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Minneapolis has no public, com-

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of the highest state drowning rates

has a dirty little secret. With one

collaboration

A Jewel of equity and

The Phillips Aquatic Center

Norway House in Indigo

Velkommenn to Phillips

The Phillips Aquatic Center

A Jewel of equity and collaboration

BY STATE SENATE DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER JEFF HAYDEN, DFL-MINNEAPOLIS; BANKR. KAREN CLARK, DFL-MINNEAPOLIS; MINNEAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ABDO WARSAME AND ALONORA CAND; MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS BRAD BOUDINOT, JOHN ERWIN, MEG FORD, AND SCOTT FROELAND; EVAN HALL, MIDTOWN PHILLIPS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD CHAIR; CAROL PASS, EAST PHILLIPS IMPROVEMENT COALITION BOARD CHAIR, AND DENNY BENNETT, MINNEAPOLIS SWIMS BOARD PRESIDENT.

Minneapolis, the City of Lakes, has a dirty little secret. With one of the highest state drowning rates for children of color in the nation, Minneapolis has no public, community-accessible indoor pools offering year-round swimming instruction. Unfortunately, in Minneapolis, the opportunities to learn to swim, and reap the many health benefits that can come with swimming regularly, are too often reserved for those with means. On Wednesday, April 1, 2015 six of our nine Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Commissioners voted to move forward with restoring and expanding a MPRB-owned pool in the Phillips Community Center. With the opening of the Phillips Aquatic Center, close to public transportation, these Commissioners made a huge contribution to the equity picture in Minneapolis.

The best part of all this is that 57% of the capital required for this project has already been raised by outside sources, and the money continues to come in! Additionally, outside revenue for the Aquatic Center see page 2

By happenstance, Indigo’s traditional meanings—service to humanity, integrity, sincerity, intuition, and perception—are fitting with the NH “Peace Initiative” and hope to enhance conversation culture, and contemplation. Indigo’s deep midnight blue also suggests concentration and meditation.

The opening of another cultural center on Franklin Avenue, being adjacent to Mindekirken—the Norwegian Memorial Lutheran Church at the west end of the American Indian Cultural Corridor, enhances this area as a “go to” location for the richness of cultural traditions, insights and education.

“Color it Indigo,” said Dewey Thorbeck, NH Architect, to portray water’s mutual significance and beauty in Norway’s fjords and Minnesota’s deepest lakes. The vivid, eye-catching use of Indigo also recalls the strong cultural affinity of Norway and Minnesota. Welcome to Franklin Ave. and Ventura Village NH.

The best part of all this is that 57% of the capital required for this project has already been raised by outside sources, and the money continues to come in! Additionally, outside revenue for the Aquatic Center see page 2

Dream Come True

New National Center for Norway in America

BY ELIZABETH PLAETZ LOH, NORWAY HOUSE DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS AND COMMUNICATIONS

What started as a dream more than a decade ago is now a reality. After years of imagining, planning and building, the Norway House Education Center will open its doors on May 12, 2015 with its first gallery exhibition, “Red, White & Blue | Norwegian Constitution, American Inspiration.” Inspired by a shared love of Norway and its heritage, volunteers and donors have worked tirelessly, giving their time and resources to build a bridge that connects America to modern day Norway.

Norway House is the new national center for Norway in America. This ambitious endeavor was inspired by the hundreds of thousands of Norwegian-Americans living in the Midwest. Norway House was built by many individuals, families and businesses who share a dream and support the mission to promote a common interest and community for Norway.

Norway House provides a place for many to call “home.” It has spaces for families and organizations to gather and celebrate. The Gavebutikk and Kaffebar (a long-standing neighborhood treasure) offers Norwegian gifts, specialties, coffee, and culinary favorites. Children have a place to come and community for Norway.

Norway House partners with individuals, organizations and businesses in the Norwegian-American community to promote an appreciation for and understanding of the American Norwegian experience and its relationship to modern Norway and the world. The Norway House oversees programs, including The Edvard Grieg Society, the Norway House Peace Initiative and the “Going Viking” award, which recognizes the accomplishments of notable Norwegian-American leaders.

Hours & details www.norwayhouse.org See 17th of May Celebration and VV NEWS Pg. 5
A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm. — Henrik Ibsen, 1828-1906, Norwegian Poet, playwright
One hundred and fifty years ago, on April 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant and our four-year Civil War was over. By the time that the war ended an estimated 630,000 to 750,000 men had been killed and another 1,000,000 injured. It seems like that war happened so long ago but if you know where to look there still are some small reminders in the Phillips Community of the men who fought it.

