Touchstone Plaza at Peavey Park
“Bridges” Generations

BY ROBERT ALEMAYAHU

Imagine a public art project that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and is promptly neglected—no, make that abandoned—by the very community that commissioned the work in the first place! That’s the legacy of Touchstone Plaza, located on the southwest corner of Chicago Avenue and East Franklin Avenue in Peavey Park. I never knew there was a plaque with a fabulous poem and community challenge called “Thrones” by Louis Alemayahu. Over the years, I’ve heard friends declare the mosaics to be hideous and a blight to the neighborhood. Some even want it moved or bulldozed into oblivion—all 88,000 pounds of concrete that make up the mosaic-titled “Thrones.”

A group of Ventura Village volunteers led by residents Jim Cook, Dee Henry Williams and me showed up recently with a public address system and a handheld microphone and offered it to anybody who’d speak or sing. No advertising or public notice, just the three of us and some sound equipment on a 97 degree day. In the next two hours, this abandoned corner that earned Peavey Park the distinction of being the most crime-ridden park in Minnesota came alive to the cadence of voices—mostly African American who talked their sorrows and joys, their salvations and challenges for anybody to listen. Jim Cook heads up Ventura Village’s Citizen Engagement Committee and has taken seriously the notion that we must step out of the box and find new and creative ways to get all of our “occupants” involved. This night featured some who’ve been “lost”, some who were “saved” and a few in-between.

This day is one manifestation of the dream that the artist Rafada Green, poet Alemayahu, and countless others shared when this gigantic mosaic sculpture was completed and presented to Phillips. More than a decade and a half later this can be a place in which we begin to imagine a new “Speaker’s Corner” just like Hyde Park in London or perhaps Faneuil Hall in Boston. A destination is being called Amen Corner and should be designed for presenting and listening to community voices, poetry slams or emerging musicians sporting a guitar, drum or flute to share. Maybe much more!

Third Precinct Commander Lucy Gerald of the Minneapolis Police invited the public to share...
August Phillips What Where

Greg Machtene and e-mailer-bricklayer says, correctly, the July 26 PW photo is the pedestrian bridge at 24th St and 35W. The winner of the drawing is Greg. Congratulations, Greg! He wins the $100.00 Gift Certificate to Welma Hwe on Bloomington Avenue.

Guess What and Where this is and win a chance at the $100 Gift Certificate? HINT: A covered “Bridge” was demolished going to this site

Bridging Festival from page 1

Thrones

BY LOUIS ALEMAHAYU

Peace, Welcome,
Enter all you Kings and Queens of various hues,
Find your thrones,
Rest your bones,
took to the four directions.
This place-of-presiding was made for you:
breathe and be.
Sit and celebrate all our royalty,
all our righteousness.
The Holy One has right here
in transition”. The “Bridging” murals will be installed on the bridge and commemorate our ceremony as we co-mingle our water from both sides of the installation celebration is ON!

State Gov’t is back in business, granted and now that the MN Dept. of Transportation permit has been 35W at 24th Street. The MN Dept. of Transportation permit has been granted and now that the MN State Gov’t is back in business, the installation celebration is ON!

Our new website is here!

Learn more about “Bridging Minneapolis” at Phillips West. Check out resources for activating your own neighborhood. Our site also features a community calendar. Notify us when you’re celebrating special days and accomplishments, hosting events or meetings, etc. and we’ll post to our new neighborhood calendar: www.bridgingminneapolis.com.

Contact us to join our team or add your own neighborhood. Our site also features a community calendar. Notify us when you’re celebrating special days and accomplishments, hosting events or meetings, etc. and we’ll post to our new neighborhood calendar: www.bridgingminneapolis.com. Contact us to join our team or add yourself to our mailing list. daillicious@gmail.com

are our babies, our children, and we have to embrace them and teach them a new way of living.

The thrones will be theirs on which to sit as they see fit until we restore their use as sacred speaking and listening space. This day demonstrates that there is a deep hunger for a public space where only a microphone, loudspeaker and a group of people willing to share and listen to others—be it poetry, hip hop, gospel, storytelling or simply tears—come together. Peace Bewitches!

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August Programs at the Franklin Library

BY ERIN THOMASON

Children’s Programs

Broadnix Comedy Magic Show
Wed. Aug. 3, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Five Magician Graylyn Morris will raise spirits and test kids’ powers of concentration as he manipulates ropes, scarves, balls and other magician’s props in a perplexing “now-you-see-it, now-you-don’t” performance!.

Puzzlemania!
Thurs. thru Aug. 25, 2 – 3 p.m.
Gender-grade 2 and up. Enjoy a variety of educational and fun puzzles and games!

