



Janet Dahlem



Terry Yzaguirre of Mpls. Mirror



Janet Dahlem

Drummers: Chico Chavez (left) Onayemi Ogunkoye (R)

Noche de Paz Night of Peace

Celebrating community!

Hosted by Latina leaders and friends

BY KATHLEEN SULLIVAN AND MARY LAUREL TRUE, POWDERHORN NEIGHBORS

What brought neighbors to come together in warmth and light on a cold February evening?

Inspired by the Peace in Powderhorn event on December 1, Powderhorn neighbors kept the bonfires burning, and came together to enjoy a Noche de Paz or Night of Peace. It was an evening of fire and ice-lanterns, love of community, and warmth of togetherness on February 13, 2011 in Powderhorn Park.

The idea was spearheaded by a group of women who shared a vision. This vision was to extend the community spirit that came out of the December gathering, in pro-active ways that would continue throughout the year, with a goal of further developing a peaceful and united community. The fruit of their effort became Noche de Paz.

Bonfires, melty ice lanterns, and a painting of a peace dove transformed the outdoor space, while twinkling lights and homemade peace signs adorned the cozy space indoors. Park staff generously opened their doors to the community on their day off. Participants were treated to music by young D.J. Andres, drummer Tomas, and West African drummers Onayemi and friends. An appreciative audience huddled around the bonfires for warmth, and the wind seemed part of the show, as puppeteers Laura and John brought their story of the "Wintermaker" to life.

Everyone enjoyed delicious homemade soups from Sara and Senora Maria at La Poblana. "It's like the loaves and fishes!" Mary Laurel said of the bottomless soup pot from La Poblana. Speaking of loaves, the New French Bakery shared an abundance of bread, while New York Plaza Produce

donated cookies. Aliina, Nicolas, and Eat 4 Equity provided silverware and Powderhorn Park provided dishes for a zero-waste event. Several volunteers graciously worked behind the scenes to keep a steady supply of clean dishes.

People who never thought of themselves as leaders came forward and were suddenly holding a microphone, or were being interviewed on Univision, the local Spanish TV station! (See Youtube for the video from Univision as well as one from the Minneapolis Mirror.) The entire event was in held in Spanish and in English. Josefina and Doug invited everyone to take part in the neighborhood Safety Committee, Dara invited involvement in Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association. Young Netem and younger Emmet spoke about what they love about Powderhorn.

Hosted by Mujeres en Accion y Poder (Women in Action and Power) at Corcoran Neighborhood Association, several women came together to plan this event: Silvia, Fabiola, Teresa, Josefina, Francesca, Lina, Khusaba, Fernanda, Jessica, Amada, Vienna, Kathleen, and Mary Laurel. New leaders came forward, and many neighbors became involved, forming connections with each other and furthering the goal to increase unity and peace in our community.

To all in the Powderhorn area who love their neighborhood, we invite you to a proposed Peacemakers Gathering to discuss future events and plans. To participate, contact Silvia at Mujeres en accion y poder 612-724-7457 sphalia1103@gmail.com or Lina at Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association, 612-722-4817 lina@ppna.com.

SPECIAL INSERT ON NRP FUNDING

EXTRA!
DAVE MOORE

EXTRA!

The Richer You Are -- The More You Save!



Building a Local Food System

There is a groundswell of energy in the Metro area focused on better access to healthy food. Imagine yourself as part of the solution! Explore how to start or expand a food-based enterprise. Here's a chance to meet and learn from others who are already doing it! Find out what resources are available to help you get started. Learn about licensing requirements, startup funding, farmer training programs and how others market and distribute their products and services. Or just show your support of these efforts by joining the discussion.

Friday, April 1
1-6 pm

UROC
2001 Plymouth Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Who should attend?

