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NEWS & VIEWS OF PHILLIPS SINCE 1976
JULY 2016 • VOLUME 41, NUMBER 7

@alleynewspaper

PHILLIPS "BOARD GAME"

Emmanuel Mennonite Church
725 E. 25th St.
Owned by Messiah Lutheran Church
OFFER by Children's Hospitals and Clinics
PENDING

Augsburg Fairview Academy 2504 Columbus Av. & 2501 Park Av.
Owned by Messiah Church
OFFER by Children's MN Hospitals and Clinics
PENDING

Avalon Theater 1500 East Lake St.
Long Term Plan with Community
PENDING

Oliver Church 2647 Bloomington Ave.
OFFER by City View Congregation
PENDING

Roof Depot 1860 East 28th St. "GONE" as City
makes "Monopoly" move to "WATER WORKS".

Maaco Auto Body 2005 East Lake St.
SOLD to Mpls. Schools Adult Ed.
Demolition Soon

Ambles 2109 Cedar Ave. Business RETIRED,
Resource a GREAT LOSS, Inventory AUCTIONED,
Property SOLD as embellishment to American
Indian Cultural Corridor.

Vine Church/Burma Shave, et al 2019 East Lake St.
SOLD to Mpls. Schools Adult Ed.
Demo or Save PENDING

Mps. Community Education Bldg. 2225 23rd Ave.
SOLD to L & H Development
Demolition when vacated

JOIN US IN CELEBRATION OF OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY
AT THE MIDTOWN GLOBAL MUSIC FESTIVAL.
SATURDAY, JULY 9 • 10 AM - 8:30 PM
A day filled with recognition, reflection,
multicultural music and dance to highlight
Midtown Global Market as a center
where community gathers!

920 E. LAKE STREET, MINNEAPOLIS, MN • MIDTOWNGLOBALMARKET.ORG
**Philips West Neighborhood Upcoming Events**

**www.philipswest.info**

**July 7th (Thursday) 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.** – Philips West Monthly Community Meeting (Note No July Meeting due to proximity to 4th of July Holiday)

**August 2nd (Tuesday) 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

Phillips West Neighborhood 20th Annual National Night Our Celebration

Please join hundreds of Community Partners & Residents for the biggest National Night-Out Celebration in Minneapolis! EVENT AND EVERYTHING AT IT IS FREE FOR THE PUBLIC!!! Event will be held along 27th Street between Columbus and Portland Avenues!

A variety of FREE Picnic Food including Snow Cones, Popcorn, Hot Dogs, Watermelon, Cookies & Ice Cream! There will also be a variety of Entertainment including a Mariachi Band, Dancing Contest, Open Mic Rap Contest with opportunity to win Grand Prizes, Salsa Dancers, 3 Clowns, 2 Bounce Houses, a Puppet show, Face painters, Fish Pond, Children's Games, McGruff the Crime Dog, twinkle the Mascot, Mickey Mouse, and a Giant Inflated Slide! Information on dozens of 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

**Art Pollinators engage neighbors creating art, connecting across barriers, increasing safety, and embellishing beauty**

**By Patricia Cabello Hansel**

How can we make our community safer and more beautiful? How does art build connections across barriers of language and culture? What are the key issues facing Phillips?

These are some of the questions that young artists with St. Paul’s Luther’s Semilla Center and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute will ask this summer. They will be attending residents and decision-makers in Midtown Phillips about how they see their community and environment, and how they interact with their community. These youth artists will be serving as “art pollinators”, engaging neighbors in creating art for their neighborhood on planters and garbage cans, to photo exhibits to the 3rd issue of *The Phoenix of Phillips*.

Are you interested in being a pollinator of the arts? For more information, e-mail stpaulscreativemedia@gmail.com, or call 612-724-3862, or come to St. Paul’s Luther’s Semilla Center on July 23 from 10am to 2pm.

And remember: we still are receiving submissions for the next issue of *The Phoenix of Phillips*. We welcome children, youth, adults and seniors of any writing level to submit their poems or essays to stpaulscreativemedia@gmail.com, or mail them to 2742 15th Ave S. Minneapolis, MN, 55407.

**Helen L. Peterson, longtime Phillips resident, has died**

Peterson, Helen L. of Mpls, Born Feb. 13, 1919 passed away June 18, 2016. Survived by her 87 year old nephew, Paul Peterson, and in death by her beloved husband of 74 years, Carl and life in Phillips Community most of their marriage. Celebration of her Life was Sat., July 2 at Crosstown Covenant Church. Memorials preferred to the church. Private interment in Bradshaw.
The count of Union and Confederate Civil War Veterans remains challenging

Part I: One Union Veteran Lost but Another Gained Two New Confederate Veterans

BY TIMOTHY MCCALL, GUEST WRITER

Right all, so we didn’t actually “lose” a Civil War Veteran, in the strictest sense, but it turns out, he never was one. Let me explain. In the early 1930s -1940s, a concerted effort was made to identify and acquire markers for all of the Veterans buried in the cemetery. The effort was probably led by Albert Nelson, the cemetery’s caretaker. Researching the cemetery’s occupants’ history and genealogy in the early-mid 20th century must have been a herculean task considering that the availability of information was limited to printed material, tele- phone calls and writing letters to known genealogical sources, i.e., libraries and historical societies.