Family Storytime
Wed. Aug. 16, 17 & 24, 10:30–
11 a.m. For children age 2 and up. Share stories, songs, rhymes, music, and movement with your children!

Kids Book Club
Fri. Aug. 19, 4-5 p.m.
Entering grades 4-6. Join other kids that love a good book! No pre-reading required. We will share a book and discuss. Pick up a copy of the book at the children’s information desk.

Teen Programs

Game On! Gaming Tuesdays
Tuesdays Aug. 30, 2-5 p.m.
Entering grade 6 and up. Play PS2 or Wii games at the library! Grab a friend, bring your favorite board or card game, or play ours!

4-H Mentoring Club
Tues. thru Aug. 23, 5-7 p.m.
Entering grade 4 and up. Learn about urban ecology, health and nutrition, sustainable agriculture and related careers in food science from adults and peer mentors. You will also maintain a community garden and visit local food enterprises!

Game On! Gaming Wednesdays
Wed.thru Aug. 2, 4-5 p.m.
Entering grade 6 and up. Play PS2 or Wii games at the library! Grab a friend, bring your favorite board or card game, or play ours!

Reading Club
Wed. thru Aug. 31, 4-5 p.m.
Entering grade 6 and up. Come explore the literary worlds of fact, fiction and adventures! Share your ideas and creativity along the way!

Game On! Gaming Thursdays
Thurs. thru Aug. 25, 2-5 p.m.
Entering grade 6 and up. Play PS2 or Wii games at the library! Grab a friend, bring your favorite board or card game, or play ours!

Teen Center Writing Workshop
Thurs. thru Aug. 25, 5-7 p.m.
Entering grade 6 and up. On paper or online, words are our most valuable tool for self expression. You will have the opportunity to complete and share a planned writing activity or bring your own writing to work on. Then you will explore possibilities for publication.

Photography Fridays
Fri. thru Aug. 26, 2-5 p.m.
Entering grade 6 and up. Explore and photograph our community. Visit local neighborhood galleries, organizations and other destinations. Please pick up parental permission forms for field trips beforehand. Cameras provided

Adult Programs

Reading Nonfiction for Elder Learners
Fri. Aug. 12, 1-3 p.m.
Join us as we read and discuss the works of significant nonfiction writers.

Memoir Writing Group
Thurs. Aug. 18, 1-2:30 p.m.
Would you like to create a record of your personal history? Bring what you have written and are willing to read to the group for helpful comments and suggestions.

Presented in collaboration with the Other Lifelong Learning Institute.
2 Made possible by the Library Foundation of Hennepin County.
3 Presented in collaboration with the Minnesota Board on Aging. Presented in collaboration with the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging.

Phillips Technology Center Senior Surf Day
Wed. Aug. 17, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Learn computer basics. Be introduced to and search the Internet and how to access websites of interest to seniors. Get hands-on computer experience with help from representatives of the Senior LinkAge Line.

Computer Basics Workshop
Thurs. Aug. 18, noon–2 p.m. and Friday, Aug. 19, 1–3 p.m.
Learn and bring questions about basic mouse and keyboarding skills, creating an email account, using the Internet and scanning where available.

Microsoft Word: Basics
Thur. Aug. 18, 6-8 p.m.
Learn how to use the ribbon, enter and delete text, basic formatting, cut, copy and paste; and when to use ‘save’ and ‘save as.’

Microsoft Publisher: Basics
Fri. Aug. 26, 10:30-12:30 p.m.
Learn to use the menus and toolbars to create and publish your own flyers, brochures and greeting cards.

Franklin Learning Center:
952-847-2934
The Franklin Learning Center offers free, one-to-one tutoring for adults who are learning English and math, preparing for the GED and citizenship exams, and gaining life skills. We are always looking for community volunteers! No experience necessary; we provide training and materials. Contact us at 952-847-2934.

3 Present in collaboration with the Other Lifelong Learning Institute.
2 Made possible by the Library Foundation of Hennepin County.

Phillips West Neighborhood Upcoming Events:
August 4th (Thursday) 7:30 p.m. – Phillips West Monthly Community Meeting
Join your neighbors and other community partners for updates from local government, business partners, residents, and police. We will take place at the Center for Changing Lives in the Centrum Room (2400 Park Avenue). Free parking is available in the rear off Oakland Avenue. Free Pizza & Beverages will be provided!

