch

I recently ran into a senior who regularly attends our monthly Elder Café. She stopped by and chatted for a few minutes. I asked her how her day was going and what she had planned to do for the afternoon, and she asked the question back to me. I told her I was going back to the office to help pack up groceries that we would deliver to seniors in the community. She gave me a questioning look and then told me she thought we only delivered the Elder Café.

This got us to thinking: What if the community at large sees us only as the group that serves lunch to seniors once a month?

What if they didn’t know all the other ways we do to help our elderly friends and neighbors?

And, what if they didn’t know that we are a non-profit and we need the community’s support to provide these services?

Sometimes, when an organization has been serving the community for a while, it becomes part of the scenery and can be forgotten or overlooked. People move away from the neighborhood and new volunteers don’t have a head about us or need our services. East Side Elders has been around for quite a while, and we are here to stay! In fact, we were honored with the Community Partners to Community Award in 2017 from the East Side Area Business Association! We have also met the accountability standards for the Community Review Council so our supporters can be sure that East Side Elders is recognized as a well-established and managed organization.

The areas that we serve include Dayton’s Bluff, Payne-Phalen, and Conway-Battle Creek communities. It is a registered 501(c) (3) nonprofit and all donations are tax deductible.


East Side Elders serves seniors 60 and older in the Dayton’s Bluff, Payne-Phalen and Conway-Battle Creek communities. It is a registered 501(c) (3) nonprofit and all donations are tax deductible.

Twice a month we host a monthly Elder Café sponsored by the Dayton’s Bluff Mobile Market.

East Side Elders is a non-profit organization that provides services to adults 60 and older. We serve 1,500 people a month and have over 40 volunteers. We are a member of the Community Review Council, and all our services are available to the public.

Our volunteers are a key part of the organization. We rely on volunteers to assist with our programs and services. Volunteers help with the Commitment to Community, which is our motto. We rely on the volunteers to provide services to our clients and we rely on the community to provide support to our services.

Our clients are not always people who need help for themselves. Some are caregivers who simply need a break. We arrange for friendly visitors to provide respite to a caregiver so they may have some time to themselves, maybe to go to a gym, get a haircut, or just to sit and read a book.

Last year we gave over 1,200 rides—to the stores, the science museums, the bank or the hair salon. We helped 65 seniors in whatever they needed, whether it was delivering groceries, driving them to a doctor’s appointment, or simply a friendly phone call to wish them happy birthday.

We are a very small budget and with a staff of 4, so we are always looking for volunteers! Volunteer drivers, friendly visitors, lawn mowing or snow shoveling, and anything that can be offered in serving on the Board of Directors are invited to call us at (651) 683-2326 or visit our website at Eastsideelders.org.

Donations are also gladly accepted. Most of our services are provided at no or low-cost to the seniors, and we rely on the generous support of the community, so please feel free to make a donation today. Why not join our “I Give a Gift” program to help us support more Elders? We have holiday and birthday cards that let you tell your friends and family that you supported East Side Elders in their time. It’s easy and we accept any amount.

So, yes, some of our clients do just come for the great food and entertainment at the Elder Café, but we offer a great deal more.

East Side Elders serves seniors 60 and older in the Dayton’s Bluff, Payne-Phalen and Conway-Battle Creek communities. It is a registered 501(c) (3) nonprofit and all donations are tax deductible.


Dayton’s Bluff resident Steve Trimble, local historian and contributor to the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum, has published another article in Ramsey County Historical Society. Trimble’s latest article tells the story of St. Paul artist Carl Aron and his development in the arts during this period. LeRoy Jethro Gibbs, Special to the Forum

Dayton’s Bluff historian gets published

LeRoy Jethro Gibbs

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November 2018

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Specializing in In-Home Care, Assisted & Independent Living Placement
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 December edition of the Forum.

Congratulations to Curtis Shavers, winner of October’s contest with his correct guess of a garage on Cypress St. between Conway St. and Third St.