It was in early 1932, that an application was filed with the War Department to have a headstone made and shipped to Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery. Many par- ticipants combined to make it a very special occasion.

Memorial Day Ceremony at Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery. Many par-

One Union Veteran Lost but Another Gained Two New Confederate Veterans

BY SUE HUNTER WEIR

The weather was a mixed bag for Memorial Day weekend. Rain—more precisely the threat of thunderstorms—meant that we had to reschedule our screening of Buster Keaton’s silent film, The Cameraman. The Cameraman, from May 28th until the following weekend.

Earlier in the day, though, the weather cooperated and Scouts from Troop 1 helped with our annual plant- ing. They did more than just plant trees. They also used a small shovel to place a memorial flag on the graves of all of our Veterans and along the roadway. The flags are a gift from American Legion Post 91, our Memorial Day partners.

For our weather on 148th Memorial Day observance was glori- ous which may be why the crowd was somewhat bigger than in other recent years. The observance at Pioneers and Soldiers is special because it is a such a community effort. The Scouts, the American Legion Post 91, students from the Minnesota Transition School, and the Seward Community Concert Band all come together to make this event happen.

Brigadier General Dennis Schulstad, delivered the keynote address. He is a remarkable speak- er whose message is always one of gratitude and kindness. He, too, is from the community, a graduate of Roosevelt High School and former City Council Member representing

Large crowd enjoys exploring, visiting, and ceremony at the 148th Memorial Day Ceremony at Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery. Many par-

Sue Hunter Weir visits with a few of the 150 viewers at June 4th Cinema at the Cemetery with Buster Keaton in “The Cameraman.” +COMING SOON! “The Curse of Frankenstein” Aug. 20th; “The Mummy” Sept. 3rd; “Honoring Veterans and enjoying Buster Keaton at premiere venue

TO OUR VALUABLE PATRONS:

Thank you for your continued support. We are dedicated to making a positive impact on the community.

Sue Hunter Weir
East Phillips SummerFest
What a way to kick off summer!

East Phillips and surrounding neighborhoods are filled with incredibly talented people, young and old. SummerFest’s Main Stage Event, once again, was privileged to feature awesome incredibly talented people, young and old. SummerFest artists, vendors, volunteers and friends.

Stage Event, once again, was privileged to feature awesome incredibly talented people, young and old. SummerFest artists, vendors, volunteers and friends.

East Phillips SummerFest 2016 is brought to this community by the collaboration of the East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC), the East Phillips Park Staff and volunteers and the artists, vendors, volunteers and friends.

Thanks to all for a GREAT DAY!!!

For Your Calendar:

EPIC Board of Directors meets on the FIRST Saturday of the month – Next Meetings: Saturday, 7/2/2016 and 8/6/2016 at 10:00 AM.

EPIC Community Meetings are on the SECOND Thursday – Next Meetings: Thursday, 7/14/16 and 8/11/2016 at 6:30 PM. Agenda includes Neighborhood Industrial Pollution, Crime Initiatives, and EPIC project updates.

The East Phillips Park Programming Partnership meets on the LAST Tuesday – Next Meetings: Tuesday, 7/26/16 and 8/30/16 at 11:30 AM. Lunch is served. Updates on Partner Programming, Park Events, SummerFest 2016 & News.

Meeting Location: All the above meetings and events are held at the fully accessible East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center located at 2307 17th Ave. S.


UPCOMING 2016 MEETINGS:

I. Introductions

II. Approve June Board Minutes

III. Open Streets:

– Franklin is Aug. 21, between Portland and 28th

– East Lake is July 24, between Elliot and 28th

– Franklin is Aug. 21, between Portland and 28th

IV. Strategic Planning for Midtown Phillips

V. Coordinator Report

VI. Public Comments

NOTE: NO JULY COMMUNITY MEETING

Save the Date!

MIDTOWN PHILLIPS CLEAN SWEEP
Saturday October 8, 2016

Correction from June ad: There will be no Midtown Festival this year.

Experience your streets in a whole new way!

Open Streets Minneapolis brings together community groups and local business to temporarily close major thoroughfares to car traffic, and open them up for people walking, biking, skating, and playing. This community event is in its sixth year, and is co-sponsored by the City of Minneapolis.

Open Streets Minneapolis gives residents an opportunity to rethink our streets as public space. It encourages the use of active transportation and healthy living, and has a goal of giving residents an opportunity to rethink our streets as public space. It encourages the use of active transportation and healthy living, and has a goal of giving residents an opportunity to rethink our streets as public space.

Open Streets Minneapolis events take place all over Minneapolis.