Community Garden Day
BY BRAD PASS

The East Phillips Community 17th Ave. Gardeners invite you to join us at Community Garden Day, Saturday August 6th for free tours of this neighborhood garden and a talk about how three burned-out houses, the resolve of a neighborhood and a portion of EPIC’s NRP dollars resulted in a beautiful garden available to East Phillips’ residents. Rain or Shine. No tickets necessary. Tours and Talk are free and open to the public. Just come dressed for the weather and enjoy. We will provide shade from the sun or shelter from the rain and a beverage appropriate for the day.

Date: Saturday, August 6th from 10:00 A.M. – 1:00pm

Community Resources will be available!
If you would like information and would like to get involved contact Crystal at 612-879-5383 or email pwno2005@yahoo.com

August 2nd (Tuesday) 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Phillips West Neighborhood 15th Annual National Night Out Celebration!
Please join dozens of Community Partners & Residents for the big- gest National Night Out Celebration in Minneapolis! Event will be held along 27th Street between Park and Portland Avenues! A variety of free picnic food including carnival specialties! There will also be a variety of entertainment including Salsa Dancers, Clowns, Puppet show, face painting, pond children’s games, McGruff the Crime Dog, a rapping contest hosted by Mad Dads and a giant inflated slide! Information on Community Resources will be available! If you would like an information table or would like to get involved contact Crystal at 612-879-5383 or email pwno2005@yahoo.com

“National Night Out, Back to Basics!”

Phillips West Neighborhood 15th Annual National Night Out
27th Street Block Party
Tuesday, August 2nd 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Along 27th Street between Park and Portland Avenues

Free food, music, games and activities for all ages. Rain or shine event.

A Variety of Picnic Food including Carnival Specialties! Event & Food is Free for all who attend!

McGruff the Crime Dog, a Giant Inflated Slide, Children’s Games and Prize, Face Painting, and a Fish Pond.

A variety of Entertainment including Wells Fargo Stage Coach with Horses, Salsa Dancers, DJ’s, Clowns and Puppet Show!

Opportunities to win great prizes including but not limited to: Gift cards, Movie Tickets & Mall of America Amusement Park tickets

Information on Community Resources and a Rappin Contest hosted by Mad Dads, top 3 win Gift Cards up to $100 (NO GUSSING ALLOWED!) For more information or to get involved contact Crystal Trutnau at 879-5383 or email her at pwno2005@yahoo.com

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Free fresh local produce and meats
• Deli with sandwiches, hot dogs, baked goods and family-size meals
• Classroom with kitchen
• Community seating area with free WiFi

“Amenities” Our Night Out Against Hunger.

Community Garden Day
Location: 2428 17th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404
10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Garden tours and talk.
The East Phillips Community 17th Ave. Garden is one of nearly 50 community gardens participating in Community Garden Day, hosting events and celebrating the spirit of community in the garden.

Visit Gardening Matters website, www.gardeningmatters.org to see the online map of other participating gardens and when celebrations will be taking place. Contact information for individual gardens is posted on www.phillipsneighborhood.org or you can contact Gardening Matters for specific details about the day or call 612-821-2358.

Community Garden Day
Welcome to
Phillips West
27th Street Block Party
Tuesday, August 2nd 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
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“National Night Out, Back to Basics!”
When Sylvester Cook needed to buy a headstone for his wife, Mary, he wanted one that was beautiful and that would last. He took the somewhat unusual step of ordering a marker from the Monumental Brass Company in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Despite the company’s name, the marker he bought isn’t made of brass—it is made of zinc, a much less expensive metal that Monumental Brass, for marketing purposes, advertised as “White Bronze.”

Monumental Brass was the only company in the United States that manufactured cast zinc markers. They offered their customers hundreds of styles to choose from, and customized the markers with zinc plates that attached to one of their standard marker styles. Customers ordered the markers from local sales representatives or from catalogs at prices ranging from $2.00 for a small marker to $5,000 for a large monument.

Sylvester Cook, a former Civil War soldier, had been a Company K man, seems to have learned a thing or two from P. T. Barnum, Bridgeport’s best-known entreprenoer by observing his marketing techniques. An ad for “White Bronze” markers boldly claimed: “Marble is entirely out of date, can be easily shattered if struck. Besides, it is very expensive. White Bronze is strictly everlasting. It cannot crumble with the passing years.” The word about “White Brass” or zinc’s distinctive blue color and the sharp detail possible made by casting rather than carving, the markers beautiful.

Despite their affordability and durability, zinc markers never really caught on. Although they have spilled out of his mouth. “Marble is entirely out of date. It can be easily shattered if struck. Besides, it is very expensive. White Bronze is strictly everlasting. It cannot crumble with the passing years.” The word about “White Brass” or zinc’s distinctive blue color and the sharp detail possible made by casting rather than carving, the markers beautiful.

