By Carsten Smith

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sings quietly in a circle (with dance workshop at E Philips Park, Sandy Spieler), Simone Speer's bringing the water together (w/ From collecting the water at dawn, it was well attended and numbers grew with each stop along 24th St. From collecting the water at dawn, bringing the water together (w/ Sandy Spieler), Simone Speer’s dance workshop at E Philips Park, singing quietly in a circle (with Louis Alemayhu at PCC), decorating parade regalia (w/ Heart of the Beast), marveling at the Somali

1st Annual Bridging Festival was a Blast!

By Dallas Johnson

Our 12 hour event on 8/13 (two dozen activities moving through 10 sites) exceeded our wildest expec-
tations. The active embodiment of an invitation, the majority of the day was hands-on and interactive. It was well attended and numbers grew with each stop along 24th St. From collecting the water at dawn, bringing the water together (w/ Sandy Spieler), Simone Speer’s dance workshop at E Philips Park, singing quietly in a circle (with Louis Alemayhu at PCC), decorating parade regalia (w/ Heart of the Beast), marveling at the Somali

By Carsten Smith

Ingebretsen’s Celebrates Nine Decades for Nine Weeks

Every birthday is worth cel-
but some birthdays are
worth an extra special effort. For Ingebretsen’s Scandinavian Gifts, that birthday is the nineti-
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POETRY

By Roy McBride, 1943-2011

My grandfather, who can neither
read nor write, wears a pen-
and-pencil set in the pocket of his Sunday coat.

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By James Brewer Stewart

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Why Phillips? Why Care?
ADVERTISE!

Promote your small business or organization. Recruit participants for a local event! Celebrate an important occasion. There are 10,000 copies of The Alley published monthly. Reasonable rates and we can assist you with ad layout.

CONTACT ADS@ALLEYNEWS.ORG OR CALL 612-990-4022
Phillips What Where

No one even tried a guess at August Phillips What Where! Keep looking. That place will show up again. Meantime tell us what and where this is. Don’t bother telling us it is a tombstone. Do tell us Where it came from.

Minnesota State Senate District 61

Pre-Primary Candidate Forum

Wednesday, September 7th, 7:00 to 8:30 pm
Martin Luther King Park Center
4055 Nicollet Ave South, Minneapolis, MN 55409

• The Special Primary Election on September 13th, 2011 is for those candidates running to fill the MN State Senate seat vacated by Linda Berglin.
• Candidates participating in the forum are: Elsa Batika, Jeff Hayden, Kristian Heuer, Kyle Wilson, Paulette Will, and Sadik Warfa.
• Attendees will be invited to offer written questions.
• Sponsored by The League of Women Voters- a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in all levels of government, especially at the local Minneapolis level.

Taste of Phillips Art Festival

Please save the dates of October 28-29, for our annual Taste of Phillips Art Festival. This year, the major focus will be dedicating the new mural at Andersen elementary. We have been teaching mosaic arts for the past 14 months: to art classes at Andersen, Waite House and Banyan Foundation, and Midtown Phillips low-income senior housing project, as well as at our church and in festivals. You may have seen the mosaic planters at different places in the community (for example on the corner of 28th St and 15th Ave). We will have a gallery of local artists starting on October 28, with a poetry/spoken word reading that night. Phillips artists and poets who are interested should contact me at phillips@ao.com. Then on Saturday, we will dedicate the mural at Andersen, with music, kid’s writings, refreshments at on.

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Every Sunday at 11:15 am.
2742 15th Ave South
Call 612-724-3862 for more info

Phillips’ 200th Birthday Party

Stories, Food symbolic of Boston, Music, and lots of fun!!
SAVE THIS DATE!!
11-11-11
(November 11, 2011)
6:00 PM

(PLACE TO BE DETERMINED)

Nov 29th is the 200th Birthday of Wendell Phillips, for whom Phillips Community is named.

Phillips was one of our nation’s greatest human rights activists and outspoken abolitionists-fighting for the rights of women, workers, Native Americans, and African Americans.

The Alley invites you to celebrate Phillips’ Birthday and The Alley Newspaper’s 36th Year!!