Hints: This could be a tough one so check out the main article on the front page of the October Forum for a big clue as to where this sculpture is located.

Yoerg Saloon opens Nov. 1

Yoerg Brewing Company is opening in the Schoch building at 379 Maria Avenue (which was formerly the Strip Club) on November 1st. Thomas Keim and Carole Minogue are partners in the Yoerg Brewing Company. They will have that old world menu which includes brats, cheese plates and the world’s greatest munchies. The state’s best wine program (100 different wines by the greatest winemakers) and the world’s best blooms. Yoerg was a family owned and operated business that moved to Minneapolis. The English rights to Larsmo’s novel “Swede Hollow,” which has sold over 60,000 copies in Europe, have been acquired by the University of Minnesota Press. It should be ready to publish in the fall of 2019.

Payne Avenue: Portrait of a Community

St. Paul photographer Stephan Kistler recently went to A+ Appliance on Payne Avenue to get an appliance repaired. When he walked into the store, he saw what could have been a potential portrait. He thought, “Maybe there are other interesting people here, maybe it could be turned into an interesting exploration of an area of town I knew a little bit about, but not that much.”

Starting in the middle of last winter, Kistler made black and white portraits of the business owners, residents, customers, and workers who make up the East Side corridor, once a thriving center of industry and now home to many immigrant and working communities. He hoped to use a camera to document the transforming community in an artistic manner and illuminate the past and current Payne Avenue.

The photographs are being exhibited at various locations, organizations and businesses. A gallery of his photographs can be found, among other places, at East Side Arts Council, 977 Payne Ave, Caydence Records & Coffee, 900 Payne Avenue and 11 Wells Spirits, located at 704 East Minnehaha. Many of them are for sale. The showings will go on until late December. If you want to know where to find them or get more Kistler information, call East Side Arts Council at 651-774-5422.

Ribbon cutting at the new Payne Avenue overlook above Swede Hollow Park.

A Reading of a Swede Hollow Play at the American Swedish Institute

Temperance Brennan Special to the Forum

On a recent Saturday a group of Dayton’s Bluff residents and I ventured to Minneapolis to attend a special event at the America Swedish Institute. Led by Theater Mu’s Randy Reyes, a group of eight actors read a selection from an English rendition of a play based on Swedish writer Ola Larsmo’s 2016 novel “Swede Hollow.”

In her tells of a Swedish family who left for America in 1897 and settled in St. Paul’s Swede Hollow. The reading (as opposed to an expensive full production) consisted of several scenes from the play’s first act that followed twenty seven Swede Hollow residents who learned English, found jobs, married, who children went to school, and had relationships with other ethnic groups. The time frame goes from leaving Sweden and their arrival to more contemporary times. The readers did a good job of expressing emotions in their various roles. As an anthropologist, I was very interested in the cultural developments and as a forensic anthropologist I was especially thrilled to find that there may have been a murder as well as a probable suicide.

I am looking forward to reading the entire play and the novel on which it is based. The English rights to Larsmo’s novel “Swede Hollow,” which has sold over 80,000 copies in Europe, have been acquired by the University of Minnesota Press. It should be ready to be published in October, 2019 and I hope the Dayton’s Bluff Branch Library will purchase the book.

Temperature Brennan can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

804 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-776-0550 E-mail: daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

Monthly circulation: 7,000; also available online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.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 re-published 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 daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com, or mailed to the address above. The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum is delivered to every home and business in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood. Outside this area, subscriptions cost $15 per year and may be arranged by calling 651-776-0550.

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

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Rep. Sheldon Johnson is retiring and thanks you for allowing him to serve as your voice at the Capitol.

REMEMBER 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, 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

VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

Sincerely,

Sheldon Johnson

Rep. Sheldon Johnson

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

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Dear East Side Neighbors,

Elections matter!

PLEASE VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6th OR BEFORE.