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CCC: “Snack Attack” a 
Cuisine Commentary by 
Courtney 
“Bridging” Sparse 
Budget and Appetite 
by “drizzle” and “slather” of inexpensive foods

By COURTNEY ALEGIO

I write a monthly column for The Alley about great places to eat in the Phillips Neighborhood. While many of the restaurants are affordable, there are times that going out to eat just isn’t in the budget, as is the case for me this month. So, instead of going out to get a delicious prepared snack, I thought I might write a little bit about some ways to treat yourself during the leaner times in life.

When my grandfather was still just a father, and my grandmother (still just a mother) would skimp on their meals all week just so that every Friday they could have steak for dinner. Eating good food is something that we all deserve, and should do every now and then to let ourselves know how proud we are of how hard we work. While I’m not promoting eating a cake every day or something because you “deserve it,” treating yourself to a delicious snack can be one of the best ways to make a hard day worthwhile. But, how do you do this when you’re on a budget?

Here are some simple ideas:

You’re craving steak? Have a baked potato. Drizzle olive oil on it, a dash of salt and pepper, poke a toothpick into it and open and slather it in butter, sour cream, or coconut milk and some A1 sauce. This will actually cost you more than the potato, salt, pepper, butter and sour cream combined, so just try to have some around all times) and then Chow down. The A1 sauce combined with the heartiness of the potato will (almost) make you forget about that steak. It will also fill you up, and make your mouth happy.

You’re craving a milkshake? Go buy some bananas, milk, and peanut butter. Mix it all up in a blender with some ice. It’s cold, good for you, and won’t cost you much, as long as you mind your portions.

Hungry for just about anything? Make rice. Rice can be mixed with a almost anything in your cupboard, be it expensive or cheap as all get out, and the resulting concoction will fill you up, and most likely be delicious. And if it’s not? Throw some soy sauce on it, or coconut milk and cinnamon. There are almost no mistakes when it comes to rice.

Canned tomatoes, onions, garlic and water and a splash of vinegar. You’ve got almost a mess of salsa! Refry your canned beans, mix it with that rice, and throw a little bit of cinnamon. There are almost no mistakes when it comes to rice.

Want some sushi? Well, there’s canned tuna and a few ingredients you probably have yourself. You could do a tart rhubarb, though my favorite was the oat and pecan topping. Want something different and better? Try a nice glass of wine for you can become a life-changing experience for an inner city girl. When I visited the cafe, serving lunch Wednesday through Saturday 11:00am to 7:00pm, I enjoyed the Red Goat sandwich and the Strawberry Rhubarb Crisp afterward. The Red Goat’s crunchy baguette is stuffed full of what the menu description calls “sufficient goat cheese,” a surprisingly sweet roasted red pepper and a peppery bite of arugula. The creamy abundance of the goat cheese paired well with the texture and flavor of the red pepper whose heat and sweetness were brought out in the soft flesh. Dessert also oscillated between tastes as the sweetness of the strawberries melded with the tart rhubarb, though my favorite part was the oat and pecan topping afterward.

Trumble says.

The Arizona Bridge Project began in the spring of 1995 when 100 girls showed up for the mini classes offered during an open house that year. The program expanded and a Youth Advisory Council now works with Old Arizona staff to plan the classes most appealing to today’s teen. This summer, four classes meeting Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:00pm to 5:00pm on a weekday evening. At the studio I’ll choose from professionally taught African Dance, Ballet, Latin Dance, or other movement classes for a daily drop-in fee of only $5.

For those truly inspired to contribute to Old Arizona’s youth programs, don’t miss the annual Wine and Roses – A Blooming Benefit. Proceeds from this wine tasting, silent and live auction, with keynote speaker Robynne Robinson and all around good time fund the operations of Old Arizona’s teen run flower shop, the 29th Street Petal Pushers. Doors open at 5:30pm on Thursday, September 22, 2011 for this unique fundraiser with plenty of entertainment. For more information on upcoming events check out the calendar or contact Darcy Knight, Managing Director.

Did you know that The Alley has a website? www.alleynews.org

Old Arizona: “Bridging” Community, Café, and Classroom

BY BRITTANY GILBERTSON, LAKE STREET COUNCIL INTERN

“When we bought our building in the 1980’s, this was the fourth leading corner for drug traffic and prostitution,” says Elizabeth Trumble, co-founder of 29th and Nicollet’s Old Arizona, and Executive Director of the Arizona Bridge Project. “Each year, we saw the prostitutes getting younger and younger and our concerns for the girls in this neighborhood and others like it grew stronger.”