- Local food entrepreneurs
- People who are considering starting a local food based business
- Those who are offering resources for business start-ups
- Advocates who want to support a local food system
- Media and policy makers

Info: thecoopproject.wordpress.com/event-connecting-the-dots or call 612-524-8878

There is no charge to attend thanks to these generous sponsors: SARE, Gardening Matters, UROC, Seward Co-op

Spring Family Carnival

FROM SOUTH AREA COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Join us for an evening of family fun! The event will include food, performances, carnival games, clowns, face painting, juggling, balloon sculpting, and more. For information, call Community Education at 612-668-4828. **THIS EVENT IS FREE! Friday, April 29th, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at South High School, 3131 – 19th Ave. S. Use parking lot entrance located on 32nd Street and 20th Ave.** Open to all families, regardless of which school your children attend.

FREE Dermatology Check-Up Night

The Phillips Neighborhood Clinic, a student-run free clinic, will be hosting their second dermatology night. Regular clinic services will also be offered that night as well. Dermatologists and dermatology residents will screen patients for skin cancer and other common skin conditions, such as scabies, acne, eczema, and skin infections. Unfortunately, the clinic cannot offer skin biopsies at this time. As always, all services and medications offered at the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic are free of charge.

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Call or e-mail at
**612-990-4022 or
ads@alleynews.org**

Phillips Neighborhood Clinic
Oliver Presbyterian Church 2647
Bloomington Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Thursday, April 7, 2011 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. Patients may reserve a spot by calling 612-724-1690. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information, please e-mail pncccommunityrelations@gmail.com or call 612-724-1690 during clinic hours (Mondays and Thursdays from 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.) to speak with a clinic coordinator.

Commentary

NRP FUNDS...ARE MPLS. CITY HALL DEMOCRATS STILL DEMOCRATS?

Party of Compassion?? Do the Math!! The Rich Get Richer, The Poor Get Poorer and Neighborhoods, too

BY CAROL PASS

In the midst of watching the destruction of the democratic right of collective bargaining going on next door in Wisconsin, an action bought and paid for by the billionaire Koch brothers, I attended a meeting called by a group of Democratic legislators. A graph was handed out, shown here, of the seriously regressive taxation rates current in Minnesota. Fellow Democrats in the room expressed outrage at years of too much political control by wealthy Republicans and at how regressive taxation has distorted the economy of the American populace into a tiny group of haves and a major group of have nots....so much so that a current magazine with clear

legitimacy ran an article entitled 'Plutocracy Now!' (rule by the rich), a play on the name of the TV show 'Democracy Now'.

The graph put out by the State Department of Revenue showed those making from \$9,000 to \$86,000 paying an average of 12% of their income for taxes, while those earning \$447,000 and above paying only 8.9%. These wealthy folks use far more of the public resources from airports to roads to electricity, etc. yet they pay a far smaller percentage of their income in taxes than the mid-

dle and lower middle classes, who carry the greatest, by percentage income, of the tax load. How fair is this?? But these figures are primarily the result of the actions of the Republican Party. We Democrats in the room expected such.

This is a wealth transfer from poor to rich of remarkable and unjust proportions.

Now look at the other figure, an analysis of the reapportioning by the Minneapolis Mayor and City

Council of the NRP dollars once allocated by the legislature to the Neighborhoods. By the action of the "Democrats" of Minneapolis City Hall, a huge amount of remaining NRP dollars, money that was allocated primarily to the poorest

and most diverse neighborhoods of Minneapolis, is being reallocated overwhelmingly to the wealthiest and least diverse Mpls. neighborhoods in the form of tax savings.

This reallocation is more economically regressive than the truly regressive taxation by Republicans shown in the graph. It sends approximately \$9 dollars to the affluent neighborhoods for every \$1 dollar to the least affluent. (Go to: <http://www.mcnoumn.edu/documents/PropertyTaxSFresidentialtable.pdf>) This is a wealth transfer from poor to rich of remarkable and unjust proportions. While the percentage tax saving is the same for both groups, the point is: the money to produce this huge influx to the non-diverse and affluent southwest neighborhoods is coming overwhelmingly from the poor and diverse neighborhoods such as Hawthorn, Jordan, Lind-Bohanon, Harrison and Near North, as seen in the chart. How is it possible that the outcome of the actions of our Democrats in City Hall so resembles and even goes beyond the results of the most conservative Republican majorities we have had in decades??

