“Being alive and Native is an act of resistance, resilience and activism,” says Marcie Rendon

BY DWIGHT HOBBES

“Being alive and Native is an act of resistance, resilience and activism. As long as we are breathing we are going against the oppression. For me, writing is a way to put voice to many of the stories in a way that is comprehensible to others, while creating a mirror for ourselves as Native people. At least that’s my hope.”

Marcie Rendon, writer, grassroots firebrand

South High School 2020 Graduate Lawn signs designed by the Graduate Recognition Committee, purchased by South High Foundation, and delivered to graduate’s homes by teacher and staff volunteers following strict distancing protocol. March 16 was the final day of classes, after schools were ordered closed; and May 13 was the first day signs were distributed. Commencement will be virtual, streamed online, and broadcast on MPS Ch. 15, June 1, 8 p.m.

“CLASS OF 2020: You Carry the Legacy of Resilience. We Know You Will Deliver!”

To the South High Class of 2020, Even before the circumstances of the present day, you carry the legacy of resilience. You were all born shortly before or shortly after the events of 9-11-2001. You have experienced two recessions, three presidential elections of astounding historical significance, the emergence of social media, and as South High scholars, you have always been at the fore of social awareness. Your class has further raised the social consciousness of climate change and social justice issues, as well as the de-stigmatization of mental health issues. It has been said that because you are Minneapolis South High graduates, much will be expected from you. We know you will deliver!

With pride and highest regards,
Your South High Educators

* MIGIZI, South High, and Takoda 2020 School Year Continued on pages 6 & 7

Raise Your Voice: Commentary

Honor The Community’s Vision

By Peter Molenar

“The alley” newspaper, is aware that governance of Minneapolis intends to demolish the Roof Depot building which rests directly across the from Smith Foundry, and kitty-corner from the Bituminous Roadways Company asphalt plant on East 28th Street. Actually, the demolition has secretly commenced, out of sight, within the walls. The intent is to create a staging ground for the city’s fleet of industrial trucks, many diesel, and their water and sewer pipes. In reality, this plan is a mean spirited slap to our face. Hey, community activists have invested no time, effort, nor any of the “conflicts of interest” and “retributions.”

By now, every reader of “the alley” newspaper, are military contracts involved, and these work for contracts found no physical evidence of rape, it didn’t matter because the white mob (estimated between 10 and 15 thousand) was determined to lynch the three boys already in jail. The mob was able to break into and nab Clayton, Jackson, and McGhee and the mob tried to break into a more fortified part of the jail where more Black men were jailed, but were not successful.

While the mob was in a frenzy, other African Americans who unfortunately were in the way were thrown into Lake Superior. Contrary to popular belief, about 21,000 African Americans lived in Duluth before the lynchings. After the 1920 lynchings, the number of African Americans living in Duluth drastically declined. Why would the average Black person still reside in Duluth when the majority of the white community turned against them? Once the murderous mob did their deadly deeds and three Black bodies violated, the only punishment issued those three white men were imprisoned for rioting.

Although the lynchings of Clayton, Jackson, and McGhee made headlines nationwide, soon after the “dust settled,” the horrific incidents in Duluth that June 15, 1920, silence about what happened that hot summer day prevailed for decades. In other words, “Minnesota Nice” went into cruising mode. (I found out about the Duluth lynchings, circa 1966.)

The Duluth lynchings came on the heels of “Red Summer” of 1919, when racial tensions exploded in cities like Chicago and Omaha—spreading into 25 cities—also to mention countless lynchings North and South with the social conscious of climate change and social justice issues, as well as the de-stigmatization of mental health issues. It has been said that because you are Minneapolis South High graduates, much will be expected from you. We know you will deliver!

We urge all to refrain from violence during which certain city council persons might revisit the “conflicts of interest” and “retributions.”

May we not honor the community’s vision of a better world! Please!
Community Libraries

By LINDSEY FERNER

As of May 21, all HN Cty librarians are still closed to the public, although there are 8 locations currently doing curbside pick-up for requested materials. Please do not return library materials at this time. Library workers have been advocating for returns to be delayed until a safe process can be developed. With the end of the MN Stay At Home order, HN Cty is currently working on a tentative plan to bring back more library services to 4-6 libraries by mid-June, but it is not clear what those services will be or which libraries will be selected to provide those services. In addition, about 100 frontline library workers are still not being allowed to work or have any input in reopening plans. But whatever library services resume will look nothing like the community library you remember. The Coronavirus pandemic is having a serious financial impact on local gov’t, and HN Cty Commission- ers are having discussions about what the future will look like. This might include significant budget cuts, permanent staff layoffs, and the closing of all branches. If you email District 4 Commissioner Angela Conley to let her know that you value libraries and library work- ers, 612-348-7894 angela.conley@ hennepin.egov.

All HN Cty Libraries are closed to the public. For Updated information on HN Cty Library branches during the Coronavirus Pandemic, www. hnl.org. All information is accu- rate as of May 21, 2020.

ASK #5: Have a reference or library account question? Call, text, or email your library worker (www.hclib.org/contact)

Call 612-543-KNOW (5669) to reach library staff by phone.

Monday-Thursday 9 am – pm

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Plenty Work to be done. Revive WPA

If you look closely at the east or west side of the Caretaker’s Cottage, most of which was built in 1871, you will see a subtle difference between the back room and the two front rooms. That difference is how you can tell that the backroom is a newer addition but the answer was hidden in work on the project came to a halt during July 1940 for the rest of the work, which included painting the new addition and putting a roof on, to be completed.

