Residents fighting for future entrepreneurs

Indoor urban farm supporters question why city is ignoring engaged community members who don’t want public works at Roof Depot

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

You don’t get a second chance after a building is torn down, and that’s why the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute (EPNI) says it is working so hard to save the 230,000-square-foot Roof Depot structure from the wrecking ball.

Architect Dean Dovolis doesn’t want to look back and say, “It could have been a community development.”

Instead, he firmly believes, “This is the right place to provide a future for the community.”

Dovolis designed the first rendition of the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm (EPIUF) in 2014 that would have used all 7.5 acres at the Roof Depot site (1860 E 28th St.).

RESIDENTS Continued on page 3

EVERYBODY INTO THE POOLS

Youth enjoy learning how to swim during lessons at the Phillips Aquatic Center, which is celebrating its one-year anniversary.

Submitted by MPRB STAFF

“The swim teams finally have a home,” says Chillo. “The pool is the main reason our families choose Minneapolis Public Schools.”

Minneapolis Parks and Recreation

Looking back at first year of Phillips Aquatic Center

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By Troy started drinking in mid-2012. He explained, “By the time I was in eighth grade I had used every prescription pill I could get my hands on. I was addicted to painkillers and took pain medication every day of eighth-grade.

Anthony was one of three presenters who shared their stories with students at Augsburg Fairview Academy on March 13, 2019 as part of Know the Truth™, the substance-use prevention program of Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge.

“Some of them are at the weekly free lifeguard clinic, working their way toward becoming a certified lifeguard, and some are enjoying teen night in the other pool.”

She says a lot of them go back and forth, which is not just OK, but encouraged. As Chillo sees it, that shows the aquatic center’s mission in action: expanding both water safety and recreational swim opportunities for the neighborhood and the broader city.

Another group the Phillips Aquatic Center (PAC) serves is student athletes, as a site for swim meets and for regular practice times for girls’ and boys’ teams from Minneapolis Public Schools. Whether they’re athletes, aspiring lifeguards or simply having a fun night out, youth have developed a sense of pride and ownership in this new community asset.

“The swim teams finally have a home, where they can build their team identity together instead renting time at pools all over town, and they have a place to get in the water and get to know each other.”

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“The swim teams finally have a home, where they can build their team identity together instead renting time at pools all over town, and teen night is one of the ways PAC makes it easier for anybody to work swimming into their daily or weekly routine,” said Chillo.

Indeed, PAC is meant to attract anybody and everybody who wants to get in the water and take their first dip; masters-level adults arriving at 6 a.m. to refine their strokes; seniors staying flexible with water walking; swim times for women and girls only.

It was designed and programmed to be welcoming and inclusive for all ages and abilities — which has resulted in a calendar packed with lessons, community and recreational activities; team practices and club rentals; competitions and special events.

Partners, supporters and collaborators have been essential to helping fill that calendar. “They have helped ensure that the right swim opportunities are available to meet everyone’s needs,” says Chillo, “and they’ve also helped us cultivate a workforce that represents the community including multilingual staff.”

Pools Continued on page 4

EASY FACTS

10,184 visitors (during PAC’s first 11 months)
713 Participants in youth and adult swim lessons
120 Hours of practice time for Minneapolis Public Schools’ girls’ and boys’ swim teams
130 Swim lesson scholarship recipients (10% of all swim lesson participants)
96 Lifeguards completed American Red Cross certification
14 Masters, Jr. Swim Club members
35 Swimmers enjoyed PAC’s inaugural “Happy Thanks-Swimming 5K” event on Thanksgiving Day
5 Days per week offering water fitness, water walking and senior programming
“When the great newspapers don’t say much, say something the little independent ones say.”

— Wendell Phillips (1817-1884)

**Transit**

Adopting bus stops

By JOHN CHARLES WILSON

Hopefully, when this is published, winter will be gone for the next seven months. However, since ideas take time to implement, this may be the ideal time to write about it: One of the worst things about riding buses is waiting at snow-filled bus stops. You have four choices, none of which are really safe:

1. You can wait on the (possibly icy or unshoveled) sidewalk, and climb over the snowbank when the bus comes, assuming the driver actually stops for you. Sometimes the snowbank isn’t as solid as it looks and you sink as much as two or three feet deep into it and then have to try to get on a bus quickly! Not fun!
2. You can stand on top of the snowbank, which is risky because you don’t know how sturdy the snowbank is, and you might fall in, or worse, fall into the street, just as the bus is coming! Yikes!
3. You can walk to the (hopefully shoveled) corner, then walk back on the edge of the street outside the snowbank, and stand there even with the bus stop sign. This sends the message most clearly to the bus driver that you are waiting for the bus, but can be risky if the street is slippery. Some bus drivers don’t like to do that, though, because they are afraid of slipping and running into you.
4. You can walk to the (hopefully shoveled) corner, and wait there where there is an opening in the snowbank, even if it isn’t by the bus stop sign. Some bus drivers prefer you do this, and it is probably the safest way. However, you run the risk of a driver not realizing you are waiting for the bus.

Currently, Metro has an “Adopt-A-Shelter” program where volunteers clear up litter around their bus shelter, report damage to Metro so their crews can fix it. What if Metro Transit had an “Adopt-A-Stop” program where people could volunteer to shovel an opening through the snowbanks by their local bus stop sign, and clean any snow-covered benches to make waiting safer and more convenient in the winter? Perhaps a small reward such as a free ride coupon after each snow could be given as an incentive. Any Metro Transit officials reading this? There’s plenty of time to implement this for next winter!