One of the legislators with us at that recent meeting commented that some of these Council Members who supported this action voted against the well-being of their own constituents. Those there applauded in recognition of the truth of this remark.

So let's look at this. One argument for these actions by City Hall that I've heard is an anecdote. "This will help an older woman on fixed income found crying because she might lose her house". This is sad, but won't wash. This woman needs real help. Not political tears. These remarks simply reveal how little this elected official knows about this issue. It's time to get honest and get educated! We all need to face it that this woman will not be helped by this reallocation.

The most she will receive is \$20 to \$35 dollars for one year from the Council action. maybe less, since she is not a person of means and probably lives in a very modest home. Let's not kid ourselves. Without real help, she will lose her home and end up with her children in a shelter. I have personally assisted with foreclosure prevention...I know first hand that these piddly dollars will do nothing, but buy a few groceries!

On the other hand, she and others like her stand a real chance of being helped by a strong neighborhood organization with NRP funded foreclosure prevention programs and the know-how and proximity to hold her hand, get her through her hard times and help her rearrange her finances. The fact is the central government at City Hall will never even know about the vast majority of these individual tragedies until they have blanketed our neighborhoods en masse and are dealt with through tear-downs, population loss, and much sadder stories, while never actually helping the real people that once lived there and for whom, the claim is, that City Hall is doing all this.

In the event that elected officials hear of these sad situations... what resources, financial and hands-on, will City Hall bring to the individual tables of these people?? What did the Council Member who told me of her sad constituent offer this person? A one-time \$25 dollar property tax break?? Who will take these people's hands through the complicated processes to find and secure help?? Does this Council Member know how difficult and involved this is? And for every lost household, there goes a taxpayer and a home and here comes a vacant and boarded building and soon after ...an empty lot, more crime and less livability for everyone else living near by! How does this misguided policy strengthen any city goals?

The truth should be faced: What is needed is serious foreclosure prevention assistance with the dollars found in the NRP funding which were rightfully and wisely set aside by the state legislature years ago for just such a time as this, along with the kind of help that has been and can be produced by the tough and savvy urban-core neighborhood organizations of Minneapolis, neighborhoods like Hawthorn, Harrison, Lind-Bohanon and Phillips Community.

December 13, 2010 Minneapolis City Council Action Impact on Minneapolis Neighborhoods

The Neighborhoods Most Positively Affected By Minneapolis City Council Action

Total Saved on Taxes Levied by Minneapolis
\$1,321,916

Pct. of Population Below Poverty Level
4.80%

Total NRP Funds Frozen by City Council
\$1,768,746

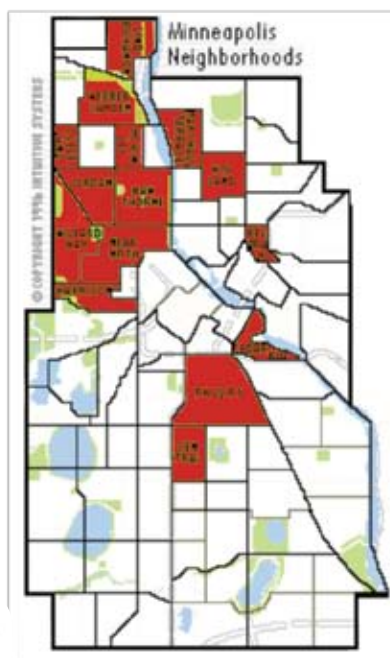


The Neighborhoods Most Adversely Affected By Minneapolis City Council Action

Total Saved on Taxes Levied by Minneapolis
\$373,917

Pct. of Population Below Poverty Level
29.54%

Total NRP Funds Frozen by City Council
\$4,773,676



NOTE: Phillips includes 4 neighborhoods:
East Phillips, Midtown Phillips,
Phillips West and Ventura Village

Prepared by Minneapolis NRP
02/17/2011

The majority of NRP dollars in these neighborhoods from which the funds are being taken go towards housing loans/grants, foreclosure prevention assistance, rehab of foreclosures, emergency home loan safety nets, down-payment assistance, public safety efforts, youth programming, and modest staffing expenses required to do these things. In other words, if left in place, they would go toward actually helping those people like the woman mentioned as well as contributing to the retention and stabilization of the tax base of a large portion of Minneapolis where it is currently facing real decline and being replaced by crime, diminished livability and population flight.

