Patrick Cabello Hansel, is a Phillips Community resident, poet, pastor, and the author of the serial novel “Searching,” that has appeared with a new chapter each month the last three years. What does Patrick have in common with Charles Dickens, Henry James, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Herman Melville, and Rudyard Kipling, Gustave Falubert, Leo Tolstoy, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Wilkie Collins, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Boleslaw Prus, Tom Wolfe, Michael Chabon, Stephen King, Michel Faber, Orson Scott Card, Laura Hickman, and Lawrence Watt-Evans? See more about serial stories below.

“SEARCHING” Epilogue

By Patrick Cabello Hansel

“One person’s found is another person’s lost.” We are taught that this is true, that there always must be winners and losers, that it is part of the way the world is made, that the “invisible hand” directs the fortunes of everyone, and that as one rises, another must fall.

But what if by searching and finding, or even by searching and not finding, we are more connected to our fellow human beings? What if our search, our healing and our wisdom multiplies unto others, so that as one of us is found, we all are?

It is easy to speculate on what will become of Angel and Luz, our beloveds. It is easy to speculate, and hard to know. They have found each other, and they are willing to go to any length to keep that treasure that is their love.

But what if by searching and finding, or even by searching and not finding, we are more connected to our fellow human beings? What if our search, our healing and our wisdom multiplies unto others, so that as one of us is found, we all are?

Returning to Roosevelt a more curious and bigger thinker, what their search will show them. Perhaps we must fall.

But we know that love untested is not real love, and that they have found each other, and they are willing to go to any length to keep that treasure that is their love.

And what of the others we have found along the way? What if by searching and finding, or even by searching and not finding, we are more connected to our fellow human beings? What if our search, our healing and our wisdom multiplies unto others, so that as one of us is found, we all are?

And what of the others we have found along the way? Will the man with the violin—indeed he be a man—learn new melodies hidden in old, old songs?

It would be foolish of me to try and speculate where Mother Light may shine, and foolish to speculate where evil—be it the scarred cheek, the minions of La Migra, the sneering smile of the cowards who rape and steal and torture—may cast their shadow. It would be foolish to speculate, but it is never foolish to imagine. It is our spirits that lead us to dream, and it is our dreams that lead us to hope.

And so, we do not say “Adios” to those with whom we have walked these thirty-four moons, we do not even say “see you later”. We say, “Vaya con Dios”—“Go with God”—and we imagine and hope and believe that their spirits that lead us to dream, and it is our dreams that lead us to hope.

More on serial publishing...

In literature, a serial is a publishing format by which a single large work, most often a work of narrative fiction, is presented in contiguous installments either issued as separate publications or appearing in sequential issues of a single periodical publication [like The Alley]. Visit http://bit.ly/zBtBTC for more.
Sweethearts & Spirits
Saturday, February 11th 6:30-9:00 p.m.
The Minneapolis Eagles Club
2507 E 25th St.
$50 Single/$50 Duo
SUPPORT RESTITUTION JUSTICE
Second Annual Sweethearts and Spirits: Beer, Liquor and Wine tasting hosted by Zipp's Liquor! Bring your sweetie, good buddy or platonic life partner. Enjoy fun snacks, treats, and Zipp’s famous silent auction.
Proceeds benefit Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice Partnership Since 2004, SLRJP has provided an alternative to juvenile court for youth committing misdemeanor offenses in Seward and Greater Longfellow. SLRJP works with the youth, their parents and community members to explore how the youth’s actions caused harm and to develop a contract to repair the harm with the youth.
Tickets available from SLRJP Zipp’s, at the door or online at www.localwineweek.com. Info: Michele at mng.org or 612-338-6205 x108