Community Partners for updates from local city government, 3rd Precinct Police. We will also have Metro Transit present to give an update on the new D-Line Construction and their upcoming outreach efforts. Meeting will take place at the Center for Changing Lives in the Center Room (2400 Park Avenue). Free parking is available at the rear building of Oakland Ave. Free delivery pizza and beverages will be provided.

Contact Crystal at 612-879-5383 or email her at pwno2005@yahoo.com

Music for Climate Justice

On Saturday, April 6, Tom Neilson brings his satiric and so- cial commentary to a Climate Justice Fundraiser co-sponsored by MN150 and MNIPE, to stop the construction of Line 3, a proposed tar sands oil pipeline that would cross the Mississippi headwaters as well as Ojibwe treaty territory and have a climate change impact equal to 30 coal plants. Please make an effort to attend, and don’t let this get by without a bit of banter and music.

Neilson is a storyteller who weaves an autobiographical sketch from his days farming roots to the Vietnam War, civil rights, liberation struggles in Central America and East Africa, border crossings, pipelines, guns, breastfeeding, parenting, sexual harassment, humanism, lost loves and more.

His work has resulted in his winning several music awards that include nomination for Year Awards from Independent Musicians, and a 2015 nomi- nation for the United Nations Nelson Mandela Award for lifetime achievement in peace and justice. In 2017, he received the Arab American Women Association Award for Global Educa- tion and the Arts. Michael Stock of WLNN, Miami, FL says, “Tom does a great job of reminding people of how important it really is, and the power of folk music to say it.”

Neilson tells us he is just a farm boy with a guitar who likes a good ball game and human rights. The 7 p.m. concert is at the Spring House Ministry at 610 West 28th St., Minneapolis. There is a suggested donation of $10. For more information, contact Bonnie Beckel 612-722-6473.

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**WHAT’S UP AT THE FRANKLIN COMMUNITY LIBRARY • APRIL 2019**

1314 E. Franklin Avenue • 612-543-6925 • www.hclib.org
M, W, F 9am-5pm • T, Th, Sat 9am-1pm • Su 12-5pm

**What’s Up at the Franklin Community Library • April 2019**

**All Ages**

Learn Together: Connect and Play

4-6:30pm

Connect with your child during this drop-in program exploring early literacy activities. Join your child in each workshop for a dif- ferent theme including music, art, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), reading and creative play.

Poetry Read-In

Saturday, April 6, 3-4:30pm

For children of all ages and their caregivers. Talk, sing, read, and play together in a format appropriate for young children. Share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement.

Teen Programs

Urban 4-H Club

Tuesdays, 5-7pm

Get creative and make music, videos, animation and other proj- ects using both high- and low- tech tools, everything from iPads and 3D printers to synthesizers and sewing machines. Led by the library’s Teen Tech Squad.

Dhaliya Horumar vase raba / Young Achievers

Wednesdays, 4:30-6pm

Get creative and share your music and movement.

Teen Tech Workshop

Wednesdays, 5-6:30pm

Discuss and share your ideas about the library’s electronic advertising!

Teen Anime Club

Wednesdays, April 3, 6, 3-4:30pm

Discuss manga and share art work.

Teen Art Studio

Sioux Falls, SD 2019

Learn and create your own art.

Teen Programs

Joel Quandt Feinberg Park

Wednesdays, 5-6:30pm

For children of all ages and their caregivers. Talk, sing, read, and play together in a format appropriate for young children. Share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement.

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Residents fighting for future entrepreneurs

And then he designed the 3-acre proposal, the 2-acre proposal and the 1-acre proposal as support- ers sought a compromise with the city who purchased the property out from under them in 2016 after threatening to acquire it through eminent domain.

Dovolis has been working in the Phillips neighborhood since start- ing DPR Architecture in 1985, and has designed multiple affordable housing and other projects, includ- ing the Phillips Aquatic Center, and East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center.

This indoor urban farm is yet another community-driven venture that uses vacant lots to create local food systems, provide economic development and fit within the city’s own plan for development along the Hiawatha light rail line and Midtown Greenway. Dovolis pointed out. Little Earth Resident Association (LERA) is presently crediting the东 Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC), and Seward Co-Op.

The neighborhood vision for the site was to design a new Roof Depot building into an agribusiness powered by an immense solar array on the roof. The year-round, indoor urban agricultural space would be based on a collaborative farming model and support small, culturally specific businesses owned by local entrepreneurs.

Growing food locally in a man- ner similar to that of Holland would create a more diverse food supply than going to Minnesota from California, and keep that money in the local com- munity owned by the residents. If you introduce fresh fruits and vegetables into people’s diets, the number of disease and health issues go down significantly. This benefits society as a whole.

The indoor urban farm would offer food to those residents nearby, fill thereby cutting down on traffic while offering employment within the neighborhood. A bike shop could be situated right on the Greenway. The site would also provide very affordable mixed-use housing.

This would completely alter the area, the U.S. is facing the same issue as “the intersection of death” for its toxic fumes and high rate of traffic accidents.

“You have a wide range of young entrepreneurs that want to be a part of this and create a future,” stated Deidre Dvorak, who was one of the first chefs to make that through a water works job. For that reason, we can’t give up.”

PLACE TO PUT HYDRANTS OF, BY AND FOR LOW AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND FOOD?

“The cities say we want a place to put our fire hydrants, which are the man- hole covers and records. They just want a storage place,” stated Karen Clark, who recently retired as the neighborhood’s racial equity director. She’s lived in the area for 40 years. “How can you turn down this gift of incredible community involvement?”

The city’s water mains, facility, known as the East Water Yard, is currently located on 2.4 acres in Ward 3 at Hennepin Ave. E. and 5th Ave. N. It dates back 120 years and is the hub for main- taining the city’s 1,000 miles of water mains, 16,000 valves, and manholes covers, and 8,000 hydrants.

