Residents storm city hall to protest
Phillips community not given a voice at meetings on public works expansion

BY CAROL PASS, EPIC BOARD PRESIDENT
Neighborhood residents continue to oppose the city’s plans to expand its public works facility into the Roof Depot/Sears site in Phillips neighborhood (1860 E. 28th St.) that would further increase pollution and illness in the area.

Instead, they support a plan fashioned by local residents themselves that brings jobs, affordable housing, an indoor aquaponics urban farm, solar energy, and a bike repair shop to the location along the Midtown Greenway.

Under pressure, probably from Public Works staff, to make something happen, the city scheduled meetings with the Ways & Means Committee, Transportation & Public Works Committee (T&PW), the Committee of the Whole, and the Full City Council and then rescheduled some, making notification of Urban Farm supporters difficult at best.

Nevertheless, Urban Farm supporters filled the council chambers and overflowed in the hall at the T&PW Committee meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 4, as a Native American Drum group performed a prayer and request for understanding in the pre-meeting chamber. Citizens were not allowed to speak, but carried signs to express their support of the Urban Farm concept.

Chair Abdi Warsame (Ward 6) of the T&PW Committee said that the council had what he called HAC, which will provide “feedback” on what will be allowed in the Roof Depot site such as Voter Services, but apparently not the Urban Farm.

Cano did include a statement prohibiting the demolition of the building without “input” from HAC.

The bill also provides an extra $950,000 for RSP, the public works architect, for “additional architectural and engineering design services” bringing their total fees to $2,700,000 to date. The Urban Farm architect was not granted extra fees.

The HAC will take us back a year and a half to the beginning of the GAC.

Protest Continued on page 8

Navigation Center built
Franklin/Hiawatha Encampment respite ready

BY CAMILLE GAGE AND MARGARET KING, COURTESY OF METROPOLITAN URBAN INDIAN DIRECTORS
If you’ve been following the situation at the Franklin Hiawatha homeless encampment, you’ve probably heard of the new “Navigation Center” being created by the city of Minneapolis and a large coalition of many sub-groups, including Indian organizations, the city of Minneapolis, and the Mayor. Organizing meetings against the plan have been organized by T&PW, the city’s Transportation & Public Works Committee (T&PW)

In 1939, an incinerator was built near the area’s City Council Alderman, and the Mayor. Organizing meetings against the plan have been organized by T&PW, the city’s Transportation & Public Works Committee (T&PW) and, perhaps, more is yet to come.

BY HARVEY WINE
The Mpls. City Council’s recent denial of any use of the Roof Depot site by East Phillips Neighborhood Institute is a continuation of the institutionalized environmental racism that has plagued local residents for decades. The continuing prejudicial treatment ensures that the same devastation to the neighborhood will keep happening in years ahead.

In 1939, an incinerator was built adjacent to Pioneer and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery in spite of broad disagreement and protest by the South Minneapolis Association (a large coalition of many sub-groups), the area’s Council Aldermen, and the Mayor. Organizing meetings against the plan have been organized by T&PW, the city’s Transportation & Public Works Committee (T&PW) and, perhaps, more is yet to come.

Residents disregarded by city for decades and, perhaps, more is yet to come

Environmental racism, degradation not new to Phillips

As part of a protest by Phillips residents who have been ignored by city staff and council members, a Native American Drum group performed a prayer and request for understanding to the Transportation and Public Works Committee meeting on Dec. 4, 2018. Throughout this process, the city has ignored its own principals and civic engagement, and sought to railroad its own plans for the neighborhood.

The navigation center concept is being used in a variety of cities across the country who are experiencing large numbers of homeless residents. It is often considered an emergency or transitional solution - to house people as they wait for more traditional shelter, GRH or Section 8 housing, or other affordable housing options.