Rehab Loan Program is available
PPL’s Home Repair Loan Program is a state-funded way for low-income homeowners to stay in their homes and live safely in them. Loans of up to $27,000 are awarded for needed home repairs without interest charges, and are forgivable under certain conditions.
How a loan may be used:
• Loan must first be used to remedy lead and/or radon hazards in the home.
• After that to fix other health or safety issues with the house.
• Repairs must be completed within 9 months after the commitment of the loan.
How loans may not be used:
• Loan repairs, demolition, or new construction are not covered by the loan.
Who may qualify: Loan recipients:
• Own a home in Minneapolis or St. Paul.
• Make 30% or less of the household area median income, $24,850 for a family of four.
• Have less than $25,000 in additional assets (besides the home and primary vehicle(s)).
• Are applying for or/and received a grant from Community Action Partnership’s Weatherization Program.
What will it cost?:
• Loans are made at a 0% rate, meaning there are no additional charges or monthly payments.
• Loans are forgiven after 15 years if you remain in the home.
• The loan will be repaid from the sale of the home if sold before the 15 year term.
How do I apply? Call 612.455.5221 or visit www.ppl-inc.org/homerepair to receive an initial application. Call 612.455.5221 to get started!

Making new traditions
On view from January 28 through February 24, at All My Relations Gallery, Making New Traditions features works by 5 Native American artists from the region! Featuring newly created artwork by eight emerging Native American artists with tribal ties to the northern plains. These artists approach creativity with their eyes wide open to the layers, complexities and truths of our time with respect for our cultural identity and tradition. They are inspired by the modern and the traditional, and communicate their experiences as contemporary indigenous people, striving to create progressive statements in Native Art. This exhibit is in partnership with the Herington Center at Red Cloud Indian School, Pine Ridge, South Dakota.
1414 East Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis Website: http://www.allmyrelationsarts.com Hours: Tuesday thru Friday 12-6 pm; Saturday and Sunday 11-3pm Free and open to public 612.235.4970

INGBEETSEN’S
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Stop in at Gifts of the World’s for good food, music, flags, party gifts and supplies, for your Summer fun and celebrations! Enjoy Summer!
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ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN
Ash Wednesday, February 22 Bilingual Service: 7 pm
Coffee House: Saturday March 3, 7 pm
2742 15th Ave South
Call 612-724-3862 for more info

THE ALLEY NEWS
Editor’s Cell Phone 612-990-4022
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www.alleynews.org

March Alley Deadline: February 15

The Alley Newspaper is a Member of

Communities Shares
Give. And light a fire under inequality. www.chooselightsbetter.com 651-647-0440

The Alley Newspaper • February 2012
The opposite of poverty is not wealth. It is justice. - Leonardo Boff, Dec. 14, 1938 theologian, philosopher, writer, & advocate for the rights of the poor and excluded. As Professor Emeritus of Ethics, Philosophy of Religion and Ecology at the Rio de Janeiro State University.
February Programs at the Franklin Library

BY ERIN THOMASSON
Children's Programs
Family Storytime
Wed., 10:30–11 a.m.
Age 2 and up. Share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement with your children.

Kids Book Club
Fri., Feb. 24, 4–5 p.m.
Grades 4-6. Join other kids to talk about a great book! No pre-reading required. We will share a book and discuss.

Teen Programs
4-H Mentoring Club
Tues., thru Feb. 28, 5–7 p.m.
Grades 6-12. Learn about urban ecology, health and nutrition, sustainable agriculture and related careers in food science from adults and peer mentors. You also will maintain a community garden and visit local food enterprises.

Game On! Gaming Tuesdays
Tues., thru Feb. 28, 4–5 p.m. and 7:8 p.m.
Grades 6-12. Play PS2 or Wii games at the library! Grab a friend, bring your favorite board or card game, or play ours!

Game On! Gaming Wednesdays
Wed., thru Feb. 29, 4–5 p.m.
Grades 6-12. Come explore the literary worlds of fact, fiction and adventure! Share your ideas and creativity along the way.

Reading Club
Wed., thru Feb. 29, 5–6 p.m.
Grades 6-12. Come explore the literary worlds of fact, fiction and adventure! Share your ideas and creativity along the way.

Design Club
Thurs., thru Feb. 23, 5–7 p.m.
Grades 6-12. Get creative! Design and take home T-shirts, posters, jewelry, magnets and other creations. Check out the posters at Franklin Library to see what project is coming up!

Down Time Saturdays
Thursdays through Feb. 25, 2–6 p.m.
Grades 6-12. Come explore the literary worlds of fact, fiction and adventure! Share your ideas and creativity along the way.