Replacing the maintenance yard is the last major unfinished piece of a 25-year master plan for updating the city’s Department of Water Public Works facilities – but the East Phillips neighborhood group wasn’t informed about this until after it had fashioned an innovative plan for the Roof Depot site and started asking city officials for support, pointed out EPNI supporters. They were shocked to learn the plan was made without consulting local residents, and they scoff at the request now to help pick out plants for the site as being truly community engagement.

The Water Distribution’s 100 maintenance staff at the East Phillips location (corner of Hiawatha and 26th St.) perform valve operations, grasping fire hydrants, etc.; street manhole repairs, main water repairs, and leak detection. The city expects 60 heavy equipment vehi- cles to go in and out several times each day from the Roof Depot site.

Steve Sandberg has been told by city representatives that they will gain efficiencies by locating public works operations at one site. “You don’t gain anything by consolidating fire hydrants and manhole covers in a sand lot,” he remarked.

Brad Pass also questions whether this is a big need. “I’ve lived in this neighborhood for 50 years and I’ve never seen them replace a fire hydrant,” he observed.

Pass noted that he and sup- porters of the urban farm project are accused of being against clean water. “That’s absurd. We absolutely favor clean water,” he said. “We would also like to breathe clean air, which will be further compromised with the additional diesel trucks and commuting workers at an industrial storage facility in our residential neighborhood.”

He continued, “There will be no water treated at the Hiawatha site and the city should be able to build a nonresidential site to store their sewer pipes, sand-salt mix and man- hole covers, or at least allocate 19% of the existing swimming pool and spa facility, to something positive and good for this traumatized community.”

POLLUTION AGAINST LAW

These city-operated diesel trucks concern neighborhood residents, who have already been fighting the traffic and pollution for years at the Hiawatha site. This low-income neighborhood has one of the highest levels of asth- ma and arsenic poisoning in children in the state. For every 10,000 people, over 16+ acres at the Hiawatha site to something positive and good for this traumatized community.

POLLUTION AGAINST LAW

These city-operated diesel trucks concern neighborhood residents, who have already been fighting the traffic and pollution for years at the Hiawatha site.

The city law has been applied to projects by the Metropolitan Council, city of Minneapolis, and Abbott Northwestern Hospital, among others.

During a city GAC (Guidance Advisory Committee) meeting last fall, Clark stood up to explain this bill as it relates to the city pub- lic works project, and recalls being yelled at by Minneapolis Director of Facilities Design and Construction Bob Fridelle, a tall man who rushed at her diminished figure waving his arms. She walked out of the meet- ing, along with the rest of the com- munity contingent, in protest after being told she couldn’t speak, said Clark. “It was pretty unaccept- able.”

WHY ARE STAFF RUNNING CITY INSTEAD OF ELECTED OFFICIALS?

Indoor urban farm supporters want the city to respond to the big questions they’re posing.

The city has a policy encouraging community participation. Why aren’t they supporting this commu- nity-birthed project? Why haven’t they paid attention to the 400 people who have already been fighting the pollution issues along of the community’s plan or the many people who packed community meetings to support the indoor urban farm? Why haven’t they allowed EPNI to present before the entire city council?

In East Phillips, group in the interest of meeting community needs and those of Public Works, has offered smaller, revised plans, but they don’t see the city doing the same. “There was a lot of compromis- ing on the part of the commu- nity,” observed Clark.

Indoor farm supporters also want to know why the staff directive written by neighborhood Water Works Manager Alondra Cano and approved by the entire city council in December 2018 is being ignored and misinter- preted by city staff.

Just who is driving the decisions made at city hall? Members of EPNI, community or even city council members.

“We’ve started to evolve into a staff-driven city,” stated Dovolis, but that’s not what he wants to see happen. “You can’t let the staff run the political process.”

THEY’re NOT GIVING UP

In East Phillips, members of EPIC, the community, and EPNI remain determined to fight this level of pollution. After all, they’ve been at this for years. They staved off the Hennepin County Garbage Transfer Station at Cedar and 26th in the mid 1990s; kept out the Midtown Eco-burner (Cogenrating Plant) in 2007; and convinced Xcel Energy to bury power lines along the Midtown Greenway in 2009.

In 2010, they celebrated the grand opening of the East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center which they fought for, funded and designed; and in 2018, after a six- year battle, they came together with other Phillips organizations to save the existing swimming pool and spa and pollute the new Phillips Aquatic Center.

They’re saying they’re not giving up on the Roof Depot site. The stakes are too high.

“You have one chance to make this work,” stated Deidre Dvorak. “When this [building and 7.5-acres at the Depot] site is complete, there will never again be this kind of aggre- gate land to make this work.”
Grant supports Native homelessness

By LEE EGERSTROM
Editor’s note: This article was reprinted courtesy of The Circle.

The Bush Foundation has awarded the Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI) a two-year, $207,000 grant to explore community-based solutions to the chronic homelessness problems for Native Americans in Minneapolis.

Minneapolis-based NACDI is leading the effort but is working in tandem with the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID) umbrella organization for Native groups. It also has enlisted outside consultants on the project, the Lakewood, Colo.-based Indigenous Collaborations Inc.

This came about late in the past year when Native groups in Minneapolis, working with the city and with various state and local agencies and nonprofits, struggled with finding emergency shelter and services for the Minneapolis homeless comprising the Franklin and Hiawatha Avenues area of south Minneapolis.

That encampment was known as The Wall of Forgotten Natives. The 300 to 400 mostly Native people who were living in tents and sleeping bags are not being forgot-tened, said Robert Lilligren, president and chief executive of NACDI who brought Indigenous Collaborations Inc. into the picture as a partner.