Center Continued on page 10

Workers put the finishing touches on the Navigation Center in mid-December 2018 so that those experiencing homelessness will have safe and secure, low-barrier housing at 2109 S. Cedar Ave.
Transit
December 2018 service changes and a comparison between Minneapolis and Milwaukee transit

By JOHN CHARLES WILSON

The last “pick” of the year is upon us. A “pick” is when Metro Transit changes bus schedules; drivers are assigned new routes. This service change goes into effect the 1st of December 2018 and includes the following adjustments that will affect the Phillips Community:

• Route 5 will have trips reinstated that were eliminated during the driver shortage.
• Route 21 will run slightly less often.
• Route 53 will have one trip in each direction reinstated.
• Route 67 will have one weekly morning trip reinstated; however, there will be significant cuts in both the morning and evening seven days a week.

In addition, please be reminded that special schedules are in effect on Black Friday, Christmas Eve, and New Year’s Eve. Black Friday and Christmas Eve are usually a Saturday schedule plus a few rush-hour trips on commuter routes. New Year’s Eve is usually almost a regular weekday schedule minus a few rush-hour trips. Non-rush-hour fares are charged all day on Black Friday and Christmas Eve.

In other news, I recently had the opportunity to visit Milwaukee for two days. While I didn’t have time to ride the buses there, I did pay attention to their system as best I could. One glaring difference between their transit system and ours is theirs is run by Milwaukee County, whereas we have the Metropolitan Council, which includes seven counties. Unfortunately, metropolitan Minneapolis extends beyond the county line to the north and to the west. While the Milwaukee County Transit System does buses to Waukesha and Ozaukee Counties, except for the route to Brookfield Mall, it is mostly commuter service. For example, I went to Costco in New Berlin. Near the Costco was a bus stop sign for MCTS Route 6. Unfortunately, that bus is aimed mainly at industrial workers and only runs at shift change times. This is in a busy area comparable to Eagan.

The contrast served as a good reminder how lucky we are in the Twin Cities to have a transit system we do.
That was an interesting workday

Albert Mr. Nelson, caretaker at Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery from 1927 until his death in 1953, had a keen awareness of the role than many in the cemetery played in the state and city's history. It seems unlikely that he had any idea about his own role in that story. He had intended to write a book about the cemetery, but it appears that he ran out of time. Nonetheless, he left us an amazing amount of information that Mike Barth, current caretaker, found in one of the cemetery’s ancient file cabinets.

The file contains Mr. Nelson’s monthly reports to his supervisor between January 1939 and March 1944. There are 95 pages, carbon copies, most no more than one or two pages long. In addition to reporting on routine maintenance tasks—mowing, raking, shoveling, etc.—he provided important information about周一 monuments, tree plantings, memorial and dedication programs, burials and removals. He answered a question that we have often wondered about—who built the addition to the caretaker’s cottage and when?

The original building, built in 1871, consisted of two rooms. Nelson first mentioned the addition, a “tool house,” in June 1939. The men who worked on it were employees of the Work Projects Administration, a program created by the Roosevelt administration to combat unemployment during the Depression. Work progressed slowly, interrupted by funding shortfalls and a nation-wide labor strike in 1939 when hundreds of thousands of workers walked off their jobs to protest a cut in wages. Masons, stonemasons, and carpenters stayed off the job until October. When they returned carpenters cut an opening that connected what is now the middle room and the back room. The addition was completed in July 1940.

There were 19 burials between 1938 and early 1944; most were widows in their 70s or 80s. One of the most interesting pieces of information that Mr. Nelson provided was about the family of Katherine Smith. Mrs. Smith was the mother of Lafayette Mason, a South High football star, a professional pianist, and one of the city’s earliest African-American firefighters who in 1910 died at the age of 29 and was buried in the cemetery’s only road posed a problem for at least one driver whose car “pinched its wheels on the outside curb.” The driver stepped on the gas, jumped the curb on the other side of the loop and crashed into a tree. The result according to Mr. Nelson was “a bent bumper, broken headlight and small dent in the fender. A little bark was loosened from the tree.”