For the past 16 years, Old Arizona has been doing something about it. They have served over 1,800 inner city girls by providing free, after-school and summer arts programming, with an ever-evolving selection of classes and employment opportunities in a positive, supportive setting. The girls have grown in spite of the lack of understanding in the juvenile system, a system that can be of concern in general but especially so for girls. Girls have social needs not met by the justice system and their desire to belong to a group leads some girls to gangs and other unhealthy decisions,” says Trumble.

Throughout the years, youth programs at Old Arizona have offered a safe place for girls to belong and have provided a social setting where they are encouraged to follow their dreams and their voices are heard. “Some of the girls we worked with are in their thirties. Many have come back and thanked us for believing in them, and said “Growing up, people laughed at my dreams. You didn’t. You supported them,” Trumble says.

The Arizona Bridge Project, and others like it grew stronger.”

For the girls in this neighborhood is funded by the other half of the operation – Old Arizona Studios, Inc. The space at the intersection of 29th Street and Nicollet Avenue welcomes locals and visitors alike with a coffee shop & wine bar, an area to enjoy a plate of food, the Red Goat, and a chocolate lounge, dance studio, theatrical rehearsal, office (where The Jungle Theater rehearses the majority of their plays), off sale wine and spirit bottle shop and a theater/event center that hosts theatrical and dance productions, weddings and receptions, special occasion parties and corporate events. The profit from the retail spaces and rental fees go directly to the youth programs so a great meal or a delightful glass of wine for you can become a life-changing experience for an inner city girl.

When I visited the cafe, serving lunch Wednesday through Saturday 11:00am to 7:00pm, I enjoyed the Red Goat sandwich and the Strawberry Rhubarb Crisp afterward. The Red Goat’s crunchy baguette is stuffed full of what the menu description calls “sufficient goat cheese,” a surprisingly sweet roasted red pepper and a peppery bite of arugula. The creamy abundance of the goat cheese paired well with the texture and flavor of the red pepper whose heat and sweetness were brought out in the soft flesh. Dessert also oscillated between tastes as the sweetness of the strawberries melded with the tart rhubarb, though my favorite part was the oat and pecan topping afterward.

In addition to its daily offerings, the 120 seat theater at Old Arizona features a variety of entertainment options this summer, including themed movie nights every other Thursday, Friday night and blues jam sessions, the monthly family-friendly Kenny Kiser variety show as well as fully staged productions this fall. The next time I return to Old Arizona I plan to drop in the Arizona Dance Studio on a weekday evening. At the studio I’ll choose from professionally taught African Dance, Ballet, Latin Dance, or other movement classes for a daily drop-in fee of only $5.

By BRITTANY GILBERTSON, LAKE STREET COUNCIL INTERN

Right On Lake Street

Fun for the whole family!

Aug. 8-11, 6-8 pm.

Vacation Bible School: PANDAMANIA!

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN

Vacation Bible School: PANDAMANIA!
Aug. 8-11, 6-8 pm.
Fun for the whole family!
2742 15th Ave South
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2438 Bloomington 612-729-3526
Super 8 & 13 Assassins

Howard McQuitter II
Movie Corner
Howardmoviecorner.com

The movie army guns fires in the
distance from the town, and then orders
a full evacuation of the townspeople.
Meanwhile, Joe and Ryan separate
to the strange events happening in
their serene town. Although "Super 8" is mov-
ning as "An E.T." or as deep as "Close Encounters", "Super 8" should be on
your list of must see summer movies.

13 Assassins (2010)
Soder International
Running Time 141 minutes
Director: Takashi Miike, Rated R
Country: Japan/UK
Language: Japanese/English

Cast: Koji Yahushou (Shinzaemon
Shimada), Takayuki Yamada
(Shinrouko), Goro Isaya (Lord
Nairitu Saga Matsudario), Yusuke
Ieyasu (Koyata), Hiroki Matsukata
(Kuranaga), Mikijiro Hira (Sir Doi),
Ikki Sawamura (Mitsuhashi), Arata
Ikemura (Hanbei), Tatsuya Yuiji
(Ogura), Ikki Nanao (Ichikawa),
Koen Kondo (Horii), Megumi
Kagaouraka (Odate), Kazue Fujiishi
(Tsuyu/Upasa)

Takashi Miike’s film plays much
like Sun Tzu’s "The Art of War”. What’s
described in “13 Assassins" is
shrewd strategic and tactical warfare
by thirteen adept assassins against
Lord Nairitu Saga Matsudario’s (Goro
Isaya) 200 plus men. Moreover,
what is refreshing is the minimal to
zero use of CGI or special effects in
"13 Assassins". Cinematically impres-
sive with a roughly unslowed 40
minutes of slashing swords leaving
blood, flesh and guts in front, back
and on either side. It’s Samurais art
in unmitigated fashion and not for
the squeamish.