Two other enduring structures that date to the WPA era are the monuments for Annie Holl, one of the Cemetery’s most ardent preservationists, and Charles Christman, the first supervisor of Hennepin County. The stone structures were erected by workers of the National Youth Administration, a WPA program for young men and women, aged 16-25. There were several facets to the program but the young people who worked in the Cemetery, in addition to building monuments, did physical labor like grading uneven sections of the Cemetery and landscaping. Mr. Nelson had nothing but good to say about them and the quality of their work although he was somewhat less happy with their supervisors who he thought were disorganized and inefficient.

A contribution of WPA workers that is less visible to the public involved records work. Mr. Nelson had as many as five staff working on reconciling the Cemetery’s records and typing up tens of thousands of index cards that are kept in the Cemetery’s office. It was a complicated task that involved making sure that names were spelled correctly, locating graves, and verifying the ownership of the graves. Those cards are invaluable in helping locate graves and are still in use today.

Other crewmembers conducted a survey of headstones and markers that existed at the time. Some of the markers remain, others have gone missing since the survey was completed but there is a record of what existed in 1938.

Eighty-five years after the WPA was created, the work that was done still matters. It helped save information which might well have been lost and created permanent structures that are an important part of the Cemetery’s landscape. The novel Covid-19 pandemic has left more than 36 millions Americans out of work, more than double the 15 million who were unemployed during the height of the Depression. This seems like a good time to revive government-sponsored public works programs. There’s still plenty of work to be done.
Peace House Community—A Place to Belong

Canadian Humor (which I spell “Humour”)

By MARTI MALTEZ

I decided that this month I wouldn’t mention Coronavirus (it didn’t take long for me to fail on that count, did it?) because it has dominated so much of the news that I wanted to give you a break from thinking about it. I hadn’t fully grasped how pervasive Covid has become until I tried to come up with a topic for this column that didn’t involve Coronavirus, and I failed. Every topic I thought of somehow came back to the pandemic. As I said, I wanted to give people a break from Coronavirus because of the negative effects the virus is having on our society. I was about to list some of them, but you are probably as aware of them as I am, and if I did list them I would fail even more spectacularly in my effort to give you a break from thinking about Coronavirus. The best I can do at this point is to offer an alternative to the bleak news, so below you will find links to videos of Canadian humor. I’m proudly Canadian, and I’m sorry that many of my incredibly talented fellow Canucks haven’t received attention here. In doing this, I do not want to simply wish Coronavirus away or tell people to cheer up. Neither of those have any place in our current crisis. I simply hope to give people a few minutes to forget their stress and recharge, so that when they return to the stress they have a little more resilience for the challenges they have to face. I can’t solve anyone’s problems, but hopefully I can help them cope with them.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7rKT8iU4R4 - comedian Lorne Elliot’s commentary about visit Winnipeg in winter. I’m sure Minnesotans will relate.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHTNFWSIA-4 - series of Canadian comedians discuss the Canadian armed forces. This will give you some idea of why Canada isn’t threatening to dominate the world.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFJIPwI_qO - a series of Canadian comedians discuss the Canadian armed forces. This will give you some idea of why Canada isn’t threatening to dominate the world.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9SX86Y-DIY - Derek Edwards demonstrates that Canadians may not have the resources but they can also be bitter.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SCm4NwK4uc - a darkly funny song from Lorne Elliot about playing with a killer whale. If you’re not in the mood for a morbid humor, skip this one.

Hopefully these help you find something to smile about.

Transit When Will Normalcy Return?

By JOHN CHARLES WILSON

Note: This column was written between the times Governor Walz announced the lifting of the Stay at Home order and the change taking effect.

Metro Transit has decided to continue running a Saturday schedule on weekdays and not running buses or light rail late at night, even after the Stay at Home order is lifted, and the restriction to “essential trips only” is still in place. Even though it will be legal to go out for any purpose, you are still not supposed to ride transit unless it is necessary. The only exception is that wearing face masks will be required on Metro Transit as of 18 May. However, there will be no enforcement of this rule unless non-compliance becomes a major problem.

It remains to be seen whether the schedule change which normally takes place in June will happen this year. With Metro Transit running a limited schedule anyways, they might decide there is no point to it.

The transit situation everywhere is dire. It is expected that many “choice” riders (people who use transit by choice rather than being transit-dependent) won’t be coming back to the bus or train for a long time after the coronavirus crisis is over. This is partly due to more people working from home and more people choosing to drive because it feels more “safe” and “sanitary.”

This has several implications which are not good:

1. Transit will be seen more as a “welfare” system for the poor, children, people with disabilities, and senior citizens and less as a public service for everyone.

2. What little non-user support there is for transit is in danger of drying up, especially if the meme that buses and trains are “unsanitary” is added to the meme that they are “dangerous.” Good-bye, state funding!

3. Service will probably be more concentrated in inner cities and access to suburbs by transit will become even more dismal than it is now.

4. The stigma against people who still use transit will increase.

We need to be proactive in fighting the “new normal” before it hits. Wearing masks and keeping transit vehicles and facilities clean is just the beginning. More highly visible cleaning and security staff (not full-fledged police, more like combination conductor/Janitors) on transit vehicles and facilities at stations will probably also help to make skittish people more comfortable.

Peace House Community

“A SMILE IS SPIRITUAL”

People come home from all over the world. Peace House is an oasis, a little United Nations. Rose’s place is not all bread and roses. Who wants to sleep with both eyes open? Beware, she has bed bugs. They bump. Tears are holy water. A smile is spiritual. I keep coming back because it feels good. We don’t need the experts. We need us.

We don’t come for a sermon. We come for food.

He’s a drunk, but we all have hearts.