Phineas Phelps was born in Canada on December 2, 1831. He enlisted as a private in Company F of the 25th Massachusetts Infantry and for a time was a carpenter—her name was Francavilla Fogg and she was 13 years younger than her husband. They were married on July 4, 1871.

Their first child, a boy, died on July 2, 1874, when he was two days old, and he was buried in what at that time was called Layman's Cemetery. Their second son, Harry E. Phelps was born in June 1876 and survived to adulthood.

Despite the fact that Phelps was awarded a small pension for his disability, he was able to work as a carpenter. On June 5, 1886, he filed for a permit to build a wooden house at 2800 15th Avenue South. The barn cost $400, a significant sum of money back then. A few days later, he filed for a permit to build a wooden house at a cost of $1,000. Less than a year after that, he filed for a permit to make some alterations to the house and to build an addition. He spent another $100 on wood for the barn. Phelps did not build the house for himself and the original owner’s name is not on the permit. It was probably one of many houses that he worked on in Minneapolis but it is one that has endured. The barn was demolished some time ago but one hundred and twenty-nine years later the house that Phineas Phelps built still stands on the southwest corner of 15th Avenue and 28th Street (across the street and just south of St. Paul's Church).

Phineas Phelps died from heart disease in Britton, South Dakota on October 7, 1904; he was 73 years old. It is likely that he and Francavilla moved to South Dakota to be with their son. Phineas was brought back to Minneapolis for burial and is buried in Lot 29-34, Block F not far from his infant son who died in 1874. Phineas Phelps’ grave is marked with a military marker.

Join us in honoring Phineas Phelps and all of our other veterans on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2015, at Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery at 10 a.m. The Seward Concert Community Band will provide the music. And the next time you walk, ride or drive down 28th Street, tip your hat to the house that Phineas Phelps built so many years ago.

Memorial Day
Monday, May 25, 2015
Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery at 10 a.m.
The Annual meeting on Saturday April 25th celebrated sixteen years of EPIC’s existence with another free community breakfast prepared by former EPIC Board member Sherzad Kordian, the number 2 chef of the Guthrie Theater.

The gala event was held in the $5.5 million East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center, which was a 5 ½ year project of the Guthrie Theater. By former EPIC Board member Sherzad Kordian, the number 2 chef of EPIC's existence with another free community breakfast prepared by former EPIC Board member Sherzad Kordian, the number 2 chef of the Guthrie Theater.

For your Calendar:

**East Phillips SummerFest 2015**

**Sunday, June 21st**, starts at 1:00 PM and goes all day. Wonderful local entertainment, Great Food vendors and fun for everyone.

**EPIC Board of Directors meets**
Saturday, 5/2/15 & 6/6/15 At 10:00 AM

**EPIC General Membership meets**
Thursday, 5/8/15 & 6/11/15 At 6:30 PM

**East Phillips Park Programming Partnership meets**
Tuesday, 5/26/15 & 6/30/15 At 11:30 AM. Lunch is served


All the above meetings and events are at the:
East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center located at 2307 17th Ave. S. The Center is wheelchair accessible.

**East Phillips Community 12th Ave. Garden**

East Phillips Park Programming Partnership meets
Saturday, 5/9 & 6/13 at 9:00 AM in the Garden located at 2428 17th Ave. S.

**East Phillips Aquatic Center**

Epic has invested $75,000 of its NRP dollars to renovate and enlarge the Phillips Community Center swimming pool

**Franklin Station Town Homes**

This $5 million development, leveraged by $250,000 of EPIC NRP dollars, provides affordable home ownership for 28 families on E 24th Street in East Phillips

**Greenway Heights Apartments**

EPIC invested $185,000 NRP dollars to provide the only affordable rental housing on the Greenway for 46 families in this $7 million dollar project

**THE ARBOR DAY CEREMONY**

Please join students, parents, and local dignitaries in celebrating trees!

Open to the public.

**Thursday, May 14, 2015**

1-1:45 pm: Ceremony
Stewart Park, 2700 S 12th Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55407

**Tree Planting**

In the morning, MPRB Arborists will teach approximately 1300 students from Andersen United Community School about the benefits of tree planting. The afternoon will also be instructed in tree planting.

**Diverse mix of trees**

Planting will be from 14 botanical families, 29 genera, and 50 different species or cultivars. None of the trees are susceptible to Disease.

**Ceremony**

Students and parents will celebrate trees during a large ceremony including a choir performance from 150 fourth graders. In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater will also be involved.