Given these remarks, one question is, 'Why would an administration made up entirely of Democrats create actions so clearly economically regressive? ...so regressive that the results are indistinguishable from those that would have been produced by a very conservative Republican administration, a [Wisconsin]Governor Walker administration as it were?' I can only guess that, since this really accomplishes nothing of significance and is so obviously damaging, it is a way of covering for a serious failure to actually make real structural choices that, over the long haul, would have helped avoid such heavy financial difficulties. Since it seems like a dramatic act, it appears to be an attempt to create a perception of care by City Hall, in the hopes it won't be noticed that it radically penalizes the 'least of these', accomplishes nothing of durable value and sends a terrible and demoralizing message to all those working in the more challenged neighborhoods. In reality it says that what we really care about is covering our political backsides more than really helping the woman with the tears.

As to why some Council Members supported this against the well-being of their own constituents...? Some possible reasons: perhaps they just didn't really do the math and think it all the way through and were impressed by the current economic situation. Perhaps they were intimidated by forceful colleagues on the Council....Perhaps they are weary of the cacophony of the neighborhood voices...Perhaps they wish to be rid of the NRP administration and consolidate City Hall... but none of these reasons or all of them together are big enough to justify this action. There can be no morally or fiscally appropriate excuse for any Democrat who actually understands this to support such a level of injustice as this wealth transfer from poor to rich is and especially when it creates no real accomplishment and only the illusion of help.

My second question is this: Are Southwest neighborhood dwellers aware of how regressive the actions of City Hall are that produced their small tax break for next year? They apparently thought they voted for a Mayor and Council who are expressive of the values of the Democratic Party. Are they aware of how closely these regressive results resemble a conservative Republican agenda? Do they really desire with their large comfortable homes around the Lakes to receive a few hundred dollars against a property tax bill of frequently over \$10,000, to demand this small property tax offset from their Council Members at such enormous cost to the low-income, diverse and challenged neighborhoods of Minneapolis? Are they really prepared to benefit to this degree as the sustaining funds of the impoverished ethnic neighborhoods are plundered on their behalf? Are they really going to stand by and not complain