My favorite race is the human race.

We pray for the human race.

A meditation of words overheard at Peace House by Mike Hazard / mikehazard.org (from Peace House People, an Artist Initiative project funded by the Minnesota State Arts Board).
Poetic Art & Artful Poetry

BY CHRISTINE LEEHEY

Pastors Patrick and Luisa Cabello Hansel have been serving the Faith Community at St Paul’s Lutheran Church (2742 15th Ave.) in Phillips for 15 years. Their talents in art and poetry have been tremendous gifts, not only to us but to the community as well.

Pastor Patrick’s skilled verse has meant that our members have benefited from a personal, relevant and meaningful sermon every Sunday for 15 years. Pastora Luisa’s mosaic artistry adorns the sanctuary and the 28th Ave Peace Garden.

In addition, they have helped St Paul’s transform into a diverse community that serves its neighbors through invitations to programs and events and access to free health care through two clinics housed within our building.

We have been truly blessed from their time with us. We pray that their next chapter in life is filled with continued opportunities to share their gifts with others!

Christine Leehey is St. Paul’s Church Council President.

Plantings Forever

BY BART BUCH

Everywhere I go in my neighborhood, I see my neighbors, Luisa and Patrick Cabello Hansel. They get around. Through their work as artists and directors of the Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts and Co-Pastors of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, I see many creations initiated and led by them. I see the mosaics on walls, trash cans, and planters they and partners have created. I see the plants, flowers and gardens they have planted with neighbors. I see the words of poetry from youth with whom they worked—on utility poles. I see the young leaders they have trained. I see photos and words of neighbors in their neighborhood literary magazine. “The Phoenix of Phillips.” I see remind- ers of the ponchos, marches, and meditative blessing walks for peace, justice, beauty, and compassion. I know they have led and co-created much more beauty, healing and connection in this place than any of us can see. They are believers, in you, in me, in us, in each other, in this place, in the world. They have helped me believe more in all these things, too. They have planted many, many semillas and we will continue to see these seeds and fruits and flowers and trees and connections multiply long after their upcoming retirement. They knew that. They’re smart. Thank you! Thank you a thousand times, Patrick and Luisa, for your belief, your beauty, and the bounty that you have left us. I promise to tend, reap, share and replant what you have sowed.

Semilla Center grew naturally from the church with faith that LOVE planted and would he ever be free of this curse?

Compassionate Duo

BY SANDY SPIULER

Luisa and Patrick’s influence will live on in the East Phillips Neighborhood, in the regional organizations of Ecumenical Faith Communities, and in my own life. Our first meeting was quiet. Within months of their arrival to East Phillips, Patrick found me in the E. Lake Street Target parking lot. He called out to me, “Sandy Spiuler! I know YOU, but you don’t know ME. This is my wife Luisa. Let’s work together!” Indeed, we were now nearby neighborhoods working 2 blocks apart on 15th Ave. They at St Paul’s, and I at In the Heart of the Beast Theatre. Patrick reminded me that our paths had crossed in 1976 in Washington DC for the culmi-

nation of the Continental Walk for Disar-

mament and Social Justice when Patrick helped to carry puppets. Wow!

Ours was an easy, instant connec-

tion because of their welcoming warmth and humor. I recognized they shared my intrinsic understanding of how Art prods Spiritual discovery and how Spir-


tual quandaries fuel Artistic expres-


sion and Social Action. Together, in 2006, we built a team from the Church and from the Theatre to create and enact La Natividad/(https://sandyspiuler.com/ la-natividad/) enacting this on the streets of the neighborhood six times through 2016. Even though I understand very little Spanish, I love the Spanish speaking and bi-lingual congregation that gath-

ers young and old, and became a member of the church.

Semilla Center grew naturally from the church with faith that LOVE planted like a SEED will flourish in unexpected ways. Their contributions to Semilla are hefty, with Luisa’s outreach on Mosaics and Visual Arts, and Patrick’s on Liter-

ary Arts. The Semillas (seeds) have blos-

somed, evidenced by the many mosaics enlivening the region, neighbor’s words and photographs for The Phoenix of Phil-

lips magazine, surprise poems on lamp-

posts, lantern processions lighting the night, and mentoring and encouragement of Youth.

Because of all this, they are minis-

ters—each a counselor of deep insight—

who have ministered and advocated for those of us seeking guidance and inspira-

tion. They are a dynamic duo of Compa-

sion, and I thank them with every ounce of my energy for what they have shared with our neighborhood, and with my own life. So much gratitude and love for you, Luisa and Patrick!

Giving Joy

BY SUE HUNTER WEIR

I first remember seeing Patrick at one of the early Green Tomato Festivals which were held to celebrate Phillips’ many community gardens. It turned into an annual event and friendly competi-

tion—who was going to win the blue ribbon in one of three categories or, better yet, Best in Show. I’ve lost track of who won the most ribbons, but have not forgotten the fun it was.

Patrick and Luisa have supported so many community activities—“the alley” Newspaper, Friends of the Cemetery, In the Heart of the Beast Theatre, community gardening, a community clinic, and, of course, the Semilla Project and Young Leaders Program—that touch on almost every aspect of life in Phillips. They have made beautiful art with young and old.

At the heart of it all is their pursuit of social justice and their advocacy for those whose voices are not always heard.

I have a more personal reason to be grateful, as well. During the last months of my 99-year-old mother’s life, Patrick visited her and prayed with her. One week before she died she showed up at her door with three angels (kids from St. Paul’s complete with halos). They brought her small gifts, sang for her, and prayed with her. They gave her joy. There is no greater gift than that.