Stories about Ann and Wendell by Phillips’ Biographer and Macalaster College Professor Emeritus, James B. Stewart

If you would like to help with this fun event by providing food or volunteer help, please call Harvey at 612-990-4022 or email editor@alleynews.org
September Programs at the Franklin Library

BY ERIN THOMASSON
Children's Programs
Family Storytime
Wed., Sept. 7-Nov. 30, 10:30–11 a.m. Play PS2 or Wii games at the library! Grab a friend, bring your favorite board or card game, or play ours!

PreK-grade 1. Dhammaan Waxa Lalaahadaa National Library for Child Caring. Join us for stories, songs and activities.1

Join us for Child Caring.
Soo Bandhigidda Barnaamijkan

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

Bring what you have written and are willing to read to the group for helpful comments and suggestions.2

People and Culture of Iran Tuesdays, Sept. 20 & 27, 12:30–2 p.m. History, culture and customs of the Islamic and post-Islamic eras. This presentation offers a realistic insight about Iranis.3

Phillips Technology Center
Computer Skills Workshop
Thursday, Sept. 8, 6:30–8:30 p.m. 2–6 p.m. Registration required. Work on projects and practice skills from using the mouse and keyboarding to using email and Microsoft Office with our software instructors and volunteers.

Computer Class for Complete Beginners
Thursday, Sept. 15, 6–8 p.m. Registration required. Learn the difference between hardware and software, practice using a mouse, find out about the various resources if you have little or no experience using a computer.

Game On! Gaming Thursdays
Thurs., Sept. 1–Nov. 30, 4-5 p.m. Grades 6-9. Learn how to use folders, view and attach files to an email and set up an email address book using a Yahoo! account.

Senior Surf Day
Fri., Sept. 16, 10 a.m. – noon Registration required. Learn to create and integrate graphs and charts into your Excel spreadsheets.

Senior Focus Group Wed., Sept. 21, 10:30 a.m.–12:30p.m. Learn computer basics, how to navigate and search the Internet and how to access programs and applications to seniors. Get hands-on computer experience with help from representatives of the Senior Link/Age Line.

SOS! Save your records!
Thurs., Sept. 22, 6–8 p.m. Registration required. Let your voice be heard. Let's discuss the topic of the week or use our heritage.8

Session 8: Play PS2 or Wii games at the library! Grab a friend, bring your favorite board or card game, or play ours! 2

Teens Program
Come on! Gaming Thursdays
Thurs., Sept. 1–Nov. 30, 4-5 p.m. Grades 6-9. Join us for a stimulating experience using a computer. We provide training and volunteer assistants.

Get the help you need to land a job.
Up to $45.00

EPIC Plans and Upcoming Meetings

EPIC Membership Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 8th, 6:30 at the East Phillips Park Community Center. The Plan will be voted on so we can move ahead with plans for the future.

EPIC NRF Phase II Action Plan
As most of you know, EPIC has been working on the NRF Phase II Plan since last February. A call went out in this newspaper and through meetings and EPIC E-News for task force members at that time. A survey was designed and door-to-door bilingual surveying has been carried out. This time all the Lake Street businesses were surveyed. Surveyors carried photos and brochures of the kind of work EPIC has done. If you haven't had a chance to enter your views on the survey, just put in a request for a copy from cpass@ franklinlearningcenter.com. The board chose to go door-to-door, because so many neighborhoods received minimal responses when surveys were on line. Also they tended to miss the more diverse population. Happily, that did not happen with the EPIC survey. Our surveyors knocked on almost every door. We had over ten language groups represented. We also found new volunteers through EPIC/NRF www.epicmpls.org as surveyors told EPIC the story of their work.

It was rewarding to discover how many business owners and residents knew of EPIC, NRF and the work that was done. It was also rewarding to discover how much thought East Phillips has gotten much better because of this work and who like living here and intend to stay.

Check out the Plan on line. Email your comments. Several things to consider are: City Hall took half of the NRF dollars allocated to our neighborhood. This reduced some ideas to be implementing, because there was no longer sufficient funding. The other NRF dollars must go to housing and amounts need to remain large enough to actually make an impact. This leaves much less for big plans. In addition, this is the last city fund of any size for capital improvements, so when determining amounts, the committee assigned funds according to what really needed doing and what EPIC could not get done in the future when this large funding goes away. In addition, some major concerns can be accomplished through organizing and grants, so large grants were not applied for. These were the limits and considerations when the task force worked on the Plan. Thank you to all those who helped.