OPEN STREETS MPLS
Open Streets East Lake: Sunday, July 24, 2016, 11am to 5pm
East Lake Street, between Elliot & 42nd

Open Streets Franklin: Sunday, August 21, 2016, 11am to 5pm
Franklin Avenue, between Portland & 28th

Visit www.opensstreetmpls.org for more info and a complete list of events.
In the Heart of the Beast Theatre Company Talks With Community Its Future and “Home”

BY LINDSEY FENNER

The sparkling Kasota stone façade catches the hot summer sun, reflecting back the colorful buildings nearby: mint-green, peach-pink; and the green, red, and yellow traffic lights of this busy and vibrant stretch of South Minneapolis. A mural meets the stone at the round white and black striped marquee, accented with strips of neon color, at the corner of 15th Avenue South and Lake Street. The marquee is a landmark on a bustling street, an Art Deco vision of the future, a tower of human light reaching to the sky.

Inside, the lobby is a cool respite from the heat. The building is quiet, between the busy MayDay build, and the fall and winter stage shows. The green-trimmed doorways are framed with a Pete Seeger quote. A long table along the length of the lobby is bare, except for a paper-mache table along the length of the lobby with a Pete Seeger quote. A long winter stage shows. The green-MayDay build, and the fall and improving office, meeting, storage and classroom spaces. Leaving the Avalon would also require significant capital and work. A new space would have to be found that fits the needs of the company and would most likely need renovation. Moving, after nearly thirty years in one place, would be a costly undertaking. A change this consequential would also probably disrupt HOBT’s performance and education activities. HOBT is trying to weigh which option, staying or leaving, would best allow it to fulfill its mission.

The Avalon, built as a movie theater, does not have many of the necessities for live performance. There is no catwalk to safely access theater lights, there are no wings for entrances and exits, no true backstage, and limited space for storage. With the seating removed, the performance space doubles as a giant community workshop during preparations for the MayDay celebration. But the seating is cumbersome to move, and the slanted floor makes for less than ideal working conditions. Changes such as installing a catwalk, making the floor level, and getting new, more flexible seating would greatly improve the performance space, according to Sandy Spieler, Director of MayDay and one of the founders of HOBT.

The second and third stories have been converted from their use for a more permanent, larger space became apparent when a performance in the latter was shut down by the fire marshal.

Spieler described the Lake Street of the 1980s as having the same feeling of “raw vitality” it does today, but with a different variety of languages spoken and more empty storefronts. When HOBT was looking for a new space, there were a few options in the neighborhood besides the Avalon: a building across 15th Avenue where the Kaplan Brothers store would also find a new home in 1988. But the Avalon seemed to be the best fit, since as a theater, it was already zoned for public performances. It also had a name which fit as a metaphor for the transformative creativity HOBT shared with the community.

“An Act of Faith”

Around the time HOBT was moving into the Avalon, Spieler had a dream “in which throngs of wounded people lined up on Lake Street—standing with crutches, being carried on stretchers, all waiting to go into the Avalon as a sanctuary, a place of healing. I had just researched Avalon’s place in English lore; at the center of the island of Avalon lies the pool of life, a place of vitality for participatory community creativity.”

But the Avalon in the ’80s was ugly with neglect. Built in 1924, it had been remodeled and expanded in 1937, with the streamlined Art Deco exterior of Kasota stone, and the bold marquee, bringing a modern look to Depression-era Lake Street. The theater continued to show family-friendly movies and later, art film, until the late 1950s. The loss of the streetcar line along Lake Street in the 1950s led to hard times for the theater, and pornographic fare began to take over. By the 1970s and ’80s, Lake Street struggled with crime and seedy X-rated businesses like the Avalon and a nearby adult bookstore. Through efforts of the neighborhood, the theater closed in 1984 and stood vacant until down by the fire marshal.

Acquiring the theater was an “act of faith,” said Spieler, faith that people would stop at that corner on Lake Street, faith that something that had become aFSX-rated could be beautiful again. Revitalizing the dilapidated theater took the hard work of the community. Spieler described the then-orange exterior walls as “slip- ping with mold.” Led by Partners Three Company (the construction firm of Abbey E. Winje, and partner and community activist Susan Gust), volun-
Heart of the Beast gets Avalon Theatre

From porno to puppets

by Eric Almond

The marquee will flash, the audience will fill, the lights will dim and the show will begin. When the Avalon theatre opens its doors, however, several significant changes will have been made. Lowest profile, perhaps, is a new coat of paint and replacing a number of employees who had helped bring the space to life. New management and new style will be offered to patrons of the space, which is now under new ownership.

In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Performance Theater's new royal blue and white professional theatre company based in the Phillips neighborhood, with financial support and approval from the Minneapolis Community Development Agency (MCDA) Board of Commissioners last month to renovate and re-open the Avalon as their new home. According to Hobt Executive Director, Judy Anderson, workers are expected to begin construction in early January, completing a new roof and re-wiring the space, so that the move can possibly take place before the end of the year.

The MCDA board unanimously approved the recommendation from the MCDA's Redevelopment Advisory Committee (RAC) that Heart of the Beast be given control of the Avalon. Ninth Ward City Council member Tony Scallon, whose ward the Avalon is located, spoke at both the RAC and the MCDA meetings in support of the proposal. "We have had opportunity here to give Lake St. a chance," suggested Scallon, "and compared to other porn buys, this is a real bargain." Sixth Ward City Council member Brian Calle also voted for the Heart of the Beast proposal but pointed out the recent closing of the Extempore and suggested that "real estate deals sometimes kill community theatres." The proposal was unanimously approved.