“Returning”

BY PATRICK CABELLO HANSEL

Author’s note: this story picks up years after the saga of “Search,” serialized in 34 issues of “the alley” from March 2009 through June 2012. In that story, we met Luz and Angel, two 19 year olds running from their past and search-

ing for their future, along with a score of beautiful and strange neighbors.

Angelo woke up with a start. He didn’t know what time it was, and for a moment, he didn’t know where he was. He had fallen asleep on the couch at 8 am, after helping Luz get Angelito dressed, fed and out the door to Hi-5 at Andersen School, and getting Lupita off to day care. He kissed Luz goodbye, ate the last of Lupita’s oatmeal, took a sip of lukewarm coffee and flipped on the couch.

He had done a double shift at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, 3 pm to 11 pm, 11 pm to 7 am. He hated crossing the nurse’s picket line, and he was angry at the supervisors who had filled in during the strike. The regular nurses, some of whom he saw this morning on the corner of Stewart Park with their picket signs, treated Angel and other orderlies, indeed the whole staff, as colleagues. The supervi-

sors acted as if Angel and the others knew nothing about patient care. Theybossed them around, or ignored them as people.

Angel hated crossing the picket line, but they needed the money. Angelo’s asthma had not gotten any better, and without health care, they couldn’t afford his medicine. Luz was trying to finish her degree at Augsburg University, while working part-time. The uncertainty about her degree at Augsburg University, while working part-time. The uncertainty about her degree at Augsburg University, while working part-time. The uncertainty about her degree at Augsburg University, while working part-time. The uncertainty about her degree at Augsburg University, while working part-time. The uncertainty about her degree at Augsburg University, while working part-time. The uncertainty about her degree at Augsburg University, while working part-time. The uncertainty about her degree at Augsburg University, while working part-time. The uncertainty about her degree at Augsburg University, while working part-time.
An Open Letter to Governor Walz and Local Decision-Makers
—from a front-line public health nurse, 5.18.2020

I am reaching out to connect about the resource distribution and conditions for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in MN, and the resonance to a dire time in state’s history.

Summer 1862: displaced Indigenous people, of the recently established State of MN, were waiting on overdue annuity from the U.S. gov’t. Exposed to a series of epidemic diseases, hungry, vacated from land and homes, they asked officials for more credit for food and supplies from locally-controlled stores in order to survive the months to come.

One local response was, “Let them eat grass, or their own dung.”

2020: displaced Indigenous people, of the still-occupied Dakota land, continue to wait on the overdue annuity from the US gov’t. 2020: Indigenous descendants are 17 times more likely than white-settler descendants to experience homelessness in MN. Access to land and housing has never been an accident, access to land and housing is a purposeful system of displacement that destroys community and erodes culture; leaving individuals at highest risk for hunger, disease, and poverty.

The story of resilience is a MN story, and more specifically, An Indigenous story. It is not a story simply of those who survive displacement, starvation, and genocide - but a story of how culture and resource inherently of this place is meant to thrive. The abundance in MN at this moment will be measured by how well we care for each resident of MN, and particularly those most at the margins. 2020 is a historical time to tell the story that starts with enough is enough - and ends with everyone having enough to thrive.

Displaced Indigenous people in Mpls. are currently among those without food and water, waiting on local officials to carry out the federal guidelines for pandemic response. Local officials stall plans for food and water distribution, hygiene stations, bathrooms - and now offer that closing encampments is the right response.

State health officials acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic, vacated from spread in the unsheltered community, and yet departments do not fulfill the contact investigation or testing needed to respond to the scale of the community-spread crisis. Local officials stall plans for food and water distribution, hygiene stations, bathrooms - and now offer that closing encampments is the right response.

State health officials acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic, vacated from spread in the unsheltered community, and yet departments do not fulfill the contact investigation or testing needed to respond to the scale of the community-spread crisis.

Now, before monitoring the progress of the disease, state health officials endorse closing existing encampments without alternate places for individuals to go. The duration of the Shelter in Place order left state decision with no plans for unsheltered Minnesotans to access to food/water, healthcare, sanitation, and ability to isolate. Enough is enough.

Enforcement of further displacement under the direction of local leadership and public health is too familiar in MN. Inadequate and inhumane conditions created by the systems that tolerate starvation and disease are not enough.

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Enforcement of further displacement under the direction of local leadership and public health is too familiar in MN. Inadequate and inhumane conditions created by the systems that tolerate starvation and disease are not enough.

MIGIZI Communications Continues and Expands During Covid-19 2020 School Year

MIGIZI means “bald eagle” in the Ojibwe language.

BY JOHN GUINI

Like all other schools and youth serving organizations, MIGIZI rather abruptly shut its doors to staff and participants on March 16 in accordance with the Governor’s shelter-in-place order. Since that time, MIGIZI staff have switched to an online service platform, whereas participants can log on to a virtual meeting with MIGIZI staff via Zoom.

Not only are we offering homework help and academic support, staff have also come up with other cultural well being programming including Medicine Mondays and Cooking with Jane.

MIGIZI’s workforce readiness and job training programs went virtual as well. With students enrolled in either the Green Jobs or Social Media Marketing career pathway, staff delivered all necessary coursework materials and supplies directly to their homes, including iPads, Apple pencils and solar charger kits.

This summer, we plan on offering a combination of virtual and in-person programming to up to 50 American Indian youth and young adults. For more information on all of our virtual programming, go to www.migizi.org.

MIGIZI was established over 40 years ago by Laura Waterman Wittstock and others as an organization with an American Indian journalism and communications focus, bringing Native voices and stories to the public through radio, newspapers, magazines and other media.