Cars weren’t the only potential hazard to the cemetery. In October 1941, a horse got into the cemetery where a section of fence had been removed. Nelson and the horse had to stay in the cemetery until the horse’s owner was found. The following month, a different horse got into the cemetery but, according to Nelson, it “was a very old horse and no damage was done.”

Mr. Nelson frequently reported that friends and family members of those buried in the cemetery came to visit. In September 1938, James Needles traveled from Honolulu, Hawaii, to visit the unmarked grave of his father, Joseph Nettles, a Civil War veteran who had died in 1890. Four years later Joseph Needles had a military marker placed on his grave.

Not all visitors came to visit graves. In April 1938, Nelson “…played nurse to a lost baby boy…for two hours until the mother and police came for him.” Nelson wrote his funniest comment in July 1941: “I had to request a young woman who mistook the cemetery for a nudist camp to leave the grounds. She was sober and good looking but had a very bad temper.”

Some of his workdays were just more interesting than others.
January Community Meeting
Tuesday, January 8
6:30-8pm, Stewart Park, 2700 12th Ave South
• Annual Meeting report
• Fowell Neighborhood Community Connectors Program
• 2019 Outreach Partnership Discussion/review MOUs

January Community Meeting
Tuesday, January 22
6:30-8pm, Banyan Community, 2529 13th Ave South
• Announce 2019 Outreach Partnerships, with presentations by Each

Save the Date!
Community Dinner & Annual Meeting
Thursday, February 28
5:30-8pm, Midtown Global Market, 920 E. Lake Street
FREE DINNER, ENTERTAINMENT, RESOURCE BOOTHs AND MORE!

For Your Calendar: * Have a Great Holiday!
The EPIC Board of Directors meet on the FIRST Saturday of the month – Next Meetings;
Saturday, 1/5/2019 and 2/2/2019 at 10:00 AM at the EPIC Storage - 2344 Bloomington Ave. S

The EPIC General Membership meets on the SECOND Thursday – Next Meetings;
Thursday, 12/14/18 and 1/10/2019 at 6:30 PM
Agenda includes Neighborhood Industrial Pollution, Crime Initiatives, and EPIC project updates.

Meeting Location: Most EPIC meetings and events (unless noted) are held at the
East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center located at 2307 17th Ave. S. The Center is wheelchair accessible and all are welcome.

The East Phillips Community 17th Ave. Gardeners meet on the second Saturday of Each Month
during the gardening season, normally from March through September. Next meetings are Next Year Saturday, 3/9/2019 & 4/13/2019 at 9:00 AM in the Community Center at 2307 17th Ave. S. Weather permitting, subsequent meetings will be held in the Garden.

* East Phillips Residents wanting a 2019 Garden Plot, contact Brad Pass at 612-916-8478
* To get involved in EPIC & help move the East Phillips Neighborhood in a positive direction, join us at any EPIC General Membership meeting (see dates above). All are welcome.

Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Loan Programs
The Midtown Phillips Neighborhood has partnered with the Center for Energy and Environment Lending Center to help Midtown Phillips residents finance home improvement projects.

HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN:
• 0% APR
• $7,500 maximum loan amount
• No maximum income limit
• Terms up to 7 years
• Eligible improvements are most exterior, major mechanical and energy improvements

3 EASY WAYS TO APPLY
1) Apply online at mnlendingcenter.org
2) Email loaninfo@mncee.org for a copy of the application
3) Call 612-335-5884 to have an application mailed to you

For more information or to apply:
visit www.mnlendingcenter.org or call 612.335.5884
Construction of improvements at Peavey Park continues to move forward, with the playground installation nearly 95% complete. Sod for the athletic field was installed in October, and concrete work throughout the site is complete, including the new sidewalk along Franklin Avenue. The new picnic pavilion will be installed over the winter and will be ready for this upcoming summer. Construction fencing will remain up at the park over the winter so that grass seed and sod have time to establish and develop healthy root systems. Additionally, because the playground will not be 100% complete until next spring, MPRB is not able to remove the fencing around the playground. Once the fence around the playground and soon-to-be-built pavilion is removed in the spring, fencing will be kept up around the athletic field until the sod has fully established around midsummer. There are plans for a Grand Opening next year when the full park re-opens, summer of 2019.