That encampment was known as the “navigation center,” soon after construction in December 2018. It is in property owned by the Red Lake Nation that is scheduled for development as affordable housing, beginning next year.

“Bush was watching what we were doing,” Lilligren said. “It was a strange moment in philanthropy for us. They came to us and two weeks later we had a grant.”

The grant is from the St. Paul-based Bush Foundation’s Community Innovation Program that assists community efforts to find problem solving solutions for the betterment of the entire region. The Bush Foundation was created by a 3M Company executive, Archibald Bush, and his wife Edith. Their philanthropic works have provided more than $1 billion to organizations and individuals in the Upper Midwest.

“At the Bush Foundation, we believe NACDI’s ability to col-laborate and engage the commu-nity can result in shared ownership of solutions to conditions causing homelessness in the Native community, said Rady Guglielmo, man-ager of the Community Innovation program for the foundation.

The mechanism for NACDI’s project is newly-formed WiitDookDaDaDiiWag, or “They Help Each Other” in Ojibwe, that is shortened for convenience to THEO.

Initial work is reaching out to people who are among the home-less. “We want to hear the thoughts from the people most impacted,” Lilligren said.

That is a far greater number than the people who were living in the encampment.

By various measures, Native Americans are over represented in homelessness.

Sometimes lumped together with other population groups as “people of color,” and sometimes alone, statistical analysis shows Native Americans are from eight times, to 17 times, and as much as 27 times more likely than other Minnesotans – either in the state or in Minneapolis – to be counted among the homeless.

Regardless of measures used, there is no disagreement that the Native population, said Lilligren.

Bush’s Guglielmo said NACDI’s history and “depth of relationships” makes it ideal for lead the effort.

The grant was for $200,000 and an additional $7,000 was provided for special “engagement” needs, he said.

Lilligren said NACDI did a nationwide search for guidance when the grant came through. That brought Indigenous Collaborations into the picture as a partner.

The leadership team for WiitDookDaDaDiiWag/ THEO includes Lilligren (White Earth Ojibwe), consultant Carrie Day Aspinwall (Leech Lake Ojibwe), and from Indigenous Collaborations, Lesley Kabotie (Crow Tribe of Montana) and Paul Kabotie (Hopi Tribe of Arizona and Santa Clara Pueblo from New Mexico). The Kaboties are president and vice president of Indigenous Collaboration.

While still in early stages of the project, the THEO partners have had two gatherings with impact-ed people to begin the process, Lilligren said. One was a feast at the Minneapolis American Indian Center, with a spiritual leader, that Lilligren described as a “healing session.”
Obituaries can be a source of valuable information for people wanting to know about family members or other people they’re interested in, but not all obituaries provide the same information or even close to it.

The style and substance of obituaries has changed over time. During the late 1800s up until about the middle of the 20th century, obituaries functioned as death announcements and mostly offered details about funeral and burial arrangements but little else. More recent obituaries tend to focus on achievements and accomplishments and connections to family and friends, sometimes in the newspaper, but increasingly in social media.

In the 1860s, obituaries often told more about someone’s character or beliefs. Sarah Dickey died in childbirth on Dec. 4, 1868, at the age of 41. She and her husband came to St. Anthony around 1865. He worked as a wheelwright. Her obituary ran on the front page of the Minneapolis Tribune on Dec. 9, 1868:

DIED – In Minneapolis, December 4th, Mrs. Sarah R. Dickey, wife of Mr. William Dickey. December 4th, Mrs. Sarah R. Dickey came to St. Anthony around 1865. She was of African-American descent, and is said to have been the first African-American child born in St. Anthony. Her parents were political activists, and her father was described as the “first resident barber in St. Anthony.” Toussaint’s obituary ran on the front page of the Minneapolis Tribune on July 2, 1868:

DIED – In this city, June 28th, of heart disease, Toussaint L’Overte Grey, second son of R. T. and E. O. Grey, aged 9 years, 2 months and 17 days. A devoted son and loving brother, his death will leave a void in the family circle, never to be filled.

Some obituaries, especially those written for children, included poetry. Toussaint L’Overture Grey was born on April 11, 1859, and is said to have been the first African-American child born in St. Anthony. His parents were political activists, and his father was described as the “first resident barber in St. Anthony.” Toussaint’s obituary ran on the front page of the Minneapolis Tribune on July 2, 1868:

A good child, loving his Sabbath school and his God, he was willing to die, and asked his family to meet him in Heaven. He leaves a large circle of friends to sympathize with his parents over his early death. He has gone to glory before us. He turns and waves his hand Pointing to glory over us, In that bright and happy land. The Minneapolis Tribune’s announcement of Lawrence (Lorenzo) Taliaferro Prescott’s death is sparse considering the fact that he was the son of one of Minnesota’s best-known territorial pioneers. He was the son of Philander Prescott, one of the casualties of the 1862 Dakota Conflict, and Mary (Spirit of the Moon) Prescott, the daughter of a Dakota tribal elder. Lorenzo served with the first Minnesota Heavy Artillery during the Civil War until he received an honorable discharge for a medical disability. While serving on the East Coast, he contracted malaria and his death is thought to have been caused, at least in part, by an overdose of quinine, the preferred treatment for malaria at the time. Lorenzo returned to Minnesota and married Marion Robertson Hunter, the granddaught-er of Grey Cloud. He worked as an interpreter in one of the relocation camps in Nebraska, but returned to his sister’s home in Shakopee when his health failed. The following announcement appeared in the Minneapolis Tribune on Jan. 6, 1869, three days after he died from malaria. He was 30 years old.