Computer Skills Workshop
Thurs., Feb. 16 & 23, noon–2 p.m.
Work on projects and practice skills from using the mouse and keyboarding to using email and Microsoft Office with our software instructors and volunteer assistants.

Microsoft Excel: Basics
Fri., Feb. 16, 10a.m.–noon
Learn the basics of working with an Excel spreadsheet: navigation, entering data and using formulas.

Microsoft PowerPoint: Multimedia Tips
Fri., Feb. 17, 1–3 p.m.
Use multimedia tips and tricks such as auto transitions, audio and video to dress up your presentations. Prerequisite: Microsoft PowerPoint: Basics. Familiarity with presentation software is highly recommended.

Franklin Learning Center
The Franklin Learning Center offers free, one-to-one tutoring for adults who are learning English, transition to work, 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.

Franklin Community Library
1314 E. Franklin Avenue
952-847-2925
www.mplib.org
Tues & Thurs: 12 - 8 p.m
Wed, Fri & Sat:
10 am – 6 pm
Complete program calendar, visit, call, or info/hclib.org and news at www.hclib.org/pub/ info/newsroom/

MARTHA REEVES & THE VANDELLAS
Bring Minneapolis Much Needed HEATWAVE

BY RAYMOND JACKSON
Legendary, sultry, soul singer Etta James recorded her last album, “The Dreamer” at 73 years of age in the new millennium.

Born January 25, 1938, Etta James was a gospel prodigy. In 1954, she moved to Los Angeles to record The Wallflower. By 1960, her career began to soar. Despite her continued drug problems, she earned a Grammy nomination for her last album, “The Dreamer” at 73 years of age

“Nowhere To Run’, ‘Jimmy Mack’ and ‘Dancin’ In The Streets’, as number one hits, she continues to tour and perform around the world.

She really showed her comic turn as showmanship saying, “I told some young people that all of my early stuff was 45’s, (A plastic recording device about as thick as a CD, but with a wider circumference.), and they responded to me with, wow, all of you carried guns!”

Martha told me that she was expecting to return to Minneapolis in April, especially with some warmer weather.

Martha Reeves, nothing short of being an ultimate LEGEND!

Franklin Learning Center
952-847-2934

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10 am – 6 pm
Complete program calendar, visit, call, or info/hclib.org and news at www.hclib.org/pub/ info/newsroom/

Or Snap a photo of the QR code below on your smart phone to donate now

Visit
www.givemn.org/allyally
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Everyday Welcome!

• Fresh local produce and meats
• Daily and weekly, hot food, baked goods and family-size meals
• Classroom with kitchen
• Community seating area with free WiFi

“Can’t fake this music. You might be agreat singer or a great musician but, in the end, that’s got nothing to do with it. It’s how you connect to the songs and to the history behind them.” – Etta James

26 Top 40 hits during a nine year period that included, “Heatwave”, “Nowhere To Run’, ‘Jimmy Mack’ and ‘Dancin’ In The Streets’, as number one hits, she continues to tour and perform around the world.

Signings with Detroit’s Motown Records on September 21, 1962, she has maintained permanent residency there, even serving on the Detroit City Council from 2005-2009, and can readily identify with some of the development and overall socio-economic problems that the Phillip’s Neighborhoods face today.

Etta James tribute, 1938-2012

Legendary, sultry, soul singer Etta James recorded her last album, “The Dreamer” at 73 years of age in the new millennium.

Nov. 2011 died January 20th 2012.

James’ doctor announced that the singer was terminally ill. “She’s in the final stages of leukemia. She has also been diagnosed with dementia and Hepatitis C.” Dr. Elaine James (not related to the singer) told a local newspaper. James’ sons also acknowledged that Etta’s health was declining and was receiving care at her Riverside, California, home.

From doo-wop to soul to gospel to blues, her 50-year career was the mature sound track for several generations.


Ah, but I was so much older then, I’m younger than that now!

BY ROBERT ALBEZ

Our good friend Carl Peterson turned 100 years old this year on January 6th! Happy 100th Birthday, Carl!

It got me to thinking…if my father were still alive, he would be 101 now. He suddenly passed away at age 66. And his father passed even earlier, yet to my eyes, he seemed much older than my father ever did or than myself now.