A four level 43-unit apartment building at the corner of Franklin Avenue and Park Avenue that offers a solution for livable wage earners.

“This past year our committee added to our tool library, supported the Mashkiiki Gitagan 24th St. farm and Waite House in their gardening and education efforts, started working with our neighborhood high-rise apartments, and our bees were everywhere pollinating your plants. In 2019 we plan to continue and expand these efforts. Contact us with your ideas and concerns. Our committee meets the last Tuesday of the month at 7 PM at our office and we’re available at all membership meetings.”

In accordance with the Ventura Village Bylaws, the Annual Membership Meeting will be held on December 12, 2018. Election of Board Members to fill vacant positions will be held at that meeting. Please submit nominations for Board Members in writing to Ventura Village, 2323 11th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404. All nominations must be received by November 29, 2018. For people who live in Ventura Village: You qualify for membership if your primary residence is located within Ventura Village. The structure in which you live must be certified by the City of Minneapolis for occupancy as a residential structure. If you qualify and want to become a member, please call 612-874-9070 and leave a message stating your full name (including spelling) and your address. This information must be received before midnight of the day before any voting which you plan to attend and exercise your voting rights. The identification card must be the original card and must be valid and not expired.

An identification document that does not contain all of the following is not acceptable: a photo of the applicant, the applicant’s name, the applicant’s date of birth, and the applicant’s current address within Ventura Village with the following exception: For identification cards listed 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, and 3g, the card need not list the current address. However, in this case, in addition to the card, the applicant must present a current original utility bill that lists the applicant’s name and address within Ventura Village. The name on the utility bill must match the name on the identification card.

For real property owners who do not live in Ventura Village: Please call for more specific requirements for applying for membership.
“I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality ...”
Unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Residents storm city hall to protest

**History and local solution:**

In 2014 East Phillips residents looked again at solving our serious air pollution problems. More scientific evidence had become available relating the dire consequences of air pollution to our children. We were making a major effort to remove the two biggest sources of this pollution: an asphalt plant and the foundry, from the neighborhood when we heard that the owners of the Roof Depot indicated a desire to sell.

East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC), along with neighbors and other organizations, sought to gain control of the 7 ¼-acre site to prevent its sale to another polluting industry.

Residents and local organizations had already been pursuing the goal of green jobs and an economic future for people here with limited education. We had been lobbying the state Department of Employment and Economic Development for months for funding to try to produce a “job creator” for our low-income residents.

Suddenly all the things that we were most concerned about seemed to come together.

The community saw that the Roof Depot site could provide a pollution-free source for jobs and we would also continue to work to remove the asphalt plant and foundry.

Many community meetings were held as the residents and members of local organizations came together, hired a professional consultant, and developed a plan to re-use the building and the whole 7 ¼-acre site for a community-driven sustainable, low-impact industry to provide an economic future for people in Phillips, something dramatically needed and never attempted before.

**2015 Community Plan:**

The plan that emerged from countless meetings through 2015 and 16, the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm project, gained traction with strong support from the Native American, Somali and Hispanic communities and other neighbors and interested neighbors.

The community sought and found investors, presented and received unanimous endorsement of the plan from the 150 residents at the 2015 East Phillips Annual Meeting.

At this time, EPIC contacted and began negotiating with the owners of the Roof Depot site for purchase. Also, during this time, we learned of the city’s interest in this property. And we also learned that this interest and their plans went back decades without ever happening and including us.

In 2016, our years of lobbying with the Roof Depot owners and with the help of legislation sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark and senators Jeff Hayden and Patricia Torres Ray, EPIC received a Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) grant to plan and help develop the East Phillips Neighborhood Indoor Urban Farm project.