Over the years, the mission of this American Indian led organization has morphed into one with more of a youth development and education focus, working in collaboration with local school districts and other community and governmental organizations to improve outcomes for Native youth in the Twin Cities.

With our new location, 3017 27th Av. So., and under the leadership of new President Kelly Drummer, MIGIZI is undergoing a new strategic planning and re-branding process that will focus future programming and establish solid goals as MIGIZI enters a new phase in its successful history of advancing a message of success for the American Indian community.

MIGIZI means “bald eagle” in the Ojibwe language.
To the South High Class of 2020, Even before the circumstances of the present day, you carry the legacy of resilience. You were all born shortly before or shortly after the events of 9-11-2001. You have experienced two recessions, three presidential elections of astounding historical significance, the emergence of social media, and as South High scholars, you have always been at the fore of social awareness. Your class further raised the social consciousness of climate change and social justice issues, as well as the de-stigmatization of mental health issues. It has been said that because you are Minneapolis South High graduates, much will be expected from you. We know you will deliver!

With pride and highest regards, Your South High Educators

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**Life Goes On at Takoda**

**Life goes on at the American Indian OIC—Takoda Institute building and over the Internet.** The spring term saw regular Takoda Institute class offerings in the Patient Services Specialist and Computer Support Specialist programs held entirely online with the students and staff working mainly from home and using Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or other online conferencing and learning tools. This was after the instructors took crash courses and the students prepared their devices. As many schools, we have permission from the Higher Ed Office and our accrediting agency to temporarily conduct classes online.

Classes started on April 13 and are expected to wrap up at end of June, leaving July 6 as the likely starting date for in-person class times starting June 1, and the hours our building is scheduled to open up for in-person class times are some changes we have made because of the Governor’s decisions at that time. Those wishing to participate in such training in the fall should contact us. Takoda Institute programs, short-term trainings, and Workshops and Events are also currently being offered online. For more information, check out our website at takoda.org or 612 341-3358 ext. 113 (SNAP).

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**Takoda Institute programs, short-term trainings, and Workshops and Events**

The Adult Basic Education and GED room is scheduled to open up for in-person class times starting June 1, and the hours our building is open, currently 9 am to 1 pm, for any visitors, may be expanded in June. Enrollment sessions for a range of programs may also start at that time. As of late May, by order of the Mayor of MPLS, all persons inside public buildings will be required to wear a face mask. For more information, contact our website at takoda.org, or the following contact phone numbers:

**Food stamp application assistance:** erinm@takoda.org (That’s the high school)

**SNAP application assistance:** shirleenm@takoda.org (That’s the high school)

**Takoda Institute Career Training:** erinm@takoda.org

**Counseling/Job Search Support:** barbara@takoda.org

We look forward to serving you at Takoda, whenever and however that becomes possible.
This Monthly Alley Newspaper Half Page was paid for by Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Inc.

COMMUNITY FORUMS ON HOUSING

MPNAI is now holding virtual board and community meetings via Zoom. Connect by phone or by web
Please watch our website www.midtownphillips.org for links to join!

JUNE 23
Let’s Talk about Housing with Hennepin County Commissioner Angela Conley

6:30 - 7:30 pm
Join us for discussion on the local encampments, homelessness and housing resources

Please watch our website www.midtownphillips.org for links to join by phone or web!

JUNE 30
Phillips Neighborhood Fun Facts & How to Research Your Home’s History with Sue Hunter Weir

6:30 - 7:30 pm
Did you know the bread slicer was invented in the Phillips neighborhood? Or that the first Minnesotan soldier to die in WWI was a parishioner of St. Paul’s ELCA? Join us to learn more about your neighborhood and how to find out even more on your own!

Please watch our website www.midtownphillips.org for links to join by phone or web!

JUNE 9, 6:30-8 pm
BOARD MEETING
Did you know MPNAI offers home improvement loans for Midtown Phillips residents?
Discussion on how to provide a more accessible Home Loan Program for the community will be facilitated by Jim Hasnik, Director of Lending Services at the Center for Energy and Environment

Please watch our website www.midtownphillips.org for links to join!
FOUR SISTERS FARMER’S MARKET UPDATE
By: Mel Anderson, FSFM Manager

Hello All

Mail here! Manager of the Four Sisters Farmer’s Market. I hope this article finds you safe and healthy during these unimaginable times. Many things in our daily lives have changed and we are left wondering what, if, and how things will go back to normal. I write to update you on the status of the market for this season and to let you know our plan to remain open to serve our community. As of now, we are still directing the farmers and vendors on our Facebook page for updates. We encourage you to stock up on fresh food and support your local farmers. Eating fresh fruits and vegetables is a great way to keep our immune systems strong when we need it most.

Many things in our daily lives have changed and we are left wondering what, if, and how things will go back to normal. I write to update you on the status of the market for this season and to let you know our plan to remain open to serve our community.

2020 MARKET RULES:

• Stay home if you or someone in your home is sick.
• 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. is for immunocompromised shoppers, Elders, First Responders, & Immunocompromised.
• We have made many changes to the market to ensure the community's safety, including limiting numbers of customers, having separate entry & exit points, hand washing stations at each entry & exit, and adding space between vendor's stalls to be in compliance with CDC's physical distancing guidelines. Unfortunately, we have also cancelled market events including cooking demos, sampling, music and other entertainment.
• Farmers markets have long been places to gather and build community. However, this season we must follow public health recommendations and restrict the urge to linger and socialize.

Please help us ensure a safe environment for everyone by following our new rules.