At age 66, I’ve outlived my father by two years despite the fact that I smoked heavily for 40 of them. With diabetes and having a heart attack some years ago, I count every day as a blessing! Yet when I think of Carl, I’m still a pup! Don’t think of myself as an old person, a senior citizen, or an elderly person. In fact, I hate those terms, because they seem to pigeon-hole us into frill, helpless beings just “fixin’ to” die. Far from it! Look at Carl, our Phillips role model! Look around at elders not rocking in a chair, but rocking the boat! Or some of us were gathered at the Martin Layman Cemetery.

In the late 19-teens and early 20s several newspaper articles claimed that “Uncle” Peter Wardwell (sometimes Wardwell or Waddell) was the second (or even the first) person buried in Minneapolis Pioneers & Soldiers Cemetery. He was buried, so the stories go, either under what is now the bus stop at Cedar Avenue and Lake Street or in the far southeast corner of the cemetery at Lake Street and 21st Avenue. Supposedly Uncle Peter was an employee of Martin Layman who had moved to Minnesota with members of the Layman family in 1853. There’s only one problem—Uncle Peter didn’t exist.

The confusion about this imaginary man is understandable, though. There is a person with a similar name who was among the earliest burials in the cemetery. Her name was Joan Robbins Wardwell. Mrs. Wardwell died from cancer in 1858, supposedly the first recorded case of cancer in Minnesota. Although their grandchildren claimed that Mrs. Wardwell was the second person buried in the cemetery, that is true either—there were at least two dozen people buried in the cemetery before she was. What is true is that her husband, George Wardwell, worked for Martin Layman, the cemetery’s original owner. George Wardwell surveyed the section of Layman’s farmland that became the first municipal cemetery on the west side of the river. In return, he was given two burial plots.

The Wardwells moved to Minnesota to live with their daughter, Jane Hodsdon. Jane and her husband, Ebenezer, were among the earliest of the transplanted New Englanders to settle in Minneapolis. Their farm was located at what is now Bloomington Avenue and Lake Street. Their nearest neighbors were Martin and Elizabeth Layman.

Joan Wardwell found life in Minnesota difficult. She hated the long, cold winters, and she was lonely. There was little social life to speak of, and the Hodsdons’ farm was considered a good day’s drive from “downtown.” She began to complain of stomach pains and was examined by the town’s two doctors who concluded that she had cancer. There was nothing that they could do for her and she died soon after. Her husband, George, returned to Maine to live with his oldest daughter.

Joan Wardwell’s granddaughter, Vienna (“Vi”) Hodsdon, is buried in Minneapolis difficult. She hated the long, cold winters, and she was lonely. There was little social life to speak of, and the Hodsdons’ farm was considered a good day’s drive from “downtown.” She began to complain of stomach pains and was examined by the town’s two doctors who concluded that she had cancer. There was nothing that they could do for her and she died soon after. Her husband, George, returned to Maine to live with his oldest daughter.

Joan Wardwell’s granddaughter, Vienna (“Vi”) Hodsdon, is buried

The truth of the revisionist history stories of who was buried first and who is buried where is that Vienna Hodsdon and her grandmother, Joan Wardwell, were buried in Lot 101, Block B, in the far southeast corner of the cemetery in 1875 and 1858, respectively.

The first burial at Layman’s Cemetery now called Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery was 1853.

in the second grave that the family owned in the cemetery. Vienna was born in Minnesota in 1854, the fourth of Jane and Ebenezer Hodsdon’s eleven children. Vienna was described by one of her nieces as “the beauty of the family, with curly auburn hair and dark blue eyes.” She worked as a model in a hair-dressing shop until she was diagnosed with “consumption” (tuberculosis). She was 21 years old when she died.

Joan Wardwell and her granddaughter, Vienna Hodsdon, are buried in Lot 101, Block B, in the far southeast corner of the cemetery.

*Turn-of-the-century burlesque sketches used plays on words and names. Examples are “The Baker Scene” (the shop is located on Watt Street) and “Who Dyed?” (the owner is named Who). In 1930 movie Cracked NutS, comedians Bert Wheeler and Robert Woolsey examine a map of a mythical kingdom with dialogue like this: “What is the name of the town next to Which?” “Yes.” In English variety halls (Britain’s equivalent of vaudeville theatres), comedian

As a gift for living our lives, we must give back everything we know and discover that could help you with your journeys. But only when we are asked or invited to do so.