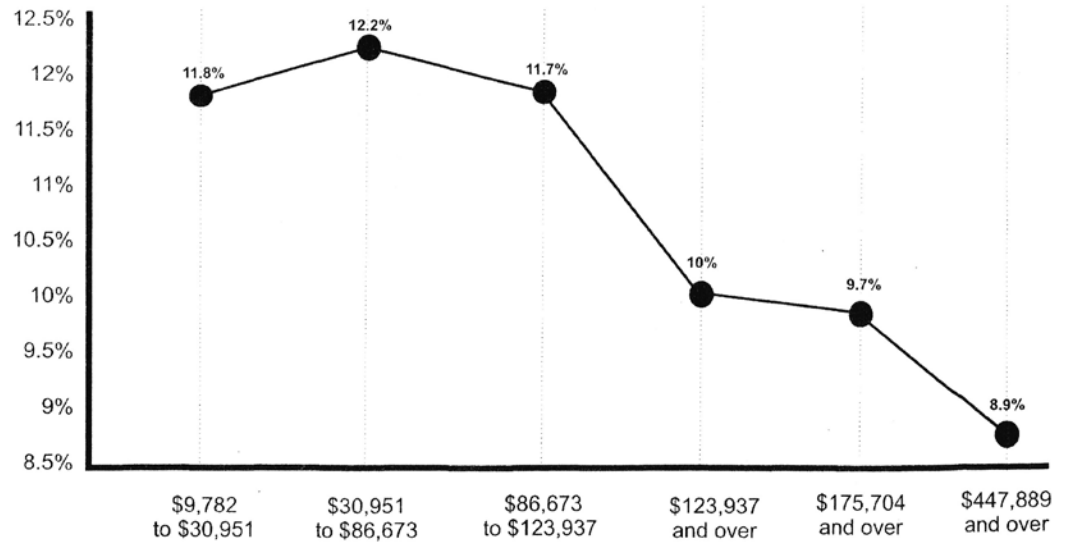


Two Prophets of Liberty from different Cities and Centuries

Andrew Moore expresses his devotion to freedom and children as he opposes **oppression and greed** in a "medium that is the message" in 21st C on 33rd and Bloomington Ave., Mpls. In 19th C Boston and across the country, Wendell Phillips spoke out against **oppression and greed** in the medium of that era—very long speeches at large tent Chautauquas and political gatherings. Both men, intense in their own ways, also being similar in that the City of Boston condemned Wendell and Ann's house to widen the street and City of Mpls' current threat to Andrew's house and rental livelihood to support his children and pay city inspection fines because he has only gradually been able to make repairs at his home for 17 years. Andrew is a one-man Neighborhood Watch as he waves, recognizing scores of people, walking and driving by each day.

Rates Dip at the Top

In Minnesota, most taxpayers pay about the same share of their incomes in state and local taxes. That's not true at the top. People with the state's highest incomes also pay the lowest effective tax rate. Below are the rates paid for Minnesotans at various incomes.



Source: Department of Revenue
2009 Minnesota Tax Incidence Study
2006 Taxes Paid

to their Council Members that a wealth transfer from the poor to the pockets of the rich almost unheard of in the history of this City is unacceptable?

I believe that the injustice of this action by City Hall is economically and morally unparalleled in its blatancy, but also in the level to which these facts are being ignored and left shamefully unexamined. These issues need to be raised and faced. This has created a class division in the heart of the City remarkable for the fact that we seem nearly all to belong

to the Democratic Party. What can this possibly mean that the poor of this City are treated this way and looted by fellow party members of what was once the party of compassion? Have we nowhere to go?

In light of this, many of us in Phillips Community and other challenged neighborhoods call upon members of the affluent neighborhoods to be bold enough to repudiate these actions by the City and contact their own Council Members, if need be, to demand that they change course. I refuse to believe that those inhabitants of

the southwest neighborhoods are really so ethically compromised and unknowledgeable as to accept the City's plunder of the poorest neighborhoods in order to hand them a pittance of property tax relief today and a future legacy of having turned their backs on their poor and diverse Minneapolis fellow citizens, and profited from their losses tomorrow. I have heard some members of southwest neighborhoods say "I love this City". What can this possibly mean if the acceptance of these actions is allowed to go forth??

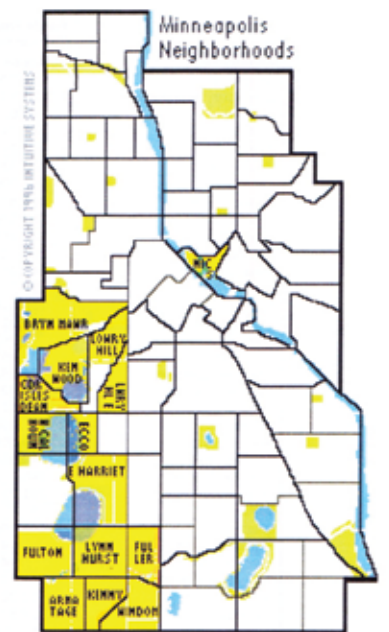
December 13, 2010 Minneapolis City Council Action Impact on Minneapolis Neighborhood NRP Funds