As indicated in the plan, EPIC and others formed a unique nonprofit corporation with the name East Phillips Neighborhood Institute Inc. (EPNI) to be responsible for the creation of the indoor Urban Farm. The plan initially involved reusing and reusing the entire building, adding at least 28 units of affordable family housing and creating the largest solar array in the state to power it.

**City’s response:**

**Collison Course:**

In 2015, the city threatened the use of eminent domain and the Roof Depot owners quoted talking to us.

The City Council voted 9-4 to allow public works to purchase the rooftop and 3 ½ acres to convert the site to more industry – the City Water and Sewer Maintenance facility.

City Council members Cam Gordon, Jacob Frey and Andrew Johnson joined Council Member Alondra Cano in voting for the proposal.

As a condition of the council vote, Public Works appointed the GAC committee to determine community use should there be any unneeded space at the site.

As the meetings proceeded, we struggled to get the community voice heard while the city’s space needs at the site ballooned well beyond water yard needs, even before the city promised, assuring that there would be no excess space for the community.

In 2016, EPIC met with GAC at a meeting. Staff Chair Fridde erupted angrily and threateningly to prohibit State Rep. Karen Clark from explaining how the Cumulative Pollution Legislation she wrote would affect this project. His angry fist-waving-rush across the room standard practice in dealing with the City Council, a city official said, privately after the meeting, that testimony during the council meetings denied to the community, a city official said, privately after the meeting, that testimony during the council meetings denied to who knew how many acres. This, still no response from the decision makers.

Negotiation required a two-sided relationship. Where is the city?

EPIC hosted two huge community meetings at East Phillips Park in November 2017 and September 2018 with approximately 250 community members at each.

Votes were taken at both as to whether the city’s Water Works plan or the community’s Indoor Urban Farm Project.

No one at either meeting voted in favor of any of the city plans.

They nearly unanimously favored the 3-acre community plan (after a vote at the 2017 meeting went for increasing the size of the community plan to include the entire 7 ¼ acres). It must be noted that a presentation of the community plan was not included on the city’s agenda or permitted. The 2018 meeting was not permitted at the subsequent city council meetings listed below. So much for community engagement!

**Protest Continued on page 9**

**Environmental racism by city**

From page 1

In the early decades of Minneapolis, it was convenient for worker housing to be near the factory. As the impact of industrial pollution became apparent, this closeness of industry and residential living became harmful and harmful to thousands of people.

The pattern was set as government from the top down. It was convenient that incinerator. With the incinerator’s existence, it was more convenient and was the path of least resistance in an era where we were not to have the same clout as wealthier residents in other parts of the city.

*More environmental degradations unmentioned.*

The pollution increased but the houses remained for a time. Additional land was cleared nearby when the original South Fair plan to build to build housing (now Little Earth of United Tribes). Then, three decades ago, the owners of the plant were purchased and demolished to clear land for a large garbage transfer station by Hennepin County for 750 city garbage trucks to load each day.

Neighbors fought that intrusion for over a decade and finally succeeded in getting it stopped. In fact, this garbage transfer station wasn’t needed anywhere in the Minneapolis.

The county had been using outdated recycling statistics to justify the need for the facility. The city disagreed but lost the battle. There were other victories such as the defeat of the Minneapolis incinerator (Cogenerating Plant) proposal in 2007 and the campaign to force Xcel Energy to bury high voltage power lines in 2009. So, the Midwest Greenway in Phillips rather than having them overheard.

**Further colonization and city**

Today, the city is still after more land and the environmental degradations continue. The city again runs rampant against local opposition in their intent to demolish the Sears Roof Depot (called Roof) to expand the city’s adjacent public works facility (including asphalt plant) to power it.