EPIC plans have changed since last February. With the draft NRP Phase II Plan complete, EPIC will phase out of the NRP funding. EPIC will continue to do community organizing, to provide training and materials.

Check out the Plan on line. Email your comments. Several things to consider are: City Hall took half of the NRF dollars allocated to our neighborhood. This reduced some ideas to be implementing, because there was no longer sufficient funding. The other NRF dollars must go to housing and amounts need to remain large enough to actually make an impact. This leaves much less for big plans. In addition, this is the last city fund of any size for capital improvements, so when determining amounts, the committee assigned funds according to what really needed doing and what EPIC could not get done in the future when this large funding goes away. In addition, some major concerns can be accomplished through organizing and grants, so large grants were not applied for. These were the limits and considerations when the task force worked on the Plan. Thank you to all those who helped.

Reef Furniture Upholstery
Save grandma’s chair and sofa.

Franklin Learning Center:

Making a plan is one thing; but having the perseverance and the will to follow through is something else. The Franklin Learning Center is currently working on the development of a Draft NRP Phase II Plan. Solutions when the task force worked on the Plan. Thank you to all those who helped.

Announcements when the task force worked on the Plan. Thank you to all those who helped.
Amusement, Medical Innovation, and Transit Allied for Success

The story of the Wonderland babies is as much of a crowd pleaser today as it was when Wonderland Park was in operation between 1905 and 1912. When Wonderland opened its gates in 1905, it was not just a big news story—it was a huge story. It wasn’t just that hav- ing a modern amusement park was important to the city’s image and sense of itself as the gateway to the Northwest, it was the effect that the park had on the city’s infra- structure and economy. In 1905, for the first time, it became possible for Minneapolisites to take a streetcar from Hennepin and Lake to 31st Avenue South without going through downtown. It was no coincidence that 31st and Lake marked the entrance to Wonderland Park. The following year, a newly constructed addition, the Selby- Lake streetcar line, provided easier access to the park for visitors from St. Paul. On busy days, streetcars ran as often as every thirty seconds to handle the crowds. In its first year of operation, over one million Minneapoli- cans came to see the park.

The thing that made it all possible—the rides, the fair, and the 120-foot beacon of light that could be seen for miles—was electri- city. What few people realized at the time was the electricity was also capable of saving lives.

At the far end of the park, stood the Infantorium, essentially a neo- natal intensive care hospital for premature babies. For the price of a ten-cent ticket, visitors could see the hospital’s shiny, new incu- bators. Incubators, at least those used for raising poultry were not unknown, but the idea of using an incubator to raise a human baby came as something of a surprise to many of the fair’s visitors. Many people were confused about how the baby incubators worked, and drawing on their experience of watching eggs turn into chicks in “hatcheries,” thought that the babies were conceived and born in the incubators. The steel-framed boxes with their glass sides became known as “automatic mothers,” although some of the more poeti- cally inclined reporter described them as “glass castles.”

Wonderland was modest com- pared to the world’s fairs and expositions that preceded and fol- lowed it. Although the Tribune called the park “immense,” it was only ten acres; in contrast, the St. Louis World’s Fair held one year earlier covered 1.275 acres. And Minnesotan’s tastes were more restrained—there were no freak shows or exotic dancers, no wild animals or beer gardens, and no dancing on Sundays. But, the park wasn’t (with the exception of the Infantatorium) intended to be educa- tional or uplifting. It was all about having fun.

At the turn of the 20th century, inter-urban parks like New York City’s Coney Island were providing inexpensive entertainment for a growing urban population. Wonderland Amusement Park, on Lake Street and 31st Avenue, was an inter-urban park that spanned almost 20 acres, 4 square blocks, and operated every summer from 1905 to 1911. Visitors to Wonderland arrived via streetcar to see acrobats, tightrope walkers, dramatic re-enact- ments, and to take a spin on the park rides.

One of the most unique features of the Park was the Infantatorium which was successful at treating premature infants, free of charge. For a small fee visitors could see the babies in their incu- bators—a marvel of modern science.
"I don't want you to understand my poetry. I want my poetry to understand you."
– Roy McBride

1st Annual Bridging Festival was a Blast!