The 15 Neighborhoods Most Positively Impacted By Minneapolis City Council Action

Total Tax Savings
\$2,129,034

Pct. Of Population Below Poverty Level
4.77%

Total NRP Funds Frozen by City Council
\$1,335,894.24

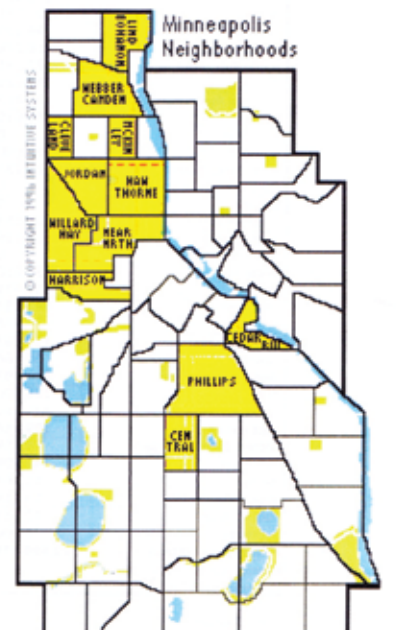


The 15 Neighborhoods Most Negatively Impacted By Minneapolis City Council Action

Total Tax Savings
\$787,016

Pct. Of Population Below Poverty Level
30.33%

Total NRP Funds Frozen by City Council
\$4,114,321.50



Note: Phillips Community includes 4 neighborhoods

Phillips Student Erika Espey-Sundt Honored for Songwriting

BY KEVYN BURGER

Erika Espey-Sundt, a senior studying music at the Perpich Center for Arts Education, is winner of Zeitgeist's 16th annual Eric Stokes Song Contest in the youth category. Her piece, "Gust of Wind," reflects the different stages of an adventure, from whimsy and playfulness to mystery and intensity.

The daughter of Kristen Sundt Espey-Sundt began composing just three months ago, under the direction of local composer and Arts High School music teacher Janika Vandervelde. Erika studies viola, violin and also enjoys singing.

"Composing this song started as a class assignment, but I spent a lot of time out of class working on it as well," Erika said. "I can't wait to see how they will arrange it and hear it performed. This is amazing."

The Eric Stokes Song Contest is sponsored by new music group Zeitgeist in memory of late composer Eric Stokes; designed to encourage and celebrate amateur composers throughout the Twin Cities.

The winning composers have the opportunity to participate in Zeitgeist's annual Playing it Close to Home concerts in February; in addition, she also receives a \$100



This picture speaks for itself!

prize and a one-year membership to the American Composers Forum.

"This was the strongest group of youth composers we've seen in

the 16 years we've held this contest. Our judges were uniformly impressed with Erika's mature and inventive composition, and we can't wait to play it during

our upcoming Playing it Close to Home concerts," said Heather Barringer, artistic co-director and percussionist for Zeitgeist.

First-of-Its-Kind Recovery Center in Minnesota Opens Doors for Adults Suffering from Co-Occurring Chemical Dependency and Mental Illness

April 6th Open House: Public Invited for Tours of Restored Crosby Mansion, Information, Refreshments

After raising nearly \$2 million in start-up funds, People Incorporated Mental Health Services has announced the opening of its innovative new facility, Huss Center for Recovery and Stark Mental Health Clinic, at 2120 Park Avenue in Minneapolis. The public is invited to attend an open house from 1:00 – 4:00 PM on Wednesday, April 6. There will be a brief program, refreshments, and a chance to tour the restored Crosby mansion (Huss Center for Recovery locale) and its carriage house (Stark Mental Health Clinic locale). View facility photos at Facebook photo album.

Program Distinction. Using elements of the "harm reduction" model—rather than the Twelve Step approach—the Huss Center will provide treatment for metro area residents who are diagnosed with chemical dependency (CD), many of whom also have an underlying mental illness (MI). The abstinence-based Twelve Step approach has generally not worked well for people with CD and underlying MI, who need a setting where relapse is not viewed as total failure. The center provides residential treatment, a day program, and aftercare. The clinic offers psychiatric, nursing, and counseling services. Together, the center and clinic will treat approximately 400 people annually.

The "New Norm." Dr. Tim Burkett, CEO of People Incorporated, says the new facility is a milestone. "This is a significant leap forward for those who cycle in and out of CD programs due to underlying mental illness. We've been using the harm reduction model for over 12 years in other programs, and its success points to it becoming the new norm for treating people with co-occurring CD and MI."