MPNAI BOARD MEETING
Held every second Tuesday
Tuesday, April 9, 6:30-8pm
Stewart Park (Arts & Crafts Room)
2700 12th Ave. S., Minneapolis

— Board Orientation
— Role of Community Meetings
— Request for Midtown Phillips to create ‘Safety & Awareness’ Committee
— Officer Elections
— Treasurer • Secretary • Vice President
— Finance Report

COMMUNITY MEETING
Held every fourth Thursday
Tuesday, April 23, 6:30-8pm
Open Arms of Minnesota
2500 Bloomington Avenue, Minneapolis

— CEE Energy Loans
— Energy Zero Interest Loans
— City of Mpls Sustainability Office

Tour of Open Arms
Midtown Greenway Coalition seeks Midtown Phillips representative
The Midtown Greenway Coalition, a private nonprofit organization that works to protect the Greenway, seeks a volunteer board member to represent the Midtown Phillips Neighborhood. Women and people of color strongly encouraged to apply.
For more information or to express interest in joining the board, please contact us at info@midtownphillips.org

This Monthly Alley Newspaper Half Page was paid for by Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Inc.
It’s all part of integrating into the Phillips community, and being responsive to its diverse immigrant and cultural communities. For instance, in working to expand culturally sensitive swim times for women and girls, MPRB has partnered with Hennepin County Public Health and B.R.A.V.E., an organization serving young women in the Somali diaspora community.

Al Bangoura, who became the MPRB Superintendent in January, sees PAC as a symbol of the organization reinvigorating its commitment to recreation. “I am thrilled to be working with the Board of Commissioners to meet the recreation needs of everyone in the city, including the Phillips and Ventura Village communities. I am proud of park staff and their work with partners, which made the Phillips Aquatic Center’s first year a success. We look forward to building on those accomplishments in year two!”

Contributors include MPRB staff Sarah Chilo, Angela Doheny, Mimi Kalb, Robin Smothers and Dawn Sommers.

Underwater hockey?!

Groups and organizations that call PAC home
- Augsburg University women’s swim team
- Minneapolis Public Schools swim teams
- Twin Cities Aquatics Cooperative
- USMS learn-to-swim adult masters club
- Minnesota Loons – underwater hockey club
- Subversive Sirens – Women’s synchronized swim team: queer- and women-of-color inclusive
- Minnesota Nice – Twin Cities’ first LGBTQ+ adult masters swim club
- Piranhas Swim Club – competitive club for Minneapolis and metro-area youth
- Southside Charter School – students swim weekly at PAC
- Hope Academy – physical education curriculum includes swim lessons at PAC
- East Phillips and Phillips Youthline groups – Friday night open swim, school-release-day trips

Everyday into the Pools

From page 1

It’s all part of integrating into the Phillips community, and being responsive to its diverse immigrant and cultural communities. For instance, in working to expand culturally sensitive swim times for women and girls, MPRB has partnered with Hennepin County Public Health and B.R.A.V.E., an organization serving young women in the Somali diaspora community.

Al Bangoura, who became the MPRB Superintendent in January, sees PAC as a symbol of the organization reinvigorating its commitment to recreation. “I am thrilled to be working with the Board of Commissioners to meet the recreation needs of everyone in the city, including the Phillips and Ventura Village communities. I am proud of park staff and their work with partners, which made the Phillips Aquatic Center’s first year a success. We look forward to building on those accomplishments in year two!”

Contributors include MPRB staff Sarah Chilo, Angela Doheny, Mimi Kalb, Robin Smothers and Dawn Sommers.

Nearly 100 lifeguards have completed their American Red Cross certification since the pool opened a year ago. Many attend a weekly free lifeguard clinic to work towards becoming certified.

PUBLIC NOTICE

D.I.V.I.N.E. Institute will be developing a shelter to house up to 16 girls at 628 Franklin Avenue South.

D.I.V.I.N.E. has requested support for a land use application needed for the development to proceed including:
1. Zoning from the C1 district to the C2 district
2. Conditional use permit to establish an overnight shelter
3. Variance to reduce the minimum drive aisle width to allow maneuvering
4. Site plan review

D.I.V.I.N.E. Institute anticipates starting construction this coming Summer!


Clothes, books, kitchenwares, tools, small electrics, toys, and more! We accept credit cards! Thurs, April 4 5:30-8:30 PM, Fri, April 5 1:00-8:00, Sat, April 6, 9:00-4:00

Walker Community Church, 3104 16th Ave S.
Phillips Aquatic Center: Commemorating a Year Serving Our Neighborhood and the Greater Phillips Community

The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board is working to expand culturally sensitive swim opportunities and grow a workforce that represents the neighborhood.

The Phillips Aquatic Center (PAC), located in the Phillips Community Center (PCC), is celebrating a year of being open! Since April 2018, 10,384 guests have come to use the PAC; among those, 713 have taken advantage of swimming lessons (18% of whom received need-based scholarships). Additionally, monthly and seasonal passes are available at a reduced rate to all Phillips residents. Passes for children 12 and under are free.

It is important to the PAC to meet the diverse needs of the community. They offer a weekly women and girls-only culturally sensitive dedicated swim time. They host Minneapolis Public High School girls’ and boys’ swim teams, along with several neighborhood-specific groups such as Hope Academy youth swim lessons and East Phillips/Phillips Youthline Friday night open swim and school release day trips. The PAC also enjoys the patronage of LGBTQ+ groups like the Subversive Sirens women’s synchronized swimming team and the MN Nice adult masters swim club.