The thirteen are a motley crew,
shameless about attempting to kill
their enemies. Indeed “13 Assassins” is
more than satisfactory entertainment in
conjunction with lessons for American
directors on how to do really good
action films. Nairitu’s primary
samurai protector, Hanbei (Maschika
Ichimura), an old classmate and old
mishap of Shinzaemon, sets the tone
for battle.

Super 8

Paramount Pictures
Running Time 112 minutes
Director: J.J. Abrams

Cast: Kyle Chandler (Jackson
Lamb), Elle Fanning (Alice Dainard),
Joel Courtney (Joe Lamb), Noah
Emmerich (Nelce), Ron Eldard (Ian
Dainard), Jennifer Jason Leigh
(Turner), Riley Griffiths
(Charles), Ryan Lee (Cary), Zach
Mills (Preston), Gabriel Basso
(Martin).

If there are any lovely movies for
the 2011 Summer Movie season (and
there are very few) it’s the science-fic-
tion fantasy “Super 8" directed by J.J.
Abrams ("Star Trek[2009], “Mission
Impossible III” [2006]) and produced
by Steven Spielberg. "Super 8" has the
delicate touch of Spielberg-esque.
And that touch also has the lovely
audience planers of an "E.T.”, "Close
Encounters", all Spielberg-esque. Not
just a few have compared “Super 8” to
Rob Reiner’s 1986 film "Stand By
Me", with similar plot: kids scattering in
all directions.

Running Time 141 minutes
Director: Takashi Miike, Rated R
Country: Japan/UK
Language: Japanese/English

The movie hinges on the African
American doctor, Dr. Woodward
(Jamie Foxx), a man out of the
steel-mill town who is essentially a
pariah–poor white trash–by many of
his dad, a scruffy looking man, treated as
a samurai protector, Hanbei (Masschika
Ichimural), an old classmate and old
friend. The townspeople.

Meanwhile, Joe and Ryan separate
to the strange events happening in
their serene town. Although "Super 8" is mov-
ning as "An E.T." or as deep as "Close
Encounters”, "Super 8” should be on
your list of must see summer movies.

13 Assassins (2010)
Soder International
Running Time 141 minutes
Director: Takashi Miike, Rated R
Country: Japan/UK
Language: Japanese/English

Cast: Koji Yahushou (Shinzaemon
Shimada), Takayuki Yamada
(Shinrouko), Goro Isaya (Lord
Nairitusu Saga Matsudario), Yusuke
Ieyasu (Koyata), Hiroki Matsukata
(Kuranaga), Mikijiro Hira (Sir Doi),
Ikki Sawamura (Mitsuhashi), Arata
Ikemura (Hanbei), Tatsuya Yuiji
(Ogura), Ikki Nanao (Ichikawa),
Koen Kondo (Horii), Megumi
Kagaouraka (Odate), Kazue Fujiishi
(Tsuyu/Upasa)

Takashi Miike’s film plays much
like Sun Tzu’s "The Art of War". What’s
described in “13 Assassins” is
shrewd strategic and tactical warfare
by thirteen adept assassins against
Lord Nairitusu Saga Matsudario’s (Goro
Isaya) 200 plus men. Moreover,
what is refreshing is the minimal to
zero use of CGI or special effects in
“13 Assassins”. Cinematically impres-
sive with a roughly unslowed 40
minutes of slashing swords leaving
blood, flesh and guts in front, back
and on either side. It’s Samurais art
in unmitigated fashion and not for
the squeamish.

The thirteen are a motley crew,
shameless about attempting to kill
their enemies. Indeed “13 Assassins” is
more than satisfactory entertainment in
conjunction with lessons for American
directors on how to do really good
action films. Nairitusu’s primary
samurai protector, Hanbei (Maschika
Ichimura), an old classmate and old
mishap of Shinzaemon, sets the tone
for battle.

Super 8

Paramount Pictures
Running Time 112 minutes
Director: J.J. Abrams

Cast: Kyle Chandler (Jackson
Lamb), Elle Fanning (Alice Dainard),
Joel Courtney (Joe Lamb), Noah
Emmerich (Nelce), Ron Eldard (Ian
Dainard), Jennifer Jason Leigh
(Turner), Riley Griffiths
(Charles), Ryan Lee (Cary), Zach
Mills (Preston), Gabriel Basso
(Martin).