The art deco style Avalon, located at 1550 E. Lake St., was built 50 years ago as a family entertainment center. In 1957, however, the theatre closed for family entertainment. In 1976, the theater was purchased by the Avalon and continued to operate as a porn movie theatre for ten years until closing in 1984. The 656 seat theatre has since been vacant.

The Avalon's present owners Sabra and Ronald Laubach, who also own the Antiques Minnesota building next door to the Avalon, purchased the building in late 1984. The $25,000 purchase price was shown on April 2, 1985 and the doors were closed after the Laubachs refused to extend the operator's lease. The MCDA then signed a lease on the building and began soliciting proposals for a new use for the Avalon.

Several theatre companies considered the Avalon but decided not to submit proposals because the company did propose to put in a restaurant/movie theatre complex which could not secure enough financing.

This spring the MCDA received the Heart of the Beast proposal and a letter of intent from Disney Table Tennis people who wanted to use the Avalon as a projection theatre. The Heart of the Beast Theatre proposes to create a community of artists who would be their own company and other community artists, puppet performers, film societies, community groups and others. The Avalon is now located in the building above Roberts Shoe Store at 1610 Lake St.

Disney Table Tennis wanted to convert the building to house and expand their table tennis business now located across Lake St. above ATEA Karate. Disney, however, never submitted a full proposal.

The Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association which has been holding $100,000 in Neighborhood Economic Development fund money to rehab the Avalon approved the Heart of the Beast plan in July, 1987. Many other community and business groups endorsed the Heart of the Beast plan. Disney's plan was supported by the Phillips Neighborhood Improvement Association (PNIA).

The Phillips Community Development Corporation (PCDC) is serving as facilitator and coordinator for the Avalon project. PCDC is a non-profit Phillips community based developer which has previously developed several small businesses in the neighborhood. "The Avalon is PCDC's first project on Lake St," said PCDC Economic Development Director Ralph Witcoff. PCDC is also helping Karen Kaplan's Clothing at the former Kawasaki Motorcycle building across the street from the Avalon.

Lake St. has provided the opportunity for the creation of performances that have toured around the nation. We added she would like to thank the people in the community for their many letters of support along with hundreds of names collected in petitions in the effort to obtain the theatre.

The Avalon building owner, Sabra Laubach, is equally enthused with the recent developments. "I'm ecstatic that Heart of the Beast will be our next door neighbor. We have talked for some proper activity there," she explained, and are pleased that it will be a community theatre.

Heart of the Beast began as the Powderhorn Puppet Theatre in 1973. They took on their present name in 1978 as the troupe continued to expand. The theatre has nine full-time paid staff members along with over 160 contract workers and 500 community volunteers. They all contribute in staging unique performances which combine sculpture, painting, poetry, dance and music. Although they have toured internationally, their work remains dedicated to creating a sense of community among performers and their audience to reflect and build a healthy culture through art, festivity, and performance.

For Lucinda Anderson, the move down Lake St. to the Avalon seems like a logical step for Heart of the Beast. "Our neighborhood around the alley
Over the past winter, HOBT decided that it was time to start a conversation with our community about the future of our organization and our home in the Avalon Theater. We appreciate that The Alley is here to help us have that discussion.

The discussion is not new. The Avalon was a distressed building three decades ago when the community worked together to make the building into a home for HOBT. Now the building is 30 years older, and needs a level of care and investment that HOBT has been unable to provide.

As the building continues to age, an inability to meet its increasing needs could threaten the ongoing existence of the building, of the organization, or both.

Though the issue is serious, we do not consider it to be a crisis. HOBT estimates that we have two to five years to work toward a long-term solution. We have time to make a decision that best serves the many communities that will be affected by it. More than a year ago, the HOBT board began to explore various scenarios. The possibilities were divided into two groups: “Stay” scenarios in which HOBT invests in continuing our time in the Avalon Theater, and “Go” scenarios in which we find another home.

With live music and radio now and live theatre on the way, the Bloomington and Lake area is becoming Phillips’ art and entertainment district.

In the Heart of the Beast Theatre Company Talks With Community About Its Future and “Home”

BY CORRIE ZOLL

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With live music and radio now and live theatre on the way, the Bloomington and Lake area is becoming Phillips’ art and entertainment district.
To be puppeteers in the Heart of the Beast...

BY STEVEN LINSNER

Poet, writer, performer, painter, musician, and videographer; 1952-2005

To be puppeteers in the Heart of the Beast…

…is to find ourselves in the great world Beast made of families, races, ages, sexes, classes, corporations and nations, people, (and creatures!) all different, working out a way to live together.

…is to work puppets. To hold life in our hands, to sense how we are all like puppets—worked by instincts, voices, and forces above us and below us.

…is to carry and protect something very old like a heart within us, a secret, a promise. Like carrying a flickering candle through a dark place. Like carrying a family in a horse-drawn wagon.

…is to travel the roads of history and loss, in search of something like a new heart: new communities, new families, new work, new holidays.

…is to tell the story of people who live in the heart of the beast—as courageous and resourceful as they really are.