At a recent meeting in the neighborhood, a city official, privately after the meeting, that testimony during the meeting declaring that other neighborhoods didn’t want such a facility wasn’t true. He said that there were other areas that had power lines in 2009. He then added that no other site had the advantage of having a current facility such as Public Works like that between the Sears Roof Depot site and 26th St. This declaration was a forewarning in disguise that this whole area is doomed.

With this mindset, the city will cross on the Midtown Greenway in Phillips rather than giving it over to develop it. The Midtown Greenway in Phillips rather than having them overheard.

It is a “domino effect” – as one house is demolished, then another will be demolished. As one block is demolished, then another will be demolished. As one block is demolished, then another will be demolished.

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With this mindset, the city will cross...
Bangoura returns as Minneapolis Parks Superintendent
As former team lead in Phillips, he knows area well

Alfred Bangoura, currently of Charlotte, N.C. and formerly in Minneapolis, has been named as the new Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Superintendent. He replaces interim Superintendent Mary Merrill. Bangoura formerly served as the Deputy Recreation Superintendent at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. From 2001-2015, Bangoura held a variety of progressively responsible leadership positions with the MPRB, which included supervision over East Phillips, Phillips, Stewart, Elliot and Peavy Recreation Centers.

Commissioners hope to have Bangoura aboard as soon as possible.

“We’re excited to welcome Mr. Bangoura back to Minneapolis,” said Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board President Brad Bourn. “All believe our parks are for everyone and he’s ready to advance this board’s mandate of increasing our investment in youth and building an even better park system for our guests and everyone who calls Minneapolis their home.”

Bourn added, “His knowledge of Minneapolis and our parks coupled with his unique professional skills will provide cohesiveness and inspire collaboration.”

Bangoura is currently the Recreation Superintendent of Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, which includes Charlotte, N.C. and serves over 1.1 million people. Bangoura oversees community and recreation services for the county’s 17 recreation facilities and three senior and active adult facilities. Bangoura is currently leading the construction and program development of the county’s first 100,000-square-foot recreation facility.

He is a Certified Park and Recreational Professional (CPRPI) and has a B.A. in Broadcast Journalism.

President Bourn and other commissioners praised Superintendent Emeritus Mary Merrill for her service and many accomplishments during this critical time of transition. Under Merrill’s leadership, a new community-led Juneteenth celebration was held, ordinances on parking and littering were repealed, agreements with Graco were settled, and her 2019 recommended budget was supported by the Mayor and the Board of Estimate and Taxation and included a down payment for investing in Minneapolis youth.

Under her watch, several significant projects were completed, including the Phillips Community Center, Wirth Trailhead, and improvements to Peavy Park and Central Gym.

The Cepro site may become neighborhood park

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) may acquire the Cepro site along the Midtown Greenway to add a path from 10th Ave. S. to a stage with seating and onsite utilities.

The site currently belongs to Hennepin County.

The MPRB, Hennepin County and community members collaborated on a concept plan for the property in 2016-17.

If the Cepro site is transferred to the MPRB, the site would become a neighborhood park and MPRB would assume responsibility for operations, maintenance and public safety. The park would also be eligible for funding through the 20-Year Neighborhood Stewardship Program.

About the Cepro site

The Cepro site is a 1.65-acre green space along the Midtown Greenway between 10th and 11th Avenues S in the Midtown Phillips neighborhood.

It contains bike and pedestrian paths that serve as a connector to the Midtown Exchange building, Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Anderson Schools, Powderhorn Park and the Midtown Phillips Community. Hennepin County acquired the former grain elevator site in 2000 to support Midtown Greenway Phase 2. The elevators were demolished in early 2004, greenway connections constructed in 2007 and a variety of placemaking and landscaping projects have been completed since 2011.

To learn more, visit www.minneapolisparks.org/planning.

Karen Clark honored

As she retires after 38 years of service as the District 62A Representative, Karen Clark was honored by various community members, including Indigenous Peoples Task Force Executive Director Sharon Day (above) and several members of the Somali community (below) on Dec. 6, 2018.