Bridging Minneapolis Procession along 24th Street to East Phillips Park from the 24th Street Hiawatha Bike Bridge.

Mahamed Cali of Guri Nabad escorts Bridging Minneapolis participants into a visit of the 24th Street Somali Mall.

Muriel and her cone gang re-enact her peace-making community development and organizing of West Phillips through her family-operated snow cone operation.

Heart of the Beast help Muriel’s kids drive negative forces and apathy out of the community through celebratory dance.

“Poets Poet” in Tribute to Roy McBride

September 16 - Roy McBride Memorial

There will be a memorial service for our good friend, poetic guru and community catalyst Roy McBride 4pm, Friday, September 16th at Friends Meeting House, 44th & York in Minneapolis. Roy is survived by his wife Lucinda Anderson and their daughter Lacinea.

Right On Lake Street

Photo credit: Mike Hazard

By Louis Alemayehu

Roy Chester McBride: Caught

Intoxicated on Lilacs & simply simple complicated life.

You got caught, I got caught, we got caught...
in the web of life

That voice...
The rhyme and repetition, the rhyme and repetition, the rhyme and repetition...

I hear you now, I hear you know, in my brain in my brain, my brain

I see you now marching in another 30 mayday parades

From Phillips to Powderhorn, step by step step by step

I hear you coughing now in the next room, your plodding feet on the floor from another dimension

Master of time and space is still working it Caught in the web of life Too soon gone or here Still?

You still?
No, I hear you hoeing & weeding between the squash and the corn rows,

I hear you still
HEART BEATING still on the web of life

I can feel the pulse, I can feel the trembling on the web of life

Roy you got caught, boy you got caught, you got caught

WE got caught loving you still. on the web.

Our eyes glint with tears rolling down our collective check

“Poor us!”
We are all caught with you here in our heads & hearts loving you still across dimensions laughing and crying on the web of life.

Somehow it’s all right & righteous still Some times what is still is moving
The experience & memory of you is moving us still
To see our selves as community anew Not divided into sides But as people cherishing the being

Of Roy Chester McBride
Long live Roy
In us!!

Louis Alemayehu, reading his poem “Caught” in tribute to Roy McBride accompanied by Steven Hasse on trumpet at a Memorial Poetry Reading August 12th at In the Heart of the Beast Theatre. Scores of poems, testimonials, tributes, and songs by many artists (including Carey Thomas, pictured here) were dedicated to the life and memory of Roy McBride—a poet who exemplified that ‘poets poet’ and was Poet Laureate of Lake Street. Right on!, Lake Street!

“CAUGHT”

Photos by Robert Albee
Harry Potter and The Deadly Hallows: Part 2 & The Robber

Howard McQuitter II
Movie Corner
HowardSmoviencorner.com

stands, the audience (even those of us who haven’t read the books) knows the evil incarnate Voldemort is not amaranthine. Last but not least, the final battle between Harry and Voldemort (what we all have been waiting for from the first Harry Potter movie) is more than a bit anticlimactic and with less fanfare than the attacks on Hogwarts. The two wizards are regarded: Voldemort has some of Harry’s blood. As such, this connection is scary for both men. Harry can hear his enemy’s thoughts indeed frightening (and advantageous too, perhaps). Now that the last Harry Potter movie is a final, well-crafted, smart, and entertaining film, Radcliffe, Watson and Grint can move on to other projects.

“The Robber” 2011

King International
RATING: Unrated
Running time: 87 minutes
Drama/Crime Sports

English subtitles, German
Director: Benjamin Heisenberg

Cast: Andreas Lust (Johann Reutterer), Franziska Weisz (Erika), Florian Wortuba (Markus Kreuzl), Johann Bednar (Kommissar Lukas), Markus Schleiner (Bewachungsbewerter)

Johann Reutterer (Andreas Lust (“Revanche”) is released from prison after serving there for six years for armed robbery. He was a loner in prison, ran religiously in the yard. He’s a man that’s unequipped, hell bent on continuing his “trade” of robbing banks and running marathons.