Did you know that the East Side has about the lowest voter turnout in the State of Minnesota? Did you know that when we don’t vote we send a message to our elected leaders that we don’t care. And as your city councilmember, I KNOW YOU CARE. I know you how busy you are and how demanding life is. But if we stay home this November, we jeopardize our children’s and our community’s future. Please encourage everyone you know – your family, your neighbors and your friends to vote on or before November 6th.

You can vote on OR BEFORE November 6th. Ramsey County welcomes you to come to 90 Plato Boulevard -- take East 7th Street to the Lafayette Bridge and go right on Plato Boulevard -- anytime between now and November 5th between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm -- to vote early. Or you can vote at your polling place on Tuesday, November 6th. Go to MNvotes.org or call (651) 266-2171 to find out where to vote, voting early by mail, or for any other questions you may have.

See you at the polls!

- City Councilmember Jane L. Prince

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Paid for by Jane Prince for Ward 7
JanePrinceW7@gmail.com | 651-308-4984
You got somethin' to say? Say it here!

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


Health Coverage and Fragility of Life

Kat Chambers
Special to the Forum

Finding a place to begin with the is- sues my family has had is hard; not only because it's overwhelmingly difficult to talk about, but it also infuriates me. I also know that feeling this way will easily be counterproductive, so I should probably get on with it...but there's no escape.

Three to 4 months ago my husband had an injury that put him out of work. Prior to this, he'd had physical and mental health issues that also kept him from working full time. Some of you may think "suck it up; it isn't that bad." I'll stop you right there, because if you think that you've never dealt with depression, anxiety, or a physical issue that has kept you from doing basic, everyday things - like work, or even getting out of bed; or having had nearly everything ripped away from you in a blink of an eye. The first thing I did after my husband's recent injury, besides getting him to one of the few hospitals that will still accept him, was to call my caseworker in Saint Paul about helping provide me with information on what emergency assistance programs I could apply for; also about fixing my EBT, which was supposed to look on some reason, heck. She may falsely reported that my husband and I made $2400 a month instead of the $2600 we were very lucky to make. Because of theerror in reporting, our EBT was dropped from $200 to $130 a month. This is supposed to be feeding me, my child, and my husband. Regardless, she may never got back to me after I sent in my correction.

After calling and trying to leave voice mails, I got a notice in the mail only to find out if I didn't reapply and resend all of the information in AGAIN, I'd be dropped from our EBT! Of course, it sent it in; I waited a month or so to apply for emergency assistance, thinking that I could meanwhile manage on my own - until I got my electric bill in the mail. Mind you, my electric bill is normally only $60 a month; this was $239! I spent over an hour on the phone with Xcel going over past usage and current usage. The woman on the phone was convinced it was either crossed wiring which would indicate that I'm paying for someone else's electricity or a faulty appliance. I contacted my rental company to come out and take a look. No response. That was back in July. Still waiting, still calling, and sending. It's nuts.

I am working an hourly job of 40 to 48 hours a week; taking care of a household and child, and my husband when he needs help. I had high hopes for the emergency programs with their prompt responses, yet again, I was failed. I'm still waiting and still calling, with no response. My refrigerator ended up going out on us; all our food was lost right after grocery shopping it took them two days come out to fix it. Still waiting, as of this writing, to hear back from the rental company, emergency assistance, and EBT. I thought that it's someone can't stay above water their help deserve. That's what those programs are for. I'm now in the process of helping my husband apply for disability. He was denied in the past because he was able to work 5 to 10 hours a week. If you make less than $1000 a month you are supposed to accept your application. But because he was working the day he got the phone call, he was denied. I have very little hope for our assistance programs. I can't even count the numerous hours I have devoted to applying, calling, and reapplying for these programs. I've missed work to do these things only to receive no help and lose money. I'm at a loss, crossing my fingers while looking for a second full time job just to make ends meet and hope to have a better future for my daughter.