Puppeteers and community members celebrated the re-opening of the Avalon Theater as the new home of In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater.

Joe Selvaggio of Project for Pride in Living tried to get his board to carry $50,000 more, but the board thought that supporting a theater was too far from FPL’s main mission of providing housing, he said.

By Tuesday, the night before the special meeting of the MCHA commissioners, both Tony Scallon and MCHA assured Heart of the Beast that the vote was in the bag, they would be owners of the theater.

At the special meeting on Wednesday Heart of the Beast presented their case. They asked the city match the $75,000 mortgage from Riverside Bank to buy the building and allow Heart of the Beast to pay them back within two years. Heart of the Beast was confident they could do that, they had a capital fund drive in place and working.

Ron Lauebach also spoke at the meeting, first revealing himself as a vice president of Carigliani, explaining that his ownership of the Avalon was not connected to Carigliani, and then expressing his extreme displeasure that the city had changed its mind after having sent him a letter on Aug. 26 saying they would not exercise the option-to-buy clause.

"We want to retain ownership," Lauebach says. "About 22 hours before the hearing on Wednesday we got notice that action was afoot. We are willing to extend the lease. We believe we have acquiesced to everything Heart of the Beast wanted, but we have always said we are not willing to sell the building."

According to Tony Scallon, the MCHA chose not to exercise its option because the commissioners felt unprepared to understand the ramifications of the issue. Also, the city had gotten stung in buying other theaters for groups like the Café St. Honore which had gone belly up, leaving the city holding the bag.

The result is that Heart of the Beast has a 10-year lease with no option-to-buy clause. The lease includes the stipulation that Heart of the Beast will invest some $250,000 to $250,000 in capital improvements in the building in exchange for a rent rebate of $175,000 over the first five years of the lease, according to McCready.

Lauebach maintains that Heart of the Beast got a good deal because "the interest on the debt burden would greatly exceed the rent of $650 a month" had Heart of the Beast bought the building. (At 10.5%, a $150,000, 30-year mortgage has a $995 debt service/month.) If the rent and renovations are averaged over the 10 years of the lease, Heart of the Beast will have to pay Lauebach the equivalent of $2,500 per month.

Lauebach says, "If you look at buildings all over the country, you’ll see that people make repairs on buildings they don’t own." He insists he provided the city and the neighborhood with a service by buying the building and then paying a $35,000 judgment to the owners who were not happy to have their lease canceled. "We have lost a lot of money and get a lot of undesirable publicity in getting rid of the porn," Lauebach says.

"The fact remains," says Ralph Wiltcuff of PDC, "that Lauebach got major repairs and refurbishment with city funds and neighborhood hard work."

City gives Avalon back to Lambachs

by Wizard Marks

First, there were hours and hours of elbow grease by countless volunteers to scrub down the mummed walls resplendent from the leaking roof. Then some poor guy, in a spine of heroism above and beyond the call of duty, cleaned the bathrooms; all the while the Avalon has been a porn home, the men's room had not had a visit from the tidy bowl man or anyone else acquainted with the word "clenched.

In the auditorium, the scuzzy carpet was pulled off the floor and tossed. The seats were removed, half of them sent across the street to be refurbished and returned. Hundreds of gallons of grey paint were applied to the 30-foot walls and, Voilà! bye-bye porn, hello puppets.

On Sunday, Sept. 11, in Heart of the Beast Theatre held its open house and a cleansing ceremony to chase away any remaining ghosts of porn left after the refurbishment.

The idea for Heart of the Beast was born in a communal living situation called Cristos House in 1973. Artist and Trucking Theater’s David O’Fallon, Model Cities and neighborhood people from Powderhorn and Phillips and Central put in the energy to create a theater which would become the soul person of Minneapolis, its dreams, its visions, its humor, its ethos.

Alive and trucking became the Powderhorn Puppet Theater and moved to Walker Church for a while. The May Day Parade was started, which each spring marches from little Earth Church in the Powderhorn Park, stepped off with jugglers and still travelled with little band neighborhood adults and dozens and dozens of children excited they positively vibrated.

Sandy Speler, the first person hired by Model Cities to work for the theater, says "It’s a bunch of cardboard dancing in the streets, but it’s empowering. It’s theater that belongs to all of us."

It became in the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre from a Che Guevara quote.

In 1985 the city of Minneapolis, in an attempt to get rid of the open theater occupying the Avalon, signed a 3-year $4,000, per month with Ron Lauebach, the present owner of Antiques Minnesota. The city then put an additional $127,000 into repairing the roof and otherwise bringing the building up to code.

The city’s lease included an option-to-buy clause which ran out on Sept. 30, 1988. Had they chosen to, the city could have bought the building, with a row roof and a good scrub and painting, for $150,000.

Heart of the Beast wanted the city to exercise the option-to-buy clause specifically because Council member McCready of the board of directors, it is more than likely the cheapest option and because their funders advised them that they would be in a better position to get the $250,000 needed for further renovation if they owned the building.

Heart of the Beast planned to get a mortgage for as much of the cost as they could and fundraise for the remainder. Working with and according advice from Councilman Tony Scallon and the MCHA, Heart of the Beast tried to get a mortgage for $150,000 to buy the building, but could only succeed in getting $75,000 from Riverside Bank.