In between robbing banks and running marathons he meets a somewhat lonely woman, Erika (Franziska Weisz (“Dog Days”, “Hotel”)) who just barely has any influence on him much beyond sex and a room she lets him board in.

August Answers

1. “What’s up, Down?”
2. Internet address
3. School-related
4. Often used in performing eye surgery
5. Unit of land
6. A rude per-
7. Fifth zodiac sign
8. Entangle something
9. Lake in Lima
10. Early morning response, maybe
11. Mixture of cereal grains
12. Mild stimulant containing leaves from South Asia
13. Invented after an encounter with a bear
14. Numerical data, for short
15. Extremely impressive
16. Clumsy persons
17. A heap
18. What grim reapers carry about
19. Divided in half three times
20. Chicken king
21. Killmanjaro, Everest, Rainer, for short
22. Leeds
23. A happening
24. Type of isomer found in meat
25. A coffee _________ (a break-
26. Coffee _________ (a break-
27. Facebook friend request
28. 50. Lake in Bavaria, Germany
29. 48. Secret
30. Are You Thirsty? is a two-
31. Seemingly unsubstantial
32. Sun, in ancient Rome
33. School-
34. Facebook friend request
35. _____ or that
36. Facebook friend request
37. Not the bottom
38. Used for sound reproductions
39. Pliant
40. Proper
41. -Ball (arcade game)
42. Clever or insightful
43. One of the Greek Muses
44. Assigned by 27-across
45. Impede
46. Done for a particular purpose, with ad
47. Dickens’ famous orphan
48. Secret
49. North America’s lacrosse gear
50. Lake in Bavaria, Germany
51. Johann is determined not to
52. Jeff Lynne’s band
53. _____ or that
54. Facebook friend request
55. Impede
56. Drive containing a full pro-
57. _____ mater (school one has
58. Units of electrical resistance
59. Are You Thirsty? and how
60. A happening
61. How students might get to
62. Type of isomer found in meat
63. Actress Thurman
64. 46. Done for a particular purpose, with ad
65. Bundle of fibers that transmits sensation
66. 44. Assigned by 27-across
67. _____ mater (school one has
68. Crafty
69. Without strife
70. Give birth
71. Across: 1. “What’s up, Down?”
72. Give birth

Enroll 6 Mo. HOBa Puppet Youth Troupe

Join in the Heart of the Beast Puppet Theatre’s Puppet Youth Troupe as we embark on a six-month jour-

ney to create an all new, original work of puppetry. We will explore a combination of low and high tech ways to tell our stories with hand puppets, digital cameras, masks, looping pedals, shadow puppets, movie projectors, and more.

Together, the youth involved will compose a story, construct puppets, rehearse, perform the show at HOBa’s Saturday Matinee series, and create a small, local tour of their show.

Ages 8-13
• Thursdays, 4-6pm - September 22, 2011 - March 1, 2012

Enrollment Fee: $250, scholarships available
• Register over the phone at 612-721-2535, in person, or online.
• Payment can be made by cash, check or credit card.

Vote HOTTB by Sept 5th! "Are You Thirsty?" is $15K

Our touring production of Are You Thirsty? has been chosen as a finalist in Minnesota Idea Open Challenge II: Ideas for Addressing Water Issues in Minnesota. Are You Thirsty? is a two-person performance that uses puppet and mask theater to engage the audience in thinking about their relationship with water. As a winner of the competition, we would receive a grant that would allow us to continue to tour this production across the state, and support performances of the show for schools and organizations that may not otherwise be able to afford the costs. Now all we need is your vote!

Watch a video about Are You Thirsty? and how it addresses water issues: www.mnieaopen.org.
**Doo Wop And Cannon Falls**

The luckier members of my generation were again able to watch public television’s annual review of the Doo Wop Pop Rock music emergence (late ‘50s—early ‘60s). As always, it was an awesome emotional head swing. Moreover, let us self-reflect, the splendid performances of so many popular Black artists served to educate and humanize millions of white Americans.

Note: I was born August 26, 1950...

How is it that these tunes are lodged in my brain and subject to recall? Probably it is owing to the daily school bus rides into the town of Cannon Falls. The good bus driver had the radio on all those years.