**In addition to being our annual Minneapolis Arbor Day Celebration, this is also the official State of Minnesota Arbor Day Event.**

**About Arbor Day**

Arbor Day is celebrated each spring to remind the public about the importance of urban USA. It is the first federal holiday dedicated to tree planting, established on April 10, 1872, by President Rutherford B. Hayes in response to a state proclamation urging settlers and homesteaders to plant trees that provide shade, beauty, and oxygen for residents of the largely treeless Great Plains.

**4TH ANNUAL PLACEMAKING RESIDENCY**

During the week of May 11-15, individuals, organizations, and institutions throughout the Greater Minneapolis Saint Paul region will explore the intersection between urban design and population health with the aid of internationally renowned experts. Dr. Richard Jackson, Dr. Anthony Iton, and Gehl Studio during the 4th Annual Placemaking Residency.

For more Information, http://www.4thannualresidency.com/placemaking-residency/
VENTURA VILLAGE NEWS

VENTURA VILLAGE MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<th>2nd Wednesdays: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING</th>
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IMAGINE a place in Minnesota where all things Norwegian are located, embraced and cultivated!

Come to the Annual Mindekirkken Parade on Sunday, May 17th and stay around to get acquainted and step into the first phase of the Norway House project. According to the project leaders, “As an office and conference/event facility, Norway House will:

- Provide space appropriate for meetings, performances, casual gatherings, dining, lectures, exhibits, learning, and ceremonies
- Provide space for programming in the areas of art, music, design, business, science, technology, education, peace relations, environment, culture, and heritage
- Be located in Minneapolis, in an easily accessible location
- Be a ‘green facility’
- Be of distinctive contemporary architectural design

Let’s join our neighbors and see what their first phase of the project will provide!

Norway House

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 5 MAY 2015

Norway House Website

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Norway House Website
Cinema in the Cemetery
returns with Buster Keaton’s “The Navigator”, Memorial Day Weekend to
Benefit the Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Fence Restoration Project
Film score to be played live by local music group Dreamland Faces

WHAT: On Saturday, May 23, at approximately 8:30 p.m., the Friends of the Cemetery in partnership with The Trolley Micromena will show a special screening of Buster Keaton’s film “The Navigator” accompanied with a live score by local music group Dreamland Faces at Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery located at 2925 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. The proceeds from the Memorial Day weekend event will help support the Friends of the Cemetery’s efforts to restore the limestone pier fence that serves as the border of the cemetery along Lake Street and Cedar Avenue.

Gates will open at 7:00 p.m. on May 23; moviegoers arriving early will have the opportunity to experience the historic cemetery and participate in a smart phone history hunt. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs. Taco Taxi will be there with their wonderful food available for purchase.

Tickets can be purchased online at Brown Paper Tickets (http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1423311) at or at the gate the evening of the event (cash only). Tickets purchased on or before May 15 are $5; tickets purchased after May 15 are $10; kids under 12 are free.

WHERE: Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery
2925 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis

On-street parking is available; no parking allowed in the cemetery. Using public transportation or biking to get to the event is encouraged as the Lake Street light rail stop is a short walk from the cemetery and it is also easily accessible from multiple bike routes.

WHEN: Saturday, May 23, gates open at 7:00 p.m.; the film will begin approximately 8:30 p.m. Saturday, May 30 has been set as an alternative date for inclement weather.

CEPRO from page 7
Since then, the sport has grown and expanded and become one of the single most popular fitness regimens in America.

It was been the subject of a CBS segment focusing on the clubs in Chicago. CBS said “CrossFit is growing nearly as quickly as MMA (mixed martial arts) did when it first hit the fitness circuit. The idea of a ‘hardcore’ workout that is adaptable to any individual regardless of age or current fitness level has led droves of former couch potatoes to the gym, or ‘box’ as crossfit gyms are called. The boxes are usually no-frills warehouses or garage-type locations and the workouts are reportedly grueling and addictive.” It can be done individually or as a group. It encompasses tractor tires, cycling, running, kettlebells, and aspects of parkour, ropes, bars, rings, walls, and balance: nearly anything you can imagine that works your body. It can be as complicated or as simple as your imagination can make it.

Given the CEPRO sites close proximity to the Greenway and the health conscious users of trail as well as its proximity to the Midtown YWCA it seems like a match made in heaven. Already, sponsors have collected e-mail addresses for nearly 100 people who not only support the concept, but are eager to use it. There are 2 amateur rugby teams interested, a soccer team, and a weekend cross-fit group. Likewise, the U of M Parkour Team has expressed excitement about the possibility. West Phillips and the Nokomis neighborhood organization as well as the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition expressed a desire to be kept in the loop as the idea progresses.