If there are any lovely movies for
the 2011 Summer Movie season (and
there are very few) it’s the science-fic-
tion fantasy “Super 8” directed by J.J.
Abrams ("Star Trek[2009], “Mission
Impossible III” [2006]) and produced
by Steven Spielberg. "Super 8” has the
delicate touch of Spielberg-esque.
And that touch also has the lovely
audience planers of an "E.T.”, "Close
Encounters", all Spielberg-esque. Not
just a few have compared “Super 8” to
Rob Reiner’s 1986 film "Stand By
Me”, with similar plot: kids scattering in
all directions.

Running Time 141 minutes
Director: Takashi Miike, Rated R
Country: Japan/UK
Language: Japanese/English

The movie hinges on the African
American doctor, Dr. Woodward
(Jamie Foxx), a man out of the
steel-mill town who is essentially a
pariah–poor white trash–by many of
his dad, a scruffy looking man, treated as
a samurai protector, Hanbei (Masschika
Ichimural), an old classmate and old
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High Heat

The weather we’ve endured recently has produced the oft heard comment: “It’s not the heat, it’s the humidity”. Well, OK, let’s try it in reverse; however, that temperature is a measurement of how energetically molecules are vibrating. Note: in the desert we feel comfortable even at relatively elevated temperatures. Why? Dry air is less dense, i.e. has fewer molecules vibrating against the skin and so manifests less “heat”.

Conversely, humid air manifests more heat. So then, it’s not the humidity, it’s the heat (more heat).

So then, its not the humidity, it’s the heat (more heat).

Right?

The question is then: Did “we the people” bring forth enough “street heat” during the state budget battle? In fairness, there were a number of admirable mobilizations. But where was Governor Dayton’s call for one massive expression of the people’s will? We in fact witnessed numerous fragmented demonstrations while the governor negotiated behind closed doors. The result was a sad recession…we need their savvy and comment.

Farewell by Susan Young, Mpls’ ‘Trash Lady’, who “Bridged” to citizens

Editor’s Note Regarding Susan Young “First Class Lady” Open Letter:

The recent dismissal of Susan Young as Head of the Department of Solid Waste and Recycling has met with overwhelming disbelief, disapproval, and anger by scores of people. Her professional abilities have spoken for themselves only to be exceeded by her unique abilities to simultaneously relate public policy and service to the public for whom she has worked in a personable, nonbureaucratic manner. Her amuse professionalism and directness is obvious here in her own words about her dismissal from a position where her performance has gotten rave reviews from tax payers but apparently not from the politicians and bureaucrats responsible for her appointment. Many open letters via e-democracy in support of Young and in opposition to her dismissal have been far too numerous to reprint here. Suffice it to say they were widespread and unanimous as they all poignantly gave witness to her explicit effectiveness and diplomatic skills that combine to make her a “First Class Lady”.

Greetings,

THANK YOU for the opportunity to participate in this forum, for the ideas that are exchanged and the wisdom I have gained. This is truly democracy at its best, and I have appreciated every post and comment.

I’m going to give my last post in the Minneapolis Trash Lady on a recycling topic. (yup, go figure!) First, the City Council sets policy; staff may recommend, but the Council sets policy, including contracts. Over the years, there have been many topics for which SW & R staff had a recommendation different than the policy that was later set. I describe the policy process as a pie. There are many slices to the pie, and for each topic the relative size of the slices changes.

The slices include budget and tax implications, staff recommendations, constituent input, lobbying input, personal knowledge, relationships between elected government units, and a few slices that I’m not thinking of right now.

Bottom line: staff recommendations are not always final policy, nor should they be. Second, the City has a contract with Allied Recycling to process and market the City’s recyclables. For the duration of the contract, the City agreed to deliver our recyclables a certain way, in return Allied pays the City for those recyclables. The contract ends in May of 2012. This is the plan to send out a new RFP in November or December of 2011. The City will then reevaluate and marketing options and prices will be available for the next contract. As an example, for the current pilot (see below) the processing cost is $70/ton and no revenues will be returned to the City; our current average for the City’s recyclables is about $15/ton, and we received more than $1.2 million in FY 2010 (converts to about $10 per dwelling unit/month). Hopefully, the RFP will bring more competitive prices for the various kinds of sorting systems. Third, we should note that we have three significant recyclables processors located in the City. It is impossible for any other city with this advantage.