Yet the town remained white, with just a touch of Dakota blood mixed in. Any outside person of color was sure to incite such inter-ethnic red flags as: Get a grip, be nice but do not touch. It was from elsewhere, moved by the music, that some white folks went South to confront the terror regime there. Apart from everything else, I was whose son is returning from war, president held hands with and was a long hug after which the president. In one instance, there was a long hug after which the president held hands with and looked into the eyes of a woman whose son is returning from war. Apart from everything else, I was deeply moved by this scene and am damn proud of my home town. OK!

Yet it was not all the scent of roses on a sunny day. Even in Cannon Falls there were Tea Party types on the fringes. Let us be clear: The “Take Back Our Country” slogan is a call for the white Americans to come by to celebrate with the store and ask for a Sale com and click on “Events” or stop by the store and ask for a Sale brochure.

**PETER MOLINAAK**

**Raise Your Voice**

I fished countless times in my youth...the site of so many contemplations and momentary excitements. One can’t help being semi-religious regarding such matters. The president has walked upon the path of my life. More importantly, Cannon Falls embraced our nation’s first Black president. In one instance, there was a long hug after which the president held hands with and looked into the eyes of a woman whose son is returning from war. Apart from everything else, I was deeply moved by this scene and am damn proud of my home town. OK!

The Alley Newspaper • September 2011

© Dallas Johnson: 612-819-8881

**Bridging**

From page 1

Mall, the parade up 24th St (with three 12 foot puppets, musicians and our decorated umbrellas), a big crowd and Patrick Nolan’s original poem at the murals unveiling (w/ artists Elissa Cedarleaf and Greta McLain), neighborhood skit honoring Marcel Simmons that ended in a spiral dance, party at Center for Changing Lives with art activities, seed balls, Hoby, Garden Games, live African music, The Alley-hosted storytelling, snow cones and fudgicles, my original song “I love your country, my nation...”...we showed how creative, welcoming, willing and visionary we are when we work together.

Throughout the day, we asked guests to describe their experience. Here’s a sampling: “reawakening, connecting, renewing, an honor, refreshing, magical, activating, a God-send, dream manifestation, sacred, fun, exciting, meaningful, inspiring, motivating, wonderful seeds, audacious, ambitious, the impossible is possible”.

Big thanks to Midtown Phillips, East Phillips and Ventura Village for donations, promotions, to Whittier Alliance for promotion and to volunteers, site hosts and coordinators. Check our website (below) for more info and mark your calendar for our next event, “Bridging Shenanigans”! 6-9:30pm on 9/15. An original play by neighbor kids, live music, Blue Lady’s creating sand mandalas. When we do our Bridging Shenanigans we never know what will happen. We plan a foundation and invite friends to gather on the 24th St pedestrian bridge (over 35W). Then lots of people cross the bridge so we let the shenanigans unfold organically. Here’s a sampling: "reawakening, connecting, renewing, an honor, refreshing, magical, activating, a God-send, dream manifestation, sacred, fun, exciting, meaningful, inspiring, motivating, wonderful seeds, audacious, ambitious, the impossible is possible”.

Big thanks to Midtown Phillips, East Phillips and Ventura Village for donations, promotions, to Whittier Alliance for promotion and to volunteers, site hosts and coordinators. Check our website (below) for more info and mark your calendar for our next event, “Bridging Shenanigans”! 6-9:30pm on 9/15. An original play by neighbor kids, live music, Blue Lady’s creating sand mandalas. When we do our Bridging Shenanigans we never know what will happen. We plan a foundation and invite friends to gather on the 24th St pedestrian bridge (over 35W). Then lots of people cross the bridge so we let the shenanigans unfold organically. Join us!

www.bridgingminneapolis.com

Dallas Johnson: 612-819-8881
“Talking in the Backyard”

Gardening Grows More than Food

BY ARIELE STRACHAN, CULTURAL WELLNESS CENTER

The Backyard Initiative (BVI) now has 13 Citizen Health Action Teams (CHATs) implementing health strategies developed by members who are local residents. The Growing the Backyard CHAT was given support by the BVI Community Commission on Health for their Family Garden Project in April of this year and have been working with families on gardening since late May. The Family Garden Project has connected with eight families in the Phillips, Powderhorn, Central, and Corcoran neighborhoods (the Backyard area) and has helped each of them to install a 4x4 foot raised bed garden. The Family Garden Project works with whole families — parents, children of all ages, grandparents and other members of the family — to make gardening a natural part of everyone’s day where different gardening activities are less chores and more activities to bring the family and the community closer together.