Cafe St. Honore which had gone belly up, leaving the city holding the bag.

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Community celebrates Heart of the Beast’s new home

the alley

October 1988

Community celebrates Heart of the Beast’s new home

shop phillips merchants
DON GREELY IS HONORED AT HIS RETIREMENT FROM SAFETY WORK

Don Greeley’s previous work as a community organizer has paid off for the Phillips neighborhoods that were assisted through many years by his efforts to bring the police officers and residents together at the table. This “love affair” that has blossomed between the two showed results in monthly and annual data showing a trend of crime reduction for Ventura Village. Don helped Ceci Smith and Mary Watson develop a deeper rapport with police that started with Jim & Jan Graham in previous years. The entire Phillips Community has benefited greatly from the steady, long-lasting work Don provided us on behalf of the Third Precinct! We know that he was appreciated just as much by the police officers and commanders as us residents!

RESOLUTION – 8 June 2016

We honor Don Greeley for 27 years as a City of Minneapolis Crime Prevention Specialist.
We honor 20 years of that service has been in Sector 1 of the Third Precinct.
We honor Don Greeley has been a faithful and tireless servant of the community, working tirelessly for the safety and stability of the Phillips neighborhood.
We honor his cheerful, professional, and patient demeanor has endeared him to the community.
We honor numerous block clubs have been established, supported, and educated, and communities built in the process through Don Greeley’s initiative.
We honor the leaders and personalities of the Third Precinct have changed many times, Don Greeley has been a consistent presence and representative of the Minneapolis Police Department, while also being our advocate.
We honor during his long tenure, crime and safety have improved very significantly in Sector 1, and
We honor, Don Greeley is now retiring from his position;

Be It Resolved, Ventura Village is grateful to Don Greeley for being such a force for good and justice in our community, for being so faithful and diligent in his work through the years, especially aiding through community meetings and listening to people in pain with care and compassion.

Further, Be It Resolved, Ventura Village wishes him health and happiness in retirement.

Thank you, Don!

Sudik Warta, Ventura Village Chair
Cecil Smith, Crime & Safety Chair/Board Member

Instead of July meetings, let’s have great celebrations!

The worst policy collisions in our neighborhoods result from agendas the City of Minneapolis must follow for select state funding. This leaves neighborhoods much less able to effectively bring people together at gatherings such as the Pan-African Arts & Culture Fair to be held on Saturday July 23rd at Peavey Park. Those organizing an event such as this must scramble to find funds to provide the food and entertainment that will draw in resident audiences.

In previous years, Ventura Village was able to draw between 500 and 750 participants for its Peavey Park festivals, which culminated in gaining the park back from drug dealers and thugs. Undaunted, we are challenged to find new sources of funding to bring us to a great gathering. At the behest of Girma Hassen, who is chair of Oromo Cultural Institute of Minnesota, Ventura Village will join forces for a arts and culture fair to gather people from many African nations represented in Minnesota by its immigrants, refugees and students drawn to higher educational offerings. Girma hopes Minnesotans from the African countries will join together to share much of their cultural and artistic sides to participants. It is hoped that there will be enough engagement and participation in the activities to warrant a larger event each year in the future. Two years ago, a local Somal Independence Day activity attracted more than 500 people and a similar event was held by the Ecuadorian community at the same location in Peavey Park. Both events started with a very nominal amount of funding and planning, but turned out to hit the spot for those who participated. The overall goal of events such as the Pan-African fair is to increase deeper interactions for the attendees so they can relate to other people more successfully.

— Robert Albee

OROMO CULTURE INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA & VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD PRESENTS

MINNESOTA’S FIRST ANNUAL PAN-AFRICAN ARTS & CULTURES FAIR IN THE PARK Saturday, July 23rd • 11 AM - 6 PM Peavey Park ➢ Chicago Avenue & 22nd Street East ENTERTAINMENT • FOOD • NETWORKING • FUN & MUCH, MUCH, MORE!

Your Hosts: Girma Hassen - 952.297.4254 • Robert Albee - 612.812.2429

Ventura Village is located upstairs in the Phillips Community Center at 2323 - 11th Avenue South • Minneapolis • 612-874-9070
**The Lobster**

Fantasy/Sci-Fi/Comedy
Rating: R

**** of Five Stars

“The Lobster” casts modern love relationships in dystopian fog and also casts what is a cynical way, how society constantly insists on couples. David (Colin Farrell) finds out how cruel the world is when his wife leaves him and he’s all alone. He seeks a surreal compound where he has to find a mate in 45 days or be transformed into an animal, of course, of his choice. He chooses to be a lobster even though he has dog with him.

Everybody is only known on a first name basis and the rules at the resort are rigorous. Violations of the rules can meet with punishment during the trial time. Men and women are required to attend seminars on relationships.

While David’s at the resort he meets two other singles “Limping Man” (John C. Reilly) and “Loner Leader” (Lea Seydoux) who has her own authoritarian methods on her clan by discouraging any sexual attractions (at least openly). However, when David meets eyes with “Short-Sighted Woman” (Rachel Weisz) that changes for him both. Both devise a way of communications without being detected by “Loner Woman” or by the other rebels.