The space is large enough to not only include the Cross-fit gym, but also Tai Chi, yoga and much more.

This is a great opportunity to make a destination site in the Midtown Phillips Neighborhood. A site that takes a tragedy and turns it into spectacular win. We hope you will agree. The city, county and neighborhood association are going to move the CEPRO through the normal process. That could result in anything, or nothing. For that reason, we are looking for people to help move this project through the process, attend meetings, make the “Fitness for CEPRO” voices heard.

If you would like to be added to the e-mail list and are willing to be a part of this project or simply support it, please e-mail retterr@cityofmpls.com. We get so excited when we think of this. It would be new, unique, destination oriented asset to Midtown Phillips that would be unique to the city.

*Abbreviated for space.
Levels of Consciousness

Let us recall that the realm of philosophy is divided into two camps. ‘Philosophical Materialists’ assert that the universe existed prior to consciousness, whereas ‘idealists’ believe the universe was created from consciousness. Curiously, the Buddhists among us avoid the mind-body question, choosing instead to seek liberation via introspective meditation. (Note: some degree of ascetic detachment is recommended.)

“Complete enlightenment for the benefit of all sentient beings” is the noble goal of the Mahayana.

However, more than two thousand years of this practice hasn’t achieved very much.

So, we must agree with the Marxists that there is a material basis for human liberation… which is not to say that the “subjective factor” does not matter. When acted upon, ideas do become a material force.

On the subject of “levels of consciousness,” Lenin had much to say. In ascending order he said consciousness 2.) class consciousness 1.) trade union consciousness…perhaps for the benefit of all sentient beings! 3.) socialist consciousness.

As for this writer, he endured 35 years of hard labor within the gassy bowels of Smith Foundry. Yet privileged memories remain from the periodic convening of our bargaining unit. Our ‘trade union consciousness’ would then ascend, under the watchful eye of our Ojbwe (union) business agent.

Note: Under Wisconsin’s “right to work” law, a worker is allowed to accept wages without paying union dues… thereby lowering his or her self to the level of bourgeoisie morality.

But “class consciousness” reflects a deeper understanding than mere trade union consciousness. For example, striking fast food workers beamed with pride when told: LIFTING UP LOW- WAGE WORKERS ELEVATES ALL WORKERS. We should appreciate, as well, the Teamsters sign which reads: STOP THE WAR ON WORKERS.

Yet, according to Lenin, a fully developed class consciousness views the world through the eyes of all social classes. Thus, we gain the capacity to make a scientific analysis of national and world events with class struggle in mind.

Note: Let’s all commend the Communications Workers (CWA) who have been leafleting Twins fans outside Target stadium… 1.) Labor stands opposed to the pending TPP trade agreement.

As for ‘socialist conscious- ness,’ envision public ownership of the main means of production and an end to private profit as the principle economic force. Yes, it is entirely possible to live without capitalists, but totally impossible to live without workers.

I see the sun has come out again. It is time for some medita- tion… perhaps for the benefit of all sentient beings!

Counterpoint Commentary

“Fitness for CEPRO”*

BY RAND RETERATH

The CEPRO property is the site of the former golf pavilions along the Greenway between 10th and 11th Ave and 28th and 29th St. A lot of discussion went into that process [since demolition in March 2004 including a series of 3 Neighborhood Workshops Oct 27th Oct 27th , Nov 17th 2004, and Jan 19th 2005 plus arts initiatives]. Its disposition affected the Midtown Block Club in a major way. The block club lost neighbors who had spent a lifetime in their home, others who had been in their homes over 50 years and one husband and wife who did major work with First Nation’s both in town and among reservations, the block club lost a small block club business that supported the community and lost a charter school.

The members of Midtown Block Club were and to some extent still are a close knit com- munity, formed and coalesced by a couple of formidable women who gathered to protest against prosti- tution, crimes against women and quality of life issues. As a block club, they recognized that no one wanted responsi- bility for the CEPRO site. No one had the resources. The Greenway Coalition wanted it entirely green, but no willingness to manage it and no financial resources to sup- port it. Hennepin County did not have resources to manage a park, although they own the site. The Minneapolis Park Board wanted to turn it into a golf course, but no interest in nor resources to patrol it. Midtown Block Club agreed in principle with greenspace, but not without some anchor, or owner- ship. The members of the club offered numerous suggestions such as small street strip along 10th Ave or a small row housing development similar to or perhaps even in partnership with the public library building at 29th St, to augment and anchor the greenspace, thereby giving it a “sense of place.” However, no real action and then setting Midtown Philips Neighborhood Association Board to work and in the end the Midtown Philips Neighborhood Association Board approved a project that circumvents the con- cerns of the immediately adjacent residents.