By: Mel Anderson, FSFM Manager

VENTURA VILLAGE
JUNE ’20 NEWS

THE OPTICS OF HOMELESSNESS/Covid 19
By: Bob Albee, former resident and board member of Ventura Village, former editor of this page in the Alley

If you were walking along sidewalks in parts of Minneapolis and Seattle, tent encampments in each city look almost the same. However, Seattle had the jump on Minneapolis by several years.

In earlier days of homelessness (when we developed Anshinne Waktingin and Kila in Ventura Village), we travelled to Seattle/King County in the 1990’s to see how officials and advocates forward thinking spurred improvements in addressing homelessness. We wanted to adopt any measures that could improve services and supports addressed to Native peoples’ homelessness.

When living in Minneapolis I also strongly advocated for a reuse of the mothballed Fort Snelling military complex as a place that could be rapidly operationalized for hurricane refugees, immigration influxes, or any other widespread catastrophe that could displace a large group of people. Imagine now how helpful that campus could be in helping quarantine pandemic victims it could’ve fit into the $Trillion expenditures Congress has recently appropriated.

Moving to the Seattle area in early 2017, I was disappointed seeing this wealthy Pacific Northwest area had lost its leadership in serving the homeless. Minneapolis had not only caught up, but it actually surpassed King County in comprehensive services and supports to the homeless.

In Seattle, the opioid epidemic landed hard and coupled with judicial rulings that decriminalized urban “camping,” led to tents and villages “popping up on public and private land throughout central areas of the city. Residents were often in an uproar.”

Fort Snelling

Minneapolis Encampments (left) and Seattle Encampments (right)

If not only the visual damage of tents and junkyard litter; but also no sanitary facilities, no storage facilities and no empathy from adjacent neighborhood residents. No distinction is often made except by professionals, as to whether homeless people arrived in these encampments via bankruptcy, job losses, chronic addictions or conditions or simply risky personal choices.

The “blame & shame” game got louder up to the time the Covid-19 pandemic struck. Suddenly, public money in many urban areas across the country became available to acquire “closed” motels/hotels and vacant buildings to get infected and exposed people off the street. Up to that point, coffers had been tightly shut. Now they’ve popped open like a Jack-in-the-Box!

I’m impressed at how quickly convention centers, gymnasiums, soccer fields and other large venues were pressed into service for quarantines and isolated capacities for hospitals. This illustrates how community “stuffers” drive public and private expenditures. Had there been a similar response to homelessness as to the pandemic, we could’ve replaced encampments through public services and infrastructural investments addressing the root causes and consequences of homelessness.

Optically speaking, homeless encampments in both cities look mostly the same if you ignored the architecturally distinct differences. The Covid-19 pandemic began to be identified nationally following a specific starting rehab care center outbreak in Kirkland across Lake Washington from Seattle. Now we see elder care centers, food processing plants and penal incarceration facilities as primary hotspots throughout the country. Each facility in these categories would generally look similar to a casual observer. What we’ve learned with this pandemic in spades is not the issue, but rather well-considered policies based on science with leaders willing to stand together to insist that plans be carried through decisively and thoroughly.

Then when evaluating the impact and results, adjustments be made to keep the virus of Covid-19 or homelessness from further spreading.

Our Neighborhood Board has no meetings scheduled in June due to the Covid-19 response (as of mid-May). You can contact us at 612.874.9070 or at venturavillage.org.

World’s Largest Bank To Open Branch In Ventura Village

As part of an effort to expand its presence nationwide, JP Morgan Chase plans to open retail bank branches in Minnesota starting with locations in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Each location to open soon will be at 11th Ave. and E. Franklin.

Flowers on Franklin Was A Success!

Saturday, May 15, over 20 volunteers from Ventura Village planted the "Flowers on Franklin" planters along Franklin from 15th Ave. to Portland. Everyone was able to keep their distance and make a contribution to the livability of our neighborhood.

Antishenne Waktingin

Anishinne Waktingin in Ventura Village, Kila, was able to keep open and working for our local farmers and makers who work hard to feed us!
**Movie Corner**

**“Lord of the Flies” (1990)**

**BY HOWARD MCQUITTER II**

Did you ever wonder what you would do if you had to fend for yourself after a holocaust and the survivors around you, whether you knew them or not, are strangers? Similar to that question is what’s going on today with the pandemic coronavirus where “normal” human encounters are truncated as if in clouds of uncertainty—social distancing, wearing masks, sometimes wearing gloves, confining ourselves to home or apartment, maybe daily watching the dreary stories of Covid cases and deaths on CNN. In these times where coronavirus faces you in its unseen and mysterious form wondering if that sneeze near you will infect you or the doctor or nurse hands on patients with coronavirus may turn up positive.

In “Lord of the Flies,” schoolboys escape a place crash in the ocean making it to an island. Ralph (Balthazar Getty) quickly goes into survivor mode by giving each boy an assignment. Shortly after each boy is assigned a duty, a rebel named Jack Merridew (Chris Furrh) decides to kill the sheep and, when the other boys go on search for him, they miss the chance to be seen by a helicopter. What follows is the group divides among themselves under the leadership of Jack, who is a tyrant. Under Jack’s spell the boys resort to savagery of all kinds. All the boys went to military school but it’s Jack who uses his training to control his group. He orders his boys to steal the possessions of Ralph’s group. After the group is divided, Jack goes as far as killing some. And while Ralph tries to win back boys from Jack’s group, Ralph is really no match for the evil Jack.

So, then today, in the midst of coronavirus when the world is turned on its ear, do people take Ralph’s or Jack’s route—or does society take some actions from both camps?