She was the first openly gay representative in America and worked on social justice issues. Clark quoted Dr. Dorothy Cotton, former Associate to MLK, Jr., “I’m here to tell you God gave my torch to me and I am still using it! I’ll be glad to light your torch so that together we may light the way and fight the fight!” She added, “I’m not going away.”

Protest

The current situation

After the demise of GAC, a direct contradiction of their own principles of Community Engagement, the city has never allowed the community to present or speak at any of these meetings or decision-making sessions. The number one principal of community engagement states:

“Right to be involved – Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.”

(Passed by MPLS City Council in 2007 – updated in 2014)

There has been absolutely no effort by the city to understand, honor or even hear of the hard work of the community or obviate by the principals of the Blueprint of Equitable Engagement endorsed by the city of Minneapolis.

The East Phillips Community has a reputation for not taking “NO” as an answer.

2201 East Franklin
4383 Bloomington

612-332-4393
612-729-3526

WELNA HARDWARE ACE

• KEYS MADE
• LOCKS RE-KEYED
• 5 GALLON PAINT
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Thank you

43 Years of advertising!

Xmas Eve

Christmas Eve
at Marie Sandvik Center
Monday, December 24, 2017
Everyone is welcome!

Inspirational Gospel services!
Families with children - 2:00pm-3:00pm
Families without children - 4:00pm-5:00pm
(“Doors open 1/2 hour before each service”)
Each person who attends will hear the Gospel story, and receive cookies, coffee or cocoa, a shoeblock filled with gifts, and a quilt (while supplies last).

We’re closed on December 25 and January 1.
What does ‘low barrier’ mean? It means that many of the barriers people face going to traditional shelters are eliminated or minimized.

People can come with their pets, partners and (adult) family members, and can opt to sleep near one another. There will be ample storage for personal belongings. There will be a strong harm reduction orientation.

The center will be open 24/7 and will not have a curfew. People do not have to be sober. People who use drugs or alcohol will be welcome and will have access to different kinds of practical supports designed to help them stabilize and reduce the harms associated with substance use. Medication assisted treatment will be available on-site.

Violence and highly disruptive behavior will not be tolerated, but other than that there are as few rules as possible.

Families with minor children will not be housed at the Navigation Center, but other options are available for those with children.

What are the sleeping areas like? The center will have three large heated tents that each have approximately 40 beds. Each bed will have a locking storage locker that fits approximately 40 beds. Each bed will have a mixture of sleeping cots and gatherable spaces with tables and chairs.

The guests staying in the center will have some freedom to design the placement of beds to create a livable and personalized space.

What services will be there? The center will be open 24/7 and have spaces for gathering in large and small groups, meals, showers, and close access to services. Livio, a mobile health care services provider, will be on-site providing health care. Native American Community Clinic will be on-site with a suboxone clinic, Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors group and other agencies will have staff on-site on a regular basis and Native healing practitioners will be available.

Various other housing and service agencies will also be on-site regularly to serve the center’s guests. The intention is to provide intensive support to people so they can stabilize, set self-determined goals for the future, and gain access to the warmkind of long term housing that best serves their needs.

What will happen to the current encampment when the Navigation Center opens? Out of concern for the well being of the residents of the encampment city and state officials have allowed the current camp to remain in place and have provided various supports to minimize public health and safety risks while the Navigation Center is being built.

However the intention to close the current encampment once the center opens has always been clear.

How and when the closure will happen is still under consideration, but at some point the current encampment will close.

How does a camp resident learn more about the Navigation Center and sign up for a bed there? There will be an information table for the Navigation Center at the warming tent across Franklin Ave. from the encampment. The Navigation Box will be able to shelter 120 individuals and current camp residents are encouraged to visit the ISA tent and learn more.