The list of groups utilizing the Aquatic Center is impressive, but no less notable is the job training programming offered here. Since opening, 96 participants have been certified as lifeguards and a Friday night lifeguard clinic has been established, which allows aspiring youth the chance to practice the skills to become a lifeguard.*

*Thanks to PAC Director Sarah Chillo for her help in providing material for this article.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE APRIL 10, 2019 VENTURA VILLAGE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

The following Motion will be on the agenda for the April 10, 2019 General Membership Meeting. Please attend the General Membership Meeting on April 10, 2019 at the Phillips Community Center Dining Room at 7:00 pm.

**************************************************************************
MOVE to approve the reallocation of $30,000 FROM Ventura Village 2019 Community Participation Plan funds TO Ventura Village Neighborhood Priority Plan for equipment in Peavey Park, including, but not limited to, swings.

UPCOMING VENTURA VILLAGE MEETINGS:

- Wednesday, April 10th: Board of Directors Meeting: 6 pm
- Thursday, April 25th: Housing & Land Committee: 5:30 pm
- Tuesday, April 30th: Community Engagement Committee: 6 pm
- Wednesday, April 10th: General Membership Meeting: 7 pm
- Thursday, April 25th: Crime & Safety Committee: 6:30 pm
- Tuesday, April 30th: Wellness, Gardening & Greening: 7 pm

ALL RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE: VISITORS WELCOME TO ATTEND!
People & Pets: free shelf for pets

Courtesy of DWIGHT HOBBES

Hard times call for inventive measures, sometimes so simple you wonder why you didn’t think of it. For instance, People & Pets Together (www.peopleandpetstogether.org), a monthly free shelf helping pet owners make ends meet. There’s also a veterinary assistance program as well as other offerings to look after pet health.

Minnesota’s only such operation, it provides, along with enough food to last 30 days, such supplies as carriers, litter, bowls and toys. Principally serving South Minneapolis, no one is turned away. If you live outside the area, you can still make a one-time visit.

The idea is to do what they can to help families fend for their little, four-legged (or winged) loved ones.

“We know pets are family,” says the People & Pets Together brochure. “We help families stay together. Pets help people live happier, healthier lives. By supporting the relationships people have with their pets [we hope] to improve the health of our communities.”

Accordingly, People & Pets Together have lost their lease and must move by next year. Meanwhile, the door stays open and tax-deductible donations are welcome. Contact info@peopleandpetstogether.org or People & Pets Together, 3750 Bloomington Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55407.

Procession for peace April 14

Each year, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and its Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts sponsor a Procession of Peace on Palm Sunday. Attendees walk through the neighborhood, stopping to lift up concerns of the community, such as safety, the environment, youth, immigration and poverty.

“Especially this year, with all the division in our society, we are committed to walking a different way: one of welcome and justice,” say organizers.

All are invited to this year’s walk on Sunday, April 14, noon, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 2742 15th Ave S. For more information, call 612-724-3862 or e-mail stpaulscreate@gmail.com.

- Satrday - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Procession of Peace on Palm Sunday led by St. Paul’s Lutheran Church.

Volunteer for MayDay

On the first Sunday of May, tens of thousands of folks will celebrate a day of community and festivity together. All this takes place because - and only because - hundreds of volunteers pitch in to make it happen.

Register to be a 2019 May-Day volunteer. Heart of the Beast offers group volunteer opportunities for churches, civic organizations, and businesses. Contact Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@hobt.org for details.

It is time to start collecting bags, brown paper, newspaper, tubs, plastic bags for use during the build workshops. Bring these supplies to upcoming workshops starting April 6.

Teenagers treated to their stories with other students during a Know the Truth presentation at Augsburg Fairview Academy. Left to right: Anthony, Troy and Casey. We hope that if you are ever faced with a situation where drugs are involved that you remember our stories,” said Anthony.
Local pastor to receive BridgeBuilder Award

Pastor Joel Ramirez, long-time Phillips area pastor with FCCM (Inner City Church of Minneapolis), will receive the 2019 BridgeBuilder Award at Global Worship 12.

Global Worship is a colorful, exciting worship concert Saturday April 13, 6 p.m. at St. Paul’s Church, 1901 Portland. The evening will include performances from the Kehiltat Sar Shalom Dancers, Quechua Church, Family Worship Center, and Heart & Soul Drum Academy, among others.

Pastor Ramirez has planted 15 churches in Mexico and the United States, and is involved in training pastors and church leaders. Through his work with CRU, a ministry that equips local churches to be sensitive to the needs of the poor and marginalized, he serves as a mentor and teacher.

St. Paul’s Church, serving the community since 1872, was founded by immigrants and has never forgotten its immigrant roots. It is the home of MissionShift Institute, which offers training in cross-cultural ministry.

St. Paul’s welcomes its new pastor, Rev. Russell Grisgy, who lives here and is excited to serve the Phillips community.

For more information, call 612-874-0133 or see www.StPaulsChurch.info

Movie corner

Rewatch Bogart’s last movie

By HOWARD MCQUITTER II
oldschoolmovies.wordpress.com

“The Harder They Fall” (1957)

Columbia Pictures

A hard-hitting boxing movie where the mob has an iron-grip on the boxing business and like another film of the same era called “Ses’Up”(1949), it features much reality about who controls boxing in the 1930s-1950s. At the time, boxing along with baseball, is America’s most popular sport. “The Harder They Fall” is Humphrey Bogart’s last film (he died on Jan. 14, 1957, from esophageal cancer) but he is still on top of his game as an actor.

I saw this movie when I was a boy, and have seen it several times since then, most recently three weeks ago.

The director Mark Robson (“The Seventh Victim” 1943, “Peyton Place” 1957, “Valley of the Dolls” 1967) is joined by Philip Yordan who writes the screenplay and also produces Bogart’s last movie.