Note: Kat's husband suffers from PTSD as multiple friends have committed suicide. Add to that, he became a victim of a traffic accident about four years ago and suffered brain trauma. Riding his bike, he was either struck by a car or was his head face with an unknown object (this was around a time when people were dropping cinder blocks and throwing two by fours at bikers in St. Paul.) He lost memory of time two hours before the accident, and spent three days in the hospital with facial fractures requiring sur- gery; two areas of his brain started flowering shrubs and the Urban Roots offers a comforting way. It's one of 'our' baristas with a take-out; students and staff from nearby area businesses and those who pop in for coffee. It's one of 'our' baristas through nearby Swede Hollow Park. Cafe regulars include area residents and small business owners who enjoy their locally roasted coffee supplemented with serendipitous meetings; employees of area businesses and those who pop in for a take-out; students and staff from nearby schools; and individuals in their own solitude, who pass and known as they work on laptops and through the daily papers.

Cafe owner and manager, Ruth Camp, high, offered voices rise in exuberant grey day, which begs for the week's special aromatically flavored latte; or, amid shrubs and the Urban Roots vegetable garden, sipping iced tea while wrapped in the sun's warmth.

Swede Hollow Cafe is more than its promotional brochure description. As a nearby resident, I am drawn to the cafe's welcoming aura. I may be meeting with the Forum board, or catching up with a friend I haven't seen for too long; making a connection with a community organizer; or simply staking out a corner to write. Long ago, I separated 'work' from home to seek places with the perfect background noise level to kick start my brain.

If not named 'Swede Hollow', the cafe could be named 'Serendipity'. Eaves-dropping knows few limits here - I've butted in, and others have to my conver- sations - for local information, to correct a 'fact', to ask information, or to offer a friendly word. I have bumped into friends, in turn leading to the on the spot in- troductions leading to community and so- cial actions, and often new acquaintances and friendships.

Serendipity includes observing the 'perfect photo' in the garden patio or a reflection in the glass front. It's an unexpected intro to an exhibiting artist, or sitting with a stranger who shares simil- ar interests. It's meeting with the person who has come to claim his lost books - and finding we are poles apart politically, but have a civil conversation over coffee. It's one of 'our' baristas locating the 400 plus photos my bank teller wiped out on my phone. That last is not just serendipity, but pure joy! Swede Hollow Cafe might be described as a keystone in our Dayton's Bluff neighborhood; it offers the comfort of the familiar, yet by its mere being, en- courages new mixes. (Why is the 'Cheers' theme in my head?)

Donations needed for ECFE fundraising event

The Parent Advisory Council for the Dayton’s Bluff Early Childhood Family Education Program (ECFE) is holding a basket fundraising event at our upcoming annual Winter Pajama Party, and we’re asking if you would be willing to donate items to put in these baskets (gift cards, merchandise, or event packages) or sponsor a basket.

ECFE offers parent and early childhood education for families with children between birth and kindergarten. ECFE works to strengthen families and enhance the ability of all parents to provide the best possible environment for the healthy growth and development of their children. It is important to note that no one is ever turned away from ECFE pro- grams because of their inability to pay. This is an excellent opportunity for your organization to invest not only in the families of the Dayton’s Bluff ECFE program, but to Saint Paul’s ECFE program as a whole and strengthen families on Saint Paul’s East Side. If possible, we would like to have these donations by November 28th. If you can contribute, please mail your donations to the address below or contact us to arrange a time to pick up the item(s). Thank you very much for your consideration!

Parent Advisory Council for Dayton’s Bluff ECFE Fundraising Team: Britney Broch (952-681-0627), email: britneybroch@gmail.com.

Send donations to: ECFE, 262 Bates Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55106; Tax ID Number: 77-1566445.
East Side Eating

Trimble’s Taste Trek

In 2015, Forum contributor Steve Trimble set out to eat at every locally-owned, sit-down restaurant on the East Side (all 59 of them!). Recently, he has been visiting restaurants that opened since then. All of Steve’s reviews can be found at daytonsfblfdistrictforum.org under the “East Side Eating” tab.