The center is located on land temporarily provided for this purpose by the Red Lake Band of Chippewa on site that previously was Ambles Hardware and Machinery. It is across from Cedar Box Company and adjacent to the Franklin Light Rail Station and Takoda Institute – American Indian Opportunities Industrialization Center at 2109 Cedar Ave. S.
News in Yemen vastly underreported

By HOWARD MCMICHTER II

Recently, the New York Times in its Sunday Review section reported the Saudi war in Yemen in the last three years has caused 85,000 children to die from the bombardment or from starvation.

What’s more, the article goes further by saying American tax dollars are helping not only to fund the war, but is helping to starve tens of thousands of men, women and children and displaced thousands of others.

The United Nations is saying the famine in Yemen is likely to be the worst famine in a generation.

There is plenty of blood on the hands of the United States which both the Obama and Trump administrations support the Saadid war in Yemen. One wouldn’t know how severe the famine is if the white Fourth Estate, social media, ignores most of the coverage in Yemen. One has to rely on Amy Goodman’s Democracy Now or Ron Edmond’s “Black Focus,” or the likes of independent news outlets who get much more honest news not only abroad but local and national news. It is shameful how America continues involve itself in some else’s business leaving count-less casualties. Make no mistake about it: all of this will backfire.

Feel free to draw your own conclusions. To which I will add:

Even as this mind-numbing propaganda renders true democracy impossible, and even as rising oceans will soon enough inundate our coastal cities, and even as the Republican Party’s trillion dollar tax scam giveaway to the billion-naire class will ultimately trash our Social Security, and even as Trump’s energy department defers to the vaccinations of private capital in opposition to a program of federal investments which might actually extend our existence into the past fossil fuel world to come… we should do what???

Some yet wave a glimmering light…

The blue wave, no not perfect in every facet of its being, but no, not the little-boy men who smooth- er you while grouping, and no, not the humorists casting smiles about from row seats at lynchings, but yes, the anti-fascist blue wave has begun to swell and gain momentum. These are the decent folk, who in the event of capitalism’s collapse will either 1.) sit it out, or 2.) actually participate on our side, or 3.) sit in the trans- formation of socialism after the dust has settled. Such is the nature of the Popular Front.

(Note to the peace movement: Congresswoman Betty McCollum now has oversight of military appropriations… request an itemization of expenditures for each base. (Note to the peace movement: Congresswoman Betty McCollum now has oversight of military appropriations… request an itemization of expenditures for each military base.)
“Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

A heartfelt thanks to the 42,000 residents of Ventura Village, Midtown Phillips, Phillips West, East Phillips, Central, Powderhorn Park, and Corcoran Neighborhoods for the energy, commitment, engagement, innovation, wisdom, knowledge, and health-focused investment within the Backyard Initiative – essential to achieve the health outcomes and build the Backyard community.

A heartfelt thanks to the Community Health Action Teams Leaders and countless Members, who are also residents of the Backyard area – who organized and led the many activities that engaged residents and participants in the effort to improve their own health.

A heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for being an integral part of such a powerful partnership between you, the residents, of South Minneapolis, the Cultural Wellness Center, and Allina Health to support the community’s capacity to take care of its own health. Working together, for the good of the residents the Backyard Initiative improved social support, social connectedness, health education, and health empowerment.

Our work together is continuing – building upon the successful activities and the learning of the last 10 years. Come and be a part of this endeavor!

The Backyard Community Health Hub aims to leverage connectedness and cultural practices to ultimately better serve communities, build local capacity, and reflect community culture and values in the pursuit of wellness.

Join us for the exciting festivities for the launch of the Backyard Community Health Hub on Saturday, January 26! (see below for details)

In gratitude,
Elder Atum Azzahir, Cultural Wellness Center

Come to the launching of the

BACKYARD COMMUNITY HEALTH HUB

Saturday, January 26, 2019
11 AM - 2 PM

Midtown Global Market
920 East Lake Street
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Food Wellness Cultural Everyone
Tasting Booths Displays Welcome

FREE Event

Contact Us:
BackyardHealthHub@culturalwellnesscenter.org
612-353-6211 www.culturalwellnesscenter.org