Funding. In early 2009,

Hennepin County asked People Incorporated to open a harm reduction CD/MI program. After raising nearly \$2 million and investing approximately \$500,000 of its own capital, People Incorporated purchased the Crosby mansion on Park Avenue in the summer of 2010. Renovations were completed in early March 2011, and the first clients took up residence on March 7. Fees for residential and outpatient services will cover anticipated expenses moving forward.

About People Incorporated Mental Health Services. People Incorporated is a nonprofit founded in 1969 to promote and secure independence for people with mental illness. It serves more than 8,181 people annually through more than 40+ programs throughout the Twin Cities metro area, and it is the largest nonprofit in Minnesota working exclusively in the mental health field. Learn more at www.PeopleIncorporated.org.

Walker Church and MINED Announce Arts Grant

Walker Community Church and MINED ARTS are a 2011 recipient of a Partners in Arts Participation Grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board.

A writing group and an art group: Expression for Wellness and Effectiveness (EWE) will each meet Mondays in the L'Orange Gallery 7-9 PM at Walker, 3104 16 AV S for nine months to prepare, share and critique participants' work from March 20-December 20, 2011. First, third and fifth Mondays will be a writing group facilitated by James Livingston, editor of MINED founder and for 12 year

facilitator of Southside Writers' Studio, Eagan. Drawing/ art will be on second and fourth Mondays facilitated by artist Janet Court, President of MINED ARTS.

A chapbook will be published in December and a gallery exhibition will be presented in L'Orange Gallery in November. Deadline for submissions is October 31, 2011. A maximum of 2 pages of 12 point type or drawings/photographs of one page or less only could be accepted for the magazine. Larger works are welcome in the gallery. Participation in groups is not necessary, but may be helpful.

MINED ARTS is an arts organization of, by, and for those who have experienced mental illness/emotional disturbances. MAIL submissions: MINED c/o Walker Community UMC, Box 7588 MPLS MN 55407.

FFI email james.Livingston_less_mined-arts@hotmail.com or call James or Janet at MINED ARTS 612 721 9284.

Funded, in part, by the MN arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the MN State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment vote of the people of MN on Nov. 4, 2008.

Hennepin County Library Launches Mobile Application On March 22

If you're a smartphone user, access to Hennepin County Library is at your fingertips wherever you go beginning since March 22.

The Library launched a mobile application, hclib mobile, on March 22 so people with smartphones can have mobile access to features available on the Library's website, www.hclib.org

The app is free of charge. hclib mobile is compatible with most smartphones, including Android,

Blackberry, J2ME, Palm OS, Symbian S60, Windows Mobile, and iPhone.

With the Library's app, you can access many online services, including:

- Do fast catalog searches with minimal keystrokes
 - Access library "My Account" functions such as renewing and reserving items
 - Find hours and library locations
 - Check the events and classes calendar
 - See new title lists
 - Ask questions via phone, chat, or email
 - Connect to Hennepin County Library on social networks sites such as Facebook and Twitter
- "Hennepin County Library's new mobile app for smartphone users provides an additional access point, connecting library users to

our catalog and services, wherever they are," said Lois Langer Thompson, Hennepin County Library director. "While you are standing in line at the grocery store, taking a break at work, or waiting for your next appointment, you can request a title, see how late your library is open, and find out about upcoming library programs."

To download the mobile app, go to www.hclib.boopsie.com or follow the link from the Library's home page.

The mobile application is funded by the Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA).

If you have any questions about the app or how to install it, go online to www.hclib.org

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Chicago Ave. S.	<p>Do you live here? Midtown Phillips Monthly meeting the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Andersen United Community School 6 to 8 p.m. 1098 Andersen Lane</p>	Bloomington Ave. S.
E. 24th St.	E. Lake St.	
<p>Join Midtown Phillips Phase II Steering Committee - help decide how Midtown Phillips will spend its Phase II Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funds. Contact: jacylynn99@gmail.com</p>		