We are obliged to not squander our time picking apart tiny little things with a whine and complain like Andy Rooney used to do on 60 Minutes. Instead as elders, we need to climb up on something higher than our attitudes so we can get a better view of what’s going on, and then summon the powers to either intervene or applaud. Sometimes we need to lead that charge ourselves. I often replay Leonard Cohen’s words from “Antithem,” his simple song that sings: “Ring the Bells that can be rung • Forget your Perfect Offerings • There’s a Crack in Everything • That’s how the Light Gets In!” Before it gets dark for me, I want to let in more light! Sometimes that means making the cracks bigger, and sometimes turning that light back on!
Controversy embroils new History Theatre play about the American Indian Movement

BY SHEILA KEGAN, TC DAILY PLANET

A 10-minute play by Navajo playwright Yazzie Whitebird is at the center of a controversy within the local Native American community. The play focuses on two fictional characters in 1968—the year that the American Indian Movement (AIM) was founded—and several real-life events from that year are mentioned. Those people include AIM co-founder Clyde Bellecourt, who was referred to in a recent draft as “Belly Court.”

Whitebird's play, which is set in Minneapolis, takes place at the Bar B.Q. The bar was the site of much police brutality during that time period, she believes that behind the controversy is a personality conflict. "I just happen to be in the middle of it," she said. "I happen to have a public forum at the moment." According to Bellecourt, his objections to the play stem from the fact that it doesn't talk about the great things that the AIM movement accomplished. "It makes jokes about me and my brother," he said. "The play, he said, "doesn't talk about hope, or about all of the accomplishments of the movement." He also didn't like that the two characters "talked like they are drunk." According to Yazzie, neither of the characters are drunk. One had been in the bar trying to make some money, and the other was looking for a television. There were numerous discussions and confrontations involving Yazzie, Bellecourt, and other members of the AIM. The two were able to reconcile our differences, said Bellecourt. "I never saw anything," he said. "We did not end up being a character in the play (both characters in the play are fictional) he is referred to as long as a threat to me and to others who were involved with AIM. But in the end she did agree to interview Bellecourt, with Peluso suggesting that he spend "as much time as possible trying to get 100% approval of the script, which he said is based on a real incident that actually happened in 1971. Moon calls out for Bellecourt, calling him 'Belly Court.' It is Because of Yazzie's use of "Belly Court" that Bellecourt ultimately pulled out of the play. Yazzie had shared the script with another AIM founder, Dennis Banks, who said that she change her script "outrageously," she added. "I'm disappointed by how everyone is trying to shut me down." Yazzie said, calling the suggestion "tough." Bellecourt had a change of heart and agreed to be quoted in the upcoming play. According to Yazzie, neither of the characters are drunk. One had been in the bar trying to make some money, and the other was looking for a television. There were numerous discussions and confrontations involving Yazzie, Bellecourt, and other members of the AIM. The two were able to reconcile our differences. Yazzie said that she never wanted to write a play that Bellecourt didn't like. "They interviewed me for three hours," she said. "I happen to have a public forum at the moment." According to Yazzie, neither of the characters are drunk. One had been in the bar trying to make some money, and the other was looking for a television. There were numerous discussions and confrontations involving Yazzie, Bellecourt, and other members of the AIM. The two were able to reconcile our differences.
Smile Back Big Time

January 14th, 2012...

Marv Davidov, the world-renowned activist who quietly resided at 2615 Park Avenue, has passed. All of us would do well to “google” his name. The numerous tributes are rich in content. Should you open “The Wild Reed” site you will find him pictured smiling from his death bed.

Freedom Riders, 1961...

40-plus days behind bars, “We were the first group of integrated prisoners in Mississippi prison history.” The freedom songs prevailed. This was the “moment of blessed human solidarity” which determined the remainder of his life.

Sometime around 1970...

My small circle of student friends found itself among the many hundreds amassed outside the Honeywell (war) production facility. Marv Davidov stepped forward to proclaim: “Any person committing an act of property damage will be considered by the body of this gathering to be an agent provocateur.” I was deeply impressed. A tactic was deemed valid from the standpoint of its potential to draw broader masses onto struggle. Lesson learned.