Director Yorgos Lanthimos

### Game Room

Crime/Drama/Thriller
Rating: NS

**** of Five Stars

A punk-rock band called “Ain’t Rights” are desperate for propane, gas and gins. Running out of luck the band members Pat (Anton Yelchin), Sam (Alia Shawkat), Tiger (Calum Turner), Reece (Joe Cole) and Amber (Imogen Poots) reluctantly accept a gig at a white supremacist compound in backwoods near Portland, Oregon. The band gets on stage begin to play the 1981 Dead Kennedys’ song “Nazi Punks Fuck Off” to an audience of pro-white-pro-Nazi sympathies.

What happens next sparks the adrenaline to go through the roof. After the band retreats to the green room (dressing room) there’s a woman who’s been murdered on the floor. The neo-Nazis and the ringleader Darcy (Patrick Stewart) go after the kids, but the punkers lock themselves in the green room. Now the matter of wits among the band members is try to escape, but their nemesis won’t let that happen. Darcy has already given his men to kill them all. Patrick Stewart as Darcy is an outstanding performance as the methodical mind of the compound. He states: “Now, whatever you saw or did is no longer my concern. But let’s be clear, this won’t end well”. Director Jeremy Saulnier’s (“Blue Rain”) savvy film in the Hitchcockian mold where the psychotically twisted men aren’t always obviously expected.

This claustrophobic thriller is the most in entiring film of its kind this year. (R)

Cast: Anton Yelchin (Pat), Alia Shawkat (Sam), Imogen Poots (Amber), Joe Cole (Reece), Patrick Stewart (Darcy) and Calum Turner (Tiger).

Director: Jeremy Saulnier

Running time: 94 minutes.

### Tales, Traditions and Toast

OSL English Second Language

BY KATHLEEN ROCHE

June 18th in commemoration of World Refugee Day, the English Learning Center hosted a community event: Tales, Traditions and Toast.

Community members, volunteer teachers and students, family members and friends came together to build relationships and share with one another. The event began with outdoor games, interactive activities to learn about refugees, and opportunities to visually share attendees’ own immigrant journeys.

The highlight of the evening was storytelling: students shared recently published stories about best friends, first winter experiences in Minnesota, the tragedy of war, and first flights to the United States. These stories were touching and educational, and they humanized the experience of coming to this country as a refugee.

The event ended with attendees sharing freshly-baked bread, made in an outdoor wood-fired oven. The English Learning Center aims to not only offer English, math, computer and citizenship classes, but also seeks to provide a welcoming community space for people new to this country.

Kathleen Roche is the PM Coordinator at the English Learning Center – a program of Our Savior’s Community Services.

### Million Step Challenge...+

After only one week we are already approaching a half million steps. Roy and Amy, a Hispanic couple in their seventies, are enthusiastic participants. He walks with the “striders” and she with the “strollers”. She says, “I want to walk with some vigor!” Fred was diagnosed with diabetes and has lowered his glucose levels by walking 2 miles a day. He inspires others to do the same. Bruce and Cookie, an African American couple in their early 50s, both use scooters. Cookie says, “I’ll walk for as many steps as I can and then will continue on with the scooter to be a part of the group.” Social connection is essential to creating a culture of wellness.

The Phillips Million Step Challenge strives to build a strong sense of community in the Phillips neighborhood.

Cookie says, “I was invited to walk with us at Ebenezer Tower Apartments Lobby, 2523 Portland Ave S, on Tues.6:30 PM. Info: Donna Nord at 612-741-5180 or dnoird2@comcast.net.

### WELNA HARDWARE

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**The Alley Newspaper • July 2016**

**Bill Worthy, Jr. (July 7, 1921 – May 4, 2014) was an African-American journalist, civil rights activist, and dissident who pressed his right to travel regardless of U.S. State Department regulations to China (1956-57) and Cuba (1961).**
My Talk With June Bug Regarding Non-Violence

Hah! June Bug, you have come to test your long forelegs across a rumple of my jeans...evidently not to bite me. Alright then, it seems we shall enter a state of mutual contemplation. Are you aware of the violence in this world?

“...The LGBT community has stood side by side with the American-Muslim community during challenging and difficult times. We stand together against hatred, violence and demonization of entire communities.” – Julianne Hafner, Executive Director of the Minnesota Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (as found in Alondra Cano’s “The Role of American Muslims in Minnesota”) Why?

We all of us live beneath a mas- sively armed state which serves with greater non-violence, mobi- lization and involvement, unity, political consciousness, defense of democracy and moral author- ity.” I will add that we must learn to put flowers in the barrels of their guns.

Little June Bug, you appear to agree. Well okay, I love you too.

Cartoon still fits, ex-CEO never did, as Children’s seeks all

Block 5 & Half a block between Columbus and Park Ave.