**Cast:**
- Ralph: (Ralph)
- Chris Furrh (Jack Merridew),
- Daniel Poplogy (Piggy),
- James Badge Dale (Simon),
- Andrew Taft (The Twins),
- Edward Taft (The Twins),
- Gary Rule (Roger),
- Teryl Wells (Andy),
- Barden MacDonald (Larry),
- Angus Burgin (Greg),
- Martin Zentz (Sheraton),
- Brian Jacobs (Peter),
- Vincent Amabile (Patterson),
- David Wiens (Mike),
- Chuck Bell (Steve),
- Everado Elizondo (Pablo),
- James Hamm (John),
- Charlie Newmark (Will),
- Brian Mechewas (Tony),
- Shawn Skie (Rapper),
- Judson Mccune (Lake),
- Zane Rockenback (Tex),
- Robert Shea (Billy),
- Gordon Elder (Rusty),
- Bob Peck (Marine Officer),
- Bill Shoppert (Marine Petty Officer),
- Michael Greene (Captain Benson).

**Director:** Harry Hook.

Writers: William (novel) and Jay Press (screenplay).

Cinematography: Martin Fuhrer.

Music by Philippe Sarde. Rated: (R).

Running Time: 90 minutes. This is a remake of “Lord of the Flies” in 1963. The 1963 version is the better of the two.

June 15, 1920

Continued from page 10

smells of burning crosses by the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan.

An anti-baling bill was passed on April 21, 1921 in Minnesota, a good thing, but on the other many restaurants still continued to refuse service to Blacks and Blacks had to sit in the balcony in local theaters. For months, Blacks in the city feared of their lives choosing to lock them- selves in their homes.

A memorial for Clayton, Jackson, and McGhee was established in 2003, La Tonya Autry, researcher and doctoral student at the University of Delaware; Sharon Sayles

**Arts, No Chaser**

“Being alive and Native is an act of resistance, resilience and activism,” says Marcie Rendon

**BY DWIGHT HOBBES**

Marcie Rendon, writer and grassroots firebrand, has made her way into the mainstream with the hit novels, “Murder on the Red River” and “Girl Gone Missing” (Cinco Puntos Press), racking up glowing reviews from Publishers’ Weekly, Minneapolis Star-Tribune, Kirkus Review and more like it’s lunch. Her work has made her way into the mainstream with the likes of Janice Command and Adie Mendoza reading prose-poetry from a Native perspective. It’s a scathing send-up of sexually slumming, faceless predators hunting Native men while Native women stew in seething perspective. It’s a scathing send-up of sexually slumming, faceless predators hunting Native men while Native women stew in seething perspective. It’s a scathing send-up of sexually slumming, faceless predators hunting Native men while Native women stew in seething perspective. It’s a scathing send-up of sexually slumming, faceless predators hunting Native men while Native women stew in seething perspective. It’s a scathing send-up of sexually slumming, faceless predators hunting Native men while Native women stew in seething perspective. It’s a scathing send-up of sexually slumming, faceless predators hunting Native men while Native women stew in seething perspective. It’s a scathing send-up of sexually slumming, faceless predators hunting Native men while Native women stew in seething perspective. It’s a scathing send-up of sexually slumming, faceless predators hunting Native men while Native women stew in seething perspective.

Rendon continued as a community arts activist, WLA Children’s Book Award winner author and, notably, playwright (“SongCatcher”–Great American History Theater, Sacajawea–Fargo-Moorhead Community Theater).

**Dwight:** Marcie Rendon social critic cum mystery writer. Who could’ve seen that coming? You weren’t small potatoes before. Has your increased profile as a novelist benefited your contributions as someone committed to community?”

**Marcie:** “The increased profile has opened doors to opportunities to speak to broader audiences. I find that “Cash Blackboy,” mystery series resonates not just with Native women but women in general who have always wanted to be as empowered as Cash. The stories also have a following with men who admire the toughness of the characters. I have talked to a lot of audiences that I would have never gotten in front of before—farmers, small town residents, women’s book clubs, country western radio stations. All are opportunities to build understanding and create deeper conversations with folks who may have never heard of ICWA, #MMIW or adoption as a means of stealing Indian identity and land.

**Dwight:** “Don’t seem you’ve left your activism behind. In fact, that your protagonist is Native, member of a population noted in Wikipedia as plagued by ICWA (missing and murdered Indigenous women epidemic).

**Marcie:** “Being alive and Native is an act of resistance, resilience and activism. As long as we are breathing we are going against the oppression. For me, writing is a way to put voice to many of the stories in a way that is comprehensible to others, while creating a mirror for ourselves as Native people. At least that’s my hope.”

**Raise Your Voice By**

**PETER MOLENAAR**

“May my father, age 99 years, passed away May 19th, Covid-19. Through a window, I witnessed the nurse offer oral morphine. His lips moved slightly as she whispered in his ear…”

[Wright’s Raise Your Voice Column is on the Front Page of this issue.]

Belton, Mpls. Mayor 1994-2001; and the late African American activist, Ron Edwards (1939-2020) helped to make the memorial possible. What would have been much better than a memorial: reparations for all Duluth’s Black descendants.

Howard McQuitter II is the fourth generation born in Minnesota on his mother’s side.

Memorial dedicated in Duluth-Minnesota in 2003, 83 years after lynching of three young African American men by a mob of thousands of white people.
By HARRY LEEDS

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz extended the coronavirus stay-at-home order through May 18th. While not nearly as stringent as before, it is a welcome reprieve from the threat of people being let loose on the street to keep spreading this catastrophic contagion. This is no thanks to hundreds who demonstrated in mid-April outside Walz’s home as the Liberate Minnesota Movement demanded he lift the order. The rationale: it’s costing the economy. Yes, businesses have faltered, even closed and people are laid off, but “in the name of the public health,” we indignantly holster our slogans like “We can sue! We can revolt over this tyrant. He is supposed to be working for us” and organizer Michelle Even telling Fox News, “We want our rights restored.”