Momma’s Kitchen
1058 Maryland
St. Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-493-1217

Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Sat. 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Sunday: 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Website: mommaskitchen.com

I made a trip to check out the newest restaurant that opened on the East Side. Right now it is the only East Side “Soul Food” spot that cooks up comfort food that has been served for many generations by African-American families. It can be found on the southwest corner of Earl and Maryland where the original Twin Cities Pizzeria was once located. It has been highly remodeled and decorated. The chef and co-owner of Momma’s Kitchen is DeMarco Cabil.

I was greeted by Wintana Melekin, one of the three co-owners. I knew her from local politics but she said her focus now was local economic development. She really enjoys working with co-owner DeMarco Cabil who is the head chef. He grew up on the East Side and graduated from Johnson High School. He has worked in many restaurants.

Cabil told me, “One thing my mom always wanted was her own restaurant.” Margo passed away seven years ago. Wintana and her two sisters always wanted was her own restaurant. It means so much more to me. I just want to show some of these young inner city kids that there’s something else you can do with your lives.” He wants to be part of investing in and lifting up the neighborhood. One of the ways he does it is to hire locally.

Momma’s Kitchen is still working on things. There will likely be addictions to the menu in the future. Right now they only take cash and credit cards. They are looking at different businesses that would deliver their food. One future plan is to expand so there can be sit-down tables. A final hope comes from a quote from De-Marco’s mother that is emblazoned on the front of the counter. It says “Make Every Meal With Love—Margo.”

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

Mounds Theatre Memories - Life in the Bluff in the 1930s

Part 2

James P. Perrier
Special to the Forum

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 “bunch buckets” or blue-collar area there wasn’t a great deal of loose money or what might now be called “discretionary income” floating around. The bearer of a 15 cent adult ticket could enjoy a full-length feature movie, a cartoon, a newswrap… and a comedy or sing-a-long plus whatever ice cream the theaters owned might be willing to offer to bring in customers. That could mean double features, jackpot or prize drawings, bingo or giveaways.

How would the theater owner get you to come on Wednesday night when a “B” movie was playing? The answer was Dish Night. A sign greeted moviegoers as they entered the theater’s lobby. “FREE FREE, Beginning next Wednesday, one piece of this magnificent set of Artistic Décor Tableware, the Dinner Service of the Stars, will be presented FREE to every adult woman in attendance. The moviegoer will be able to complete this one hundred and twelve piece set of magnificent dinnerware and enjoy at the same time the finest of movie entertainment!” …The promotion guaranteed crowds for years to come and gave many Depression era housewives their only hope of acquiring a set of matching dinnerware, although jelly glasses were still the glassware of choice in most homes.

If Dish Night understandably drew a large crowd of the neighborhood women it was only to be expected that audiences formed a community of friends and other locals. So when Emily Scanlan, sitting near the back of the theater reacted to a funny scene with a loud piercing laugh that was instantly recognizable to all who knew her, someone up front of the darkened house called out, “HELLO EMMILY!” which prompted a second roar.

Occasionally, someone who was less than sure-handed would drop her new gravy boat to the floor during a particularly tender moment up on the screen. The sound of the heartrending plate or gravy boat to the floor during a newsreel… and a comedy or sing-a-long would be a “lunch buckets” or blue-collar area and would be followed by a sympathetic crash echoed throughout the auditorium that appeared in the April, 2003 article, “Dayton’s Bluff District Forum.” If you want to read the full article you can see it at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org. Go to “Past covers” and click on “Life in the Bluff in the 1930s Part 2.” It would be nice if a few of the readers would write up memories about the neighborhood when you were growing up here.
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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 $1,900 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 $4,320 to date – will you help us reach our goal in 2018?

Sincerely,
The Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Thank you for your support!

Have Forum, will travel...

Barry White and Stephanie Harr peruse their Forum while on a trip to Beara Peninsula, Castletownbere, County Cork, Ireland.

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