This Cartoon is reprinted from The Alley, July 2006. It was also a decade ago when Dr. Alan Goldberg, then CEO of Children’s MN Hospitals and Clinics, addressed a City Council Committee hearing testimony from Phillips residents in support of saving the Trinity Medical Center building (on the south end of “Block 5” down the alley from the Messiah Lutheran Church building), said, “Phillips is an unliveable neighborhood!” He neglected to admit that the threat to livability is untrustworthy institutions like Minnesota’s CHN that continue to put Phillips Community under siege and a challenge to maintain constant vigilance and defend.

Frank Reflections
White Supremacy spans generations

BY FRANK ERIKSON

historical Note: “Largest mass hanging in U.S. history” 303 were to be hanged

The cause of hanging 38 Dakota Indians in Minnesota December 26, 1862 was the failure of the U.S. Government to honor it’s treaties with Indian Nations. Indians were not given the money or food promised for signing a treaty to give a million + acres of their land and be forced to live on a reservations.

In anger kept the treaty same, food was sold to white settlers while food given to Indians was spoiled. Indian hunting parties were off the reservation land looking for food to feed their families. One hunting group took eggs from a White settler’s land and the rest is history.

Authorities in Minnesota asked President Lincoln to order the immediate execution of all 303 Indians found guilty. Lincoln was concerned with European reaction who he feared were about to enter the Civil War on the side of the South. He offered the following compromise to the politi- cians of Minnesota: “They would pare the list of those to be hung down to 39. In return, Lincoln promised to kill or remove every Indian from the state and provide Minnesota with 2 million dollars in federal funds. U.S. owed only 25 cents per Indian land millions.

The Great Emancipator endowed the largest mass execution in American History, where the guilt of those executed was entire- ly in doubt.

Avalon an oasis on Lake Street

The Avalon was built on the site of the 1960 Rose Studio Theatre later named Seventh Ward Theatre, Rosebad Theatre and Reno Theatre. In 1924 it was made over: Architect Ekman & Holm, changed structural elements and increased seating to 300. In 1937 it was enlarged again; Architect Perry E. Croster to streamline Moderne style using steel fabricated by Minneapolis Moline, 13 blocks away. It features a corner marquee tower with non-inflammable colored lights restored twice since 1988.

The change to “Fine Arts” in 1945, starting with Welles’ “Othello” and an antiforeign policy which soon gave way to sex pictures and porn. Then it was called the “Avalon Fine Arts” until Avalon name fell off marquee.

The theatre had an artistic well supplying a water fountain (on 2nd floor of theatre, the circular staircase and next to the “Crying Room”) and water sprayed into a metal chamber, stage right, to cool air blown through tunnels and ductwork as an early form of “air conditioning.”

In 1987 HORT “re-purposed” the theatre, removed the intersection, and embellished the neighborhoods’ reputations just as it turns clay, water, paste, cardboard and talent into an 18 cent form via participatory, community involvement and owner- ship.

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High consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages among youth is a challenge for communities across the United States and contributes to chronic conditions such as obesity, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol among children and adolescents. Further, sugary drinks are the largest source of added sugars in the American diet and, among adolescents, 63% of all sugary drink calories come from soda. The American Heart Association recommends that pre-teens and teens limit their consumption of added sugar to 20–32 grams of sugar a day, but teens are consuming up to 136 grams of added sugar daily. A recent study found that people who consume 17%-21% of their calories from added sugar have a 38% higher risk of dying from cardiovascular disease than those who consume 8% of their calories from added sugar. This risk was more than double for those who consumed 21% or more of their calories from added sugar. Given these statistics, curbing sugary drink consumption among adolescents is imperative to supporting community health. It is not surprising that sugary drinks saturate the American food supply; they are inexpensive, highly profitable, and appeal to consumers whose palates have been highly conditioned by commercial use of added sugars.

The BYI youth’s interest in reducing sugary drink consumption was ignited by the Teens Entering Existing Networking Systems (TEENS) Project’s (BYI’s youth-oriented Community Health Action Team’s) participation in the City of Minneapolis’ ReThink Your Drink, Every Sip Counts! campaign. The goals of this participation were: (1) expanding the reach of the campaign; (2) strengthening the relationship between the BYI and the Minneapolis Health Department (MHD); (3) increasing the presence of the BYI in the Midtown Global Market (MGM); and (4) continuing to bolster MGM as a community-owned marketplace and gathering space that fosters community health. In support of these goals, five members of the TEENS Project completed a 2-hour training with a MHD staff member and subsequently facilitated 3 health promotion activities in the community. At the project’s end, a member of the TEENS Project spoke to the Minneapolis City Council about the BYI’s experience with the campaign.

This work led to a contract with MHD to conduct a small pilot project (March – June, 2016) in the Midtown Global Market (MGM) to assess a model for working with small business-owners from diverse backgrounds to improve their facility’s beverage environment. Despite the potential negative impact of removing sugary drink products on their bottom line, MGM vendors—Safari Express, Manny’s Torta and Produce Exchange—are participating in the project. Related to but uncompensated by this contract, the BYI is also developing a BYI Healthy Beverage Policy to reduce sugary drinks and promote water in all BYI activities. This work supports the BYI’s broader work in recognizing MGM as a Community Health Zone, i.e., a community-owned space that cultivates health in addition to being a retail space. For more info: Contact the BYI Resource Center in the MGM: 612-353-6211.