Note: In the context of the United States of America, our friend adhered to the thesis of “non-violent revolution”, however, as one who was deeply empathetic with oppressed people anywhere on the planet, he did consent to moral relativism. Remarkably, Marv Davidov was a “self-professed non-believer” who surrounded himself with religious people. They adored him. Nevertheless, as he would have it, consciousness is the product of billions of years of material evolution i.e. central nervous systems. Which is to say. The universe has become conscious of itself through human beings. Marv was a radical humanist. To which I will add: Come the day when we the people discharge our present ruling class, the universe will smile back big time in his honor.

Additional online reading about Marv Davidov:
The Honeywell Project, Midwest Institute for Social Transformation http://bit.ly/AzRB3H

Marv in October 2002, protesting mainstream media bias, specifically the lack of coverage of the largest anti-war rally in Minnesota in 30 years that had taken place a few days earlier. Limited coverage of this event had been buried in the A section of both the Minneapolis Star Tribune and St. Paul Pioneer Press. Marv in December 1969. Fred Carey of Honeywell security reads to Davidov and other protesters a statement restricting them from trespassing on Honeywell property. (Photo: Jack Gillis)

Marv Davidov (right), December 12, 1969. Fred Carey of Honeywell security reads to Davidov and other protesters a statement restricting them from trespassing on Honeywell property.

Additional online reading about Marv Davidov:
http://bit.ly/ylg4mJE

Probably no legitimate business couldn’t exist in Phillips without Honeywell. - Ann Baus, freelance writer in 1998

Marv Davidov:
1931-2012

BY MARY TURCK, TC DAILY PLANET

Not all the good die young. Some are tough old birds, speaking out and singing loudly all the way to the end. Peace and justice advocate Marv Davidov was one of the good ones. He died on January 14, 80 years old.

I remember Marv saying, at a protest a decade or so ago, that he could go any time now. Gesturing to the crowd gathered in front of the Minneapolis federal building, he told me, “Look at the age of this crowd. The young ones have it now!”

Marv’s activism has a long history, from being one of the original Freedom Riders in 1961 to founding the Honeywell Project in opposition to the Vietnam War and on through the wars and injustices since then. He never gave up and he never stopped. (For more about Marv, see Marv Davidov: Still an activist after all these years and Lifelong activist Marv Davidov proud that Alliant and Honeywell protests fought the universe has become conscious of itself through human beings.

Just about everybody in peace and justice circles in the Twin Cities has Marv Davidov stories and memories. Steve Clemens already has posted his memories on his blog, which he graciously shares with us. Steve observed:

He was a thorn in the side (or, more accurately, a pain in the ass) to those in authority who wished to protect a status quo which tram­pled the rights of the poor or mar­ginalized or used military force against others.

While Marv may be resting in peace, I’m sure he’d be the first to tell you and me that there’s much to be done and no time to rest.

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Backyard Initiative Update

A Community and Institution Partnership to Improve the Health and Health Care Experience of the Residents of the “Backyard” Area

BY JANICE BARBEE, CULTURAL WELLNESS CENTER DIRECTOR

The partners in the Backyard Initiative all see the partnership itself as a major accomplishment of the initiative.

The Partnership Consists of Two Partners:

Allina Health and the Cultural Wellness Center

The Cultural Wellness Center

115 Easton Road (in the greater Twin Cities Area: 11 Health Systems; 6 Clinics; 15 Community Health Action Teams; 3 Community Centers)

24,096 Employees; 310,000 Visits; 2,000 Volunteers

1827 Stafﬁed Beds

276 Total Beds in 2008

16,994 Barnes in 2008

13 Family Health Providers in Phillips

45,500 Ambulance Transfers in 2008

Allina Health has listened to everyone’s mind is the way a major Corcoran. What stands out in four neighborhoods of Phillips, Allina headquarters, including the Allina Hospitals and Clinics, the and for staying at the table.