Eddie Willis (Humphrey Bogart) is a down-and-out sportswriter who falls into a trap when he signs with sleazy boxing manager Nick Benko (Rod Steiger) to be a press agent to what will become a series of fixed boxing matches featuring an immigrant from Argentina, a massive man with cream-puff fists, a gentle giant named Toro Moreno (Mike Lane). Other louche characters, all mob guys, Art Leavitt (Harold J. Stone) and Jim Weyerhauser (Edward Andrews) are a part of the corrupt boxing business. Benko, Leavitt and Weyerhauser care little for Moreno’s welfare only to cash in on the money. The mob buys boxing experience. The mob buys a bus with Moreno’s picture on it parading around the town as if Moreno is going to be boxing champion of the world. Moreno has no idea that he’s getting ripped off from nearly all the spoils.

Things begin to change for Willis after the fight Moreno has with Gus Dunee (Pat Comiskey), recently has a fight with Bunny Brannon (Max Baer), probably too soon to be in another one, is knocked down fighting a brain hemorrhage. Willis gets an epiphany realizing the whole thing on Benko’s fixed fights are unscrupulous so he begins to tell Moreno he’s being used and ripped off mightily. Once Willis confronts Benko and others about the big rip-off of Moreno, the sportswriter (he can’t say he isn’t warned by his wife, Beth, played by Jan Sterling) becomes a persona non grata. Willis threatens to send Moreno back to Argentina and to open up an investigation of the corrupt boxing world. George (Jersey Joe Walcott), Moreno’s trainer, the only principal American character in the movie and also a real-life boxer, simply stayed in the mob’s favor.

Cast: Humphrey Bogart (Eddie Willis), Rod Steiger (Nick Benko), Jan Sterling (Beth Willis), Mike Lane (Toro Moreno), Max Baer (Buddy Brannon), Edward Andrews (Art Leavitt), Philip Yordan (Harold J. Stone (Art Leavitt), Carlos Montalban (Luis Agrandi), Nehemiah Persoff (Leo), Joe Greb (Homeless Man). MPAA: NR. Director: Mark Robson. Producer and Screenwriter: Philip Yordan. Running time: 109 minutes. In black and white.

Helping plan a community activity? Know of an amazing story we should write about? We want to hear from you! Email copydesk@alleynews.org

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Letter to the community
Why is YWCA unwilling to have open and fair conversation?

By DORIS OVERBY
MIDTOWN COMMITTEE FOR DUE PROCESS

We have been deeply concerned that management may have used surveillance cameras to identify a member who was peacefully exercising her First Amendment rights to inform members of the controversy that had developed over the abruptly imposed parking system and the unwarranted punitive action taken against two members who were acting within their rights.

In each case, these members have felt intimidated and treated arbitrarily as management has relied on vague terms in the Code of Conduct, weak arguments, and accusations not supported with factual evidence.

We prefer to resolve the issues with the Minneapolis YWCA management with an open dialogue in the presence of a representative body of members, management and a conflict resolution mediator.

In a recent meeting, our group discussed many ideas which we believe would vastly improve the relationship between the Minneapolis YWCA and its members and foster “good neighbor” relations within the community. Furthermore, in order to have a context for these ideas, we urge YWCA management to implement quarterly forums with members in such forums, the Minneapolis YWCA can make credible its goal of “empowerment” and enhance its prospects for growth and success.

1. Reinstate the memberships of Doris Overby and Richard Taylor pending the outcome of a due process mediated reclassification.
2. Create an Advisory Committee similar to what other

with the Minneapolis YWCA management with an open dialogue in the presence of a representative body of members, management and a conflict resolution mediator.

3. Review and modify the Code of Conduct to more accurately define terminology referring to “offending the comfort level” and clarify conditions for suspension and possible termination of membership.
4. No less than 10% of the Board of Directors should be regency YWCA members, racially, gender and age representative.
5. Establish a Membership Bill of Rights that would include such terms as due process.
6. Given that YWCA members are avoiding parking fees by parking on neighborhood streets, it is necessary to address problems that have arisen from such a recourse.
7. It is clear that the new parking arrangement has resulted in potential new dangers for children in that parents are avoiding parking in the lot so as not to exceed the grace period and have to pay for parking. This has created such hazards as children walking in the dark and crossing the street unattended.

Consider the possibility of a child or teen suffering an injury being picked up. The Y will suffer from the backlash of members and the community.

After the board has the opportunity to discuss these suggestions, YWCA management would be willing to prepare and implement such a dialogue? The meeting would ensue after both sides have agreed on the mediator and the choice of participants.

We respectfully submit this letter of concern with its list of ideas and suggestions for the benefit of the YWCA members, management and neighbors.

Our goal is to promote openness, membership participation in decision-making, fairness and due process. In good faith, we ask that the board engage with members in a process of mutual cooperation to resolve the issues addressed above.

Winter social

The 22nd Annual Phillips West Winter Social on Feb. 11, 2019 brought together about 300 neighbors for a huge smorgasbord of supper choices by several Phillips West institutions on a serving table the length of the large assembly room. The evening was prefaced by institutional exhibitors in the Changing Lives Lobby at 2400 Park Ave. each decorated with institutional banners, paraphernalia, gifts like candy bars and ballpoint pens and a whole lot of information by institutional representatives.

Peace via community

By MARTI MALBIB

Before I get to the point of this article, allow me to lay a little groundwork. Peace House Community has been open in the Phillips East neighborhood since 1985. Our founder, Sister Rose Tillmans, established PHC at 510 E. Franklin Ave. and in 2013 we moved to our current building at 1816 Portland Ave. S. PHC is a community center (not a “drop-in center,” please) focusing on homeless and low income adults.

As I shall now indicate, Peace House Community is a community, a series of relationships and connections. The building is simply a tool for bringing people together.