I spoke with Hashep Seka, one of the Food Systems Navigators who helps support and answer gardening questions for all the families. She said that one of the easiest and greatest connection-building activities of the Family Garden Project’s work is just getting people outside. In just being outside people get to see their neighbors more, get to have more of a presence on their block and open the door to neighbors coming over, asking questions about the garden and getting to know each other. Already from the natural visibility of the project, interest has grown to where there are eight more people on the waiting list to join the Family Garden Project in next year’s growing season.

Hashep also told me about the importance of the Growing the Backyard CHAT placed on working with families who have children in the home to make the Family Garden Project an activity that brought together the generations. She told me about how there are families that work with the children but there are not many which truly engage their parents as well. The Family Garden Project creates a space for the whole family, parents and children, to work together, learn together, build together, and just be together in working on their garden.

The work of the Family Garden Project came from an observation of the disconnect of people of the Backyard from healthy foods. The Growing the Backyard CHAT aims to build residents’ access to healthy foods in a sustainable way and begins with growing this in residents’ own backyards. In working with the Family Garden Project residents have had support from the Food Systems Navigators in walking through all the steps of gardening from planning the seeds and seedlings, to identifying plants as their leaves start to show, to advice on how to have plants grow healthy and strong and how and when to harvest plants.

As we move into the fall, the Food Systems Navigators will be holding classes on food preservation for continued use of this self-created resource through the winter. There is also a trip to an orchard being planned which will allow the families to see other forms of growing, an opportunity that we do not often have in the city. Hashep told me, “I think the coolest thing is that everyone had a chance to add to the garden growing, from the parents to the youngest kids who got to help with the watering. It’s great that people who have never had gardens now do and are maintaining them well.”

In the next year the Family Garden Project is looking to having Garden Partners, a system where people in the same area will act as support for each other in their gardening. Hashep says “I feel the easiest way to garden is when you’re with someone. This helps you have the drive, the motivation, the reason to garden and carry through. When they show up and are there for you, that gives you the extra reason and holds you accountable to get outside and just do it.”

The Alley Roving Reporter at the August 13 Bridging Event:

“History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.” — Maya Angelou

Sandy Spieler

“I loved the process of walking across the neighborhood and stopping at key spots and finding out more about a part of the community or a building from the people who were there. I was in a couple of places I had yet to step inside of and talked with people that I had not met before. I enjoyed hearing from Muriel Simmons and her beautiful idea for the community.”

Anonymous (a long-time Phillips resident)

“I started out at the first event this morning not expecting to stay but ended up staying for the entire day. I went to all of the events and stops along the way. I did something I have never done before which is write on an umbrella. I don’t usually like doing things like that because it makes me uncomfortable. But, it helped me to lose a bit of my adult inhibitions. It had a spiritual quality and it is how it should be in a neighborhood all the time…a little food, a little music, just being able to happen either spontaneously or as planned with something always going on.”

Lee Cunningham

“I really enjoyed the Sub-Saharan music. The audience engagement piece about soil that occurred near the bridge was very inspiring. My minor was soil science when I was an undergraduate at the U of M. I was reminded that there are microbes in a handful of earth than there are people on the globe! The bridge is a two-way bridge and we need more two-way bridges in our community.”

Brittany Freeman and Sharon Beckford (Above)

[Friends who live on opposite sides of the bridge]

“It was our first time on that bridge! Our wish is that the murals don’t wear out in the winter! It was amazing to hear from the person who in 1973 tried to start an event about this bridge. It just shows that sometimes it takes a little while to get something started but once it starts…!”

Julie

“I was here today to be with my 16-year-old nephew who composed and delivered the poem spoken at the bridge today. I had introduced him to Dallas a few weeks ago and he just got right into it. I also got a chance to unveil one of the murals. I live in St. Paul but it is still very healing to see unity and beauty in a city. Art helps people to stop and consider the world around themselves.”

Bridging Roving Reporter will continue next month.