The room was able to be packed for a midtown meeting night as put up by the vote with people who had, up to that point, never seen each other before. They were legally resi- dents qualified to vote but ill or non-informed about the prop- erty and the concerns of the imme- diately adjacent residents and it had become yet another manifestation of a single person’s vision and the process existing at the time was effectively used to accomplish that vision however misguided.

It has been discovered that a project manager entered into a contract entered into with PPL condos built directly across the property and the concerns of the immediately adjacent residents. A couple of years later a meeting night was held and a bit over $160,000 of Midtown’s NRP funds, the community has the current iteration of CEPRO. It has been planted twice with flower- urs, wild grass and other plants by Applied Ecological Service, Inc. (Some advocate for litigation concerning these funds since the contract entered into in good faith has been violated and not compli- cated with). This firm is located in Broadhead WI. It is interesting to note, that Stephen Kung of Urban2Oasis, Inc; at the time not only submitted a beautiful proposal, but lived in the VERY immediate vicinity to the CEPRO property (Next Door).

Since its completion, it has become a site for drugs, for the consumption of alcohol, random sex acts, dumping of garbage and still no one to cares for it. It can even boast a murder.

Beginning roughly six months ago, some residents of the Midtown Block Club had enough and began agitating for change. Had this not happened, nothing would have been done. No one knew to do it! Apparently, everyone assumed it was someone else’s responsibility. On those people living around it even had a clue that it was the problem it is.

After some lengthy discussion and email exchanges this idea was vetted for an outdoor cross-fit gym. For those who do not know, Crossfit is a com- munity that spontaneously arises when people do these workouts together. The outdoor public gyms began in Santa Cruz, CA in 1996 by a man named Greg Glassman.

*Fitness for CEPRO page 6
Miski Abdulle named Courageous Woman by Augsburg College!

Miski Abdulle, a resident of Phillips West Neighborhood, has been named the 2015 Courageous Woman by Augsburg College. Abdulle’s dedicated service to immigrant women and the greater community was brought to center stage with the awarding of the 2015 Courageous Woman Award, an annual honor presented through the Augsburg College Women’s Resource Center.

The Courageous Woman Awards acknowledge and recognize women who see injustice or need, act on it, take risks in order to do the right thing, and raise their voices to champion women. Throughout her 17 years of service to Pillsbury United Communities, Abdulle has done all of that and more in various roles within the agency and her current status as Program Manager at the Immigrant Women Advocacy Program at the Brian Coyle Community Center.

“Afsi is a visible leader with great passion, high integrity, and empathy,” commented Amano Dube, Brian Coyle Community Center Director. “She has deep understanding of the communities we serve and the issues that are at stake,” added Dube.

Abdulle has led efforts to assist women with a wide range of services and resources that include housing, daycare, employment support, food support, legal advocacy, issues of domestic abuse and crisis intervention. A highlight of the program is the annual Cedar Riverside Women’s Night Out event that attracts over 350 women and their children for dinner, music, a fashion show and more.

The award was presented in conjunction with Augsburg College’s annual Koryene Horbel Lecture held in the Hoversten Chapel on Tuesday, March 3. The keynote address was delivered by nationally recognized author and thought leader on Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Janell Hobson, PhD, an associate professor at University of Albany, State University of New York. The event attracted an estimated 150 scholars, students and community leaders.

Founded in 2011 by Friends of the Anne Pederson Women’s Resource Center at Augsburg College, the Courageous Woman Awards program recognizes women who courageously strive for social justice and peace on the Augsburg campus or in the wider community and whose efforts, be they small or large, make a difference to women. Augsburg College President S. Kenneth Harbor, who serves President of the Augsburg Pan-African Student Union was also recognized with the award.

Miski Abdulle, a resident of Phillips West Neighborhood and leader in the Backyard Initiative, serves as a vital member of the BYI. As a leader in the BYI, Abdulle serves President of the Augsburg Pan-African Student Union was also recognized with the award.

The Backyard Initiative (BYI) is a partnership between the Community, Allina Health Systems and the Cultural Wellness Center. The goal of this partnership is to improve the health of the 45,000 residents living in the “backyard” comprised by the neighborhoods of Powderhorn Park, East Phillips, Midtown Phillips, West Phillips, Ventura Village, Central, and Cooper. There are eleven Community Health Action Teams (CHAT) focused on improving the health through a variety of cultural and community-connecting activities. For more info on the BYI, please call the Cultural Wellness Center, 612-721-5745.