Third, there are more than price considerations that should go into the next contract decision. Right now there are three pilot programs going on in Minneapolis that will provide data for participation, tonnage, contamination and collection expense considerations. If you look at the SCORE report at the PCA, you’ll find that St. Paul’s dual stream program and Minneapolis’ multi-stream program collect just about the same tonnage per household. Two of the pilots are testing whether Minneapolis customers will contribute less contamination. In the case of a dual stream or single stream method, the third pilot is testing if better enforcement of our existing rebate will increase tonnage. The pilots will also test if collection costs can decrease with the various collection systems (alleyway and on-street parking) do not allow the fully automated systems that save money in the suburbs, and what kinds of containers (carts, bins, etc) Minneapolis customers prefer. Garbage and recycling are being compared to determine contamination rates in the pilots, and recovery from the garbage stream of the various constitutes. This data will, I’m sure, be part of the staff recommendation that will accompany the analysis of the RFP information. There should also be sustainability considerations in the final decision, but these are difficult based on hand data on. For instance, it requires a tremendous amount of electrical energy to run conveyor belts, cyclone air sorting systems and sorting systems that are controlled by optical scanners and the other processes required to sort contaminated recyclables. Even with these sorting systems, recyclables are
Tim Springer Reflects on 18 “Bridging” years at the MGC

BY TIM SPRINGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THROUGH JUNE 3, 2011

The Midtown Greenway rocks. I love to be on the Greenway when it’s full of commuters, joggers, and joy-riders of all stripes. I feel very fortunate to have been on the team that made it happen. Thank you to the collective Midtown Greenway Coalition community for giving me that opportunity.

This job has been extremely rewarding, but also extremely demanding. I decided to move on so that I could slow my pace, smell more roses, and try my hand at some new things. Many people have asked me what’s next. Few possibilities that excite me are rehabbing old buildings and bicycle transportation consulting.

This change will be great for me as well as the Midtown Greenway Coalition. By me stepping aside, the Coalition can more easily empower a broader set of leaders with more ideas in ways that provide greater organizational depth and sustainability. This is timely as the Coalition launches a new board-level initiative: Chapter Two. One of the Coalition’s history was about getting the trails built and well-used; by chapter two, we will be about engaging communities to guide the way rail transit fits alongside the trails, the way Minneapolis grows up along the Greenway’s edges, and the pursuit of vibrant outdoor spaces within and connecting to the Greenway.

One of the Coalition’s key roles is to influence the future, and to help carry us forward. In the past, one of our most important roles was to help fundraise the coalition, and to make sure that the coalition stayed afloat. Now, the coalition can take on a bigger role, and to build capacity to influence the future.

Thank you Tim for decades of service, and thank you for the leadership you have shown.

Julie Ingebretsen
Executive Director

Celebrate Your Independents!
Stallwart Businesses “Bridging” Shopper’s Needs for Decades

BY JULIE INGEBERTSEN

Throughout July, dozens of local independent businesses, who are members of the Metro Independent Business Alliance (Metro IBA) joined forces in a “Celebrate Your Independents” campaign.

“Celebrate Your Independents” offered shoppers exclusive deals, as well as a chance to register to win $1,250 in gift cards from the participating Metro IBA member businesses; including Bibelot, Shuters, Butter-Bakery Café, Electric Fries, First Tech, Ingebretsen’s Scandinavian Gifts, Linden Hills Co-op, Midwest Mountaineering, Peapods, Trotter’s Café, Warners’ Furniture, and Warners’ Furniture Re-Upholstery.

Sen. Linda Berglin retires from MN Senate and “Bridges” to County Health System

BY SEN. LINDA BERGLIN, SENATOR FROM DISTRICT 61

“I have taken a job with Hennepin County that excites me because it will give me the opportunity to improve outcomes for many of the people I have served in the legislature. It also means I will be part of the effort to help Hennepin County and its partners succeed in implementing health care reform.

This does mean however, now that the state budget has been resolved, that I will be resigning my seat in the State Senate effective August 15, 2011. I want to take this opportunity to thank my constituents who have sent me to the legislature for many years. It has been rewarding for me to work on public policy that has improved the lives of many Minnesotans. I have had the opportunity also to work with many organizations that have helped me learn so much.

Some of the highlights of my career include working on health care cost containment and access to affordable health care, mental health reforms to help people be served in the community, jobs for people with disabilities as well as single parents, pay equity for state and local government employees, and connecting to the Greenway. A piece of vibrant outdoor spaces within and connecting to the Greenway.

I feel very fortunate to have been involved with thousands of Minneapolis citizens and business persons. I am very proud to say that I have worked for the residents of the City of Minneapolis. It’s been a privilege that I do not take lightly. Thank you!

Susan Youn, Minneapolis North High Polar Parent, future customer and constituent

By Julie Ingebretsen