The focus of the day at PHC is on the” “Meditation” (although it is more of a group discussion. For 45 minutes a day, our community (community members, volunteers, guests and staff) discuss a question designed to help us understand and relate to each other. These discussions can revolve around anything from community events to childhood experiences to the best meal you’ve ever had.

We sometimes get complaints from newcomers that we are mis-leading people by talking about “meditation” when our actual practice is very different from the usual practice of meditation. (We’ve considered changing the label to something more accurate, but the community members have unanimously said they will ignore any change we try to make because the word is so integral to PHC’s being).

While I understand the concern, have we ever thought about what we do is simply meditation on a grander scale. Meditation, practiced by an individual, focuses on expanding one’s conscious- ness, becoming more self-aware, allowing one to “function” more effectively and so on. The medita- tion at PHC accomplishes these same things, but instead of rely- ing on one’s own insights from meditation, it allows community members to gain wisdom from others and self-awareness from examining their own responses to new ideas.

We learn not only from others, but also from a deeper understanding of our own orientation to ourselves and the world around us.

As we as a society embrace technology in ever-increasing ways, we tend to sacrifices elements of ourselves. Relationships become digitized and we can choose the news we hear about the world, creating a self-supporting narrative. We find ways to insu- late ourselves, even as technology offers the opportunity for greater exposure. Certainly this is not true of everyone, but it is a constant possibility. The meditation prac- ticed by the PHC community is a natural antidote to these dangers.

Fortunately, PHC is only one place to experience this type of mediation. Places of worship, 12-step meetings, coffee shops, family reunions, book clubs and a host of other settings provide this interaction. Well, it would be better to say they provide the opportunity for such interactions. It lies with each of us to decide the extent to which we will interface with the world and the people around us, and by exten- sion, how much we will learn about ourselves.

Really, really free market April 6

Check out the Really Really Free Market on the first Saturday of the month from 1-3 p.m. at East Phillips Cultural Center. Each month from 1-3 p.m. at East Phillips Cultural Center. The next event is April 6. It is like a garage sale where everything is free. “Bring what you would like to give and take what you would like to receive – together, we can share our resources, help the planet, save some serious money, and reuse awesome items,” said Kelly Ekart. “We can’t promise what will be there every month but commonly found items in- clude: kid and adult clothing and accessories, toys, books, kitchen and household items, linens, art and craft supplies, and more!”

Make sure items brought are clean and dry. Unclaimed items are saved for next month or brought to a donation center. We can usually bring a small number of items to the donation center for you, but please be prepared to help take away items if you bring in a large number of items,” stated Ekart. “There is no need to bring any items in order to participate. Food, music, and company are as welcome as objects. Enjoy an afternoon in the gift economy. If on Facebook, join the group to get notifications of each event. https://www.facebook.com/TwinCitiesReallyReally-FreeMarket
Building upon the successful activities and the learning of the last 10 years, 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.

Working together, for the good of the residents, the Backyard Community Health Hub moves together to improve social support, social connectedness, health education, and health empowerment.

Check out the exciting activities happening in April and watch for the Big Challenge coming in May-June!!!!

You can win individual prizes and recognition or organizational prizes and recognition for the ‘Biggest Loser,’ ‘Most Steps,’ ‘Most Fitness Hours,’ and more.

All this is free and accessible to you and leads to positive health outcomes.

GUIDE TO CALENDAR:

1. WALK ANYTIME MGM & GREENWAY – 10am to 6pm. CHECK IN with staff of the Backyard Community Health Hub to help us keep track of your participation.

2. MONDAY activity – held in the Midtown Global Market’s Conference Room on the lower level.

3. 1st and the 3rd THURSDAY activities – located in the center area of the Midtown Global Market.

4. WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY activities – located inside of the Allina Conference Room.

Join us at the Midtown Global Market

APRIL 2019

Engage, Connect, and Participate...Our work unleashes the power of citizens to heal themselves and build community

Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday  Saturday

1. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

2. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

3. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

4. Dinner Dialogue on Diabetes 5:30-7:30  - Walk & Step  - Massage & Reflexology

5. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

6. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

7. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

8. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

9. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

10. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

11. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

12. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

13. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

14. Dinner Dialogue Cardiovascular Health (2DC) 5:30-7:30  - Walk & Step  - Massage & Reflexology

15. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

16. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

17. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

18. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

19. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

20. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

21. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

22. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

23. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

24. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

25. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

26. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

27. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

28. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

29. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

30. *Walk Anytime!  *Breathe 5-6  *Yoga 6-7  *Zumba 7-8

"I came to the Backyard Community Health Hub launching, and experienced so many different health activities — walking, stepping, and yoga. I was invited back. I walk at least two to three times a week at the Midtown Global Market and the Greenway, sometimes with the staff of the Health Hub and sometimes with my friends. We laugh if I am walking alone, and it is the most fun and invigorating thing. At first, when the staff person said we are going to walk and laugh, I felt a little funny, but honestly the laughing and walking is just like a medicine." - Carolynn

"I stumbled upon the health activities offered by the Backyard when I came into the market to get dinner one evening. I saw these people in the middle of the market and it seemed like they were having fun, and they were having fun getting healthy. I joined them and continued to join them. The Triple D’s. It has been five months and already I have seen health improvements — my blood sugar is down, my weight is down from walking and eating healthier." - Jim

BackyardHealthHub@culturalwellnesscenter.org 612-353-6211  www.culturalwellnesscenter.org

Call Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for more info and to find out how to get involved!

BACKYARD COMMUNITY HEALTH HUB

Midtown Global Market, 920 E. Lake St., Minneapolis MN 55407

Cultural Wellness Center

Of, by and for its readers since 1976