The partnership consists of Allina Hospitals and Clinics, the Cultural Wellness Center, Hope Community, Portico, and the residents of the neighborhoods around Allina headquarters, including the four neighborhoods of Phillips, Powderhorn, Park, Central, and Corcoran. What stands out in everyone’s mind is the way a major health institution has listened to and supported the leadership of community residents as they take responsibility for their health and the health of the entire community.

Community residents often quote what Ellie Zuehlke, Allina’s Director of Community Benefit says to the community: “Pretty early in the initiative, there was a fundamental shift away from viewing the community as being in the community’s “backyard” to recognizing that Allina is in the backyard of this community. Along with that, we realized that the work is not about improving the health of the community, but rather acting as a resource in a way that helps community residents to improve their own health.”

2011 Accomplishments as a Result of This Partnership

Following is a list of some of the accomplishments the CHATs had in 2010 and how they distributed.

1. The 15 Citizen Health Action Teams (CHATs) of the Backyard held 173 activities in 2011. Over 1200 people participated. The community held events in the community and health building activities. The action plans of five of these teams were approved by the Community Health Improvement Commission on Health in 2011.

2. The 15-part plan to improve the physical, mental, social, and cultural health of the Backyard began. It channelled the Backyard community also believed in the idea of forming a Health and Wellness Center and an empowered community. The CHAT Commission established policies and practices for recognizing the financial, social, and cultural capital of the CHATs and within the Commission. The CHAT also developed a system of checks and balances which assures that CHAT’s spending is transparent and in keeping with their approved plan.

3. The Cultural Wellness Center trained 45 community members in the CWC model of engagement. The BCP, a model approved by the CHATs to create a group of leaders who will mobilize community residents to support each other. The Backyard Initiative received official recognition and awareness. In addition to the monthly articles in this community newspaper, the BCP also created the BCP and the national newsletter of Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LIISC) ran articles on the BCP.

CHAT Accomplishments

• Five CHATs which completed their action plans.
• The BCP CHAT worked to create a system of checks and balances which assures that CHAT’s spending is transparent and in keeping with their approved plan.
• The BCP also created the BCP and the national newsletter of Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LIISC) ran articles on the BCP.

Victory! No High Voltage Power Lines in the Greenway!

By Soren Jensen, Midtown Greenway Coalition Executive Director

At most Alley readers may know, in 2008 Xcel energy applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PuC) for a permit to construct two high voltage power lines over the Midtown Greenway, nearly as well as two new substations.

Upon learning about this threat to the Greenway, the Phillips neighborhood, and surrounding neighborhoods, the Midtown Greenway Coalition (MGCC) organized a community meeting to discuss the issue. The Greenway Coalition sprang into action. Led by Tim Springer, our former executive director, and our board of directors, the Coalition brought together leaders from the Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Hope Community, and the Phillips Improvement Coalition and other neighborhood groups to oppose the lines in the Greenway.

We were proud to report that our more than two-year struggle has resulted in victory! On January 12th the Public Utilities Commission ruled that the power lines must be buried under E. 28th Street.

We would like to thank every- one who helped support us in this historic victory, including the many volunteers and community leaders from Phillips. It was a long struggle – one that we are sure would have made Wendell Phillips proud!

Hundreds of people participat- ed in the public hearings regarding the lines, and cheered when the administrative law judge recommended that the lines be buried under E. 28th Street.

To assist with the fight against the power lines, the Midtown Greenway Coalition hired a top-notch lawyer, Paula Maccabee, who worked with us throughout the process. The Coalition also partnered with government leaders, including Council Members Gary Schfi, Robert Lillegren, Cam Gordon and other state leaders. All were instrumental in the success of the effort, helping to pass resolutions and key legislation.

The PUC did not yet rule on who should pay for the extra cost to bury the lines. However, Xcel has already said they would like to charge the entire rate base (all customers), and our understanding is that the entire rate base should indeed pay for transmission lines. There will be more news regarding the public comment process related to this issue, and we’ll do our best to keep everyone updated via our website, Facebook page, and Twitter.

The Midtown Greenway Coalition, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, and Phillips West Neighborhood Organization will also play a role in helping to design the substations. For more information, please visit our website at www.midtowngreenway.org.

Thanks again to the people of Phillips and everyone who helped celebrate this amazing victory to protect and preserve the Midtown Greenway.

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The Alley Newspaper • February 2012