Twin Cities’ activist, Michelle Gross, took a different take, selling the alley newspaper, “Forcing communities and businesses to reopen prematurely harms workers. We are seeing this now with the order to reopen meat packing plants. People will be forced to choose between risk and income because anyone who refuses to go back to work at dangerous work sites will lose their unemployment.”

Protesters raising hell over lost income need a reality check. I saw the television coverage and it was a hoard of white folk - few wearing masks, none doing social distancing - who look like they never missed a meal a day in their lives. They can just suck it up, make do with less and join the rest of us who’ve bussed our asses to keep food on the table all our lives. Bottom line, what good does it do to safeguard your income if you risk not living long enough to do a damn thing about it? As could be counted on, Trump the Chump, who’s downplayed the crisis and dodged accountability from day one, championed this willfully ignorant lunacy. Well, on May 4, U.S. News & World Report ran the headline “Reopening the Economy Would Add 233,000 Deaths by July but Save Millions of Jobs.” In the story, “The number of Americans expected to die from the coronavirus by the end of June will nearly double White House estimates circulated as recently as this week for total deaths through the course of the entire outbreak, according to [an] analysis from the Penn Wharton Budget Model.” Talk about do the math.

On May 12, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director, Dr. Anthony Fauci, told the Senate Committee for Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions that reopening states too soon invites disaster, stating “Protests will escalate if states do not have the hospital capacity to treat patients and to isolate people exposed to the virus.” Those protesters think there’s a problem now? God help us all if they get their way.

The health benefits of eating a plant-based diet in the long term are pretty well established, but it is also important to think about the short term. High calorie foods can cause inflammation in the body, which basically means that your body thinks it is under attack. The effects on your mood and immune system are negative, and a poor diet can make you feel tired, sad, and reduce your ability to fight infection.

There is a way to boost your immune system, feel happier and more energized. That is to exercise. If you can safely go outside for a walk while staying six feet away from others, you might find it will do some good.

It can feel overwhelming to try and keep up these healthy habits, especially with the stress that we are all under. But if you make eating healthy and exercise routine, you may find you will look forward to them. Some people find that rather than thinking about what foods they shouldn’t eat, they think about what they want. So, they do like, “I don’t think, I shouldn’t eat the doughnut,” but, “I love roasted sweet potatoes.” If you find yourself with little to do, now is a good time to try out some new recipes. It could be a welcome, and healthy, distraction.

Harry Leeds is a nursing student at the University of Minnesota and nursing clinician at the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic (PNC). So

Please Make Minnesota PPE

by LEE LIECHTENRITH

There is a well-known shortage of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) in the United States. Minnesotans and our fellow countrymen in the other 49 states are suffering because of the shortages of PPE. No employee should go without PPE. No child returning to school in the fall should be without PPE. No one is expendable or worthless; all human beings should be valued.

One solution to Minnesota’s and America’s PPE shortage would be to invest in making PPE in Minnesota. There are a few options to make Minnesota make PPE a reality. The first option would be to use the tax code to create incentives to investors to build PPE manufacturing plants in Minnesota. The second would be to establish a public-private partnership. The third would be for the State of Minnesota to build and operate its own PPE plant. The fourth would be for Minnesota and its neighbors to pool their talents and resources to create a multi-state organization that would utilize regional investments in time, talent, and treasure to create PPE.

The aforementioned options are suggestions to fix an ongoing problem this summer. History has shown us that the 1918 pandemic came in waves and that the first wave was not the most fatal. Minnesotans should be aware of the history of 1918 and willing to put short term solutions into place now. United, we can produce enough PPE for all of our needs, and any surplus PPE could be sold to other states and to Canada.
**FREE YOGA**
(a Zoom class)
Movement • Meditation
Community
Mondays: 6pm
Wednesdays: 6pm
Saturdays: 2pm

**DARRYL’S ZUMBA**
(a Zoom class)
Monday: 7pm
Wednesday: 7pm
Saturday: 9:30am

**MEDITATION & SOUND THERAPY**
(a Zoom class)
Join LaDonna for 1 hour of meditation and breath work to establish peace of mind.
Mondays and Wednesdays, 5-6 pm
Two Saturday sessions, 4-5 pm and 5-6 pm

**FREE YOGA**
(a Zoom class)
Movement • Meditation
Community
Mondays: 6pm
Wednesdays: 6pm
Saturdays: 2pm

**CRANIOSACRAL**
*Watch the weekly Wednesday videos posted on the Backyard Community Health Hub’s Facebook page! Craniosacral is light touch, inner resourcing body-listening, rooted in following the movement of the cranial head bone that pumps cerebral spinal fluid down to the sacrum. Since all of the nerves come out of the spine, you can connect with the whole body. You can talk to the whole body from that relationship.

**STEPPING**
*Watch for videos posted on the Backyard Community Health Hub’s Facebook page on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month! Look for easy-to-follow videos on our Facebook page. Keep your groove on, learn some new moves or simply have some fun!

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**MOTIONS CREATES EMOTION, KEEP IT MOVING!**
- Get in your ten-thousand steps
- Walk around your home
- Walk around the neighborhood
- Sing one of your favorite songs
- How many of you out there can hula-hoop? It is tons of fun and your waistline will love you!
- hey, what about weight conditioning? If you don’t have weights around the house, grab a couple of canned goods and lift. Strap a couple around your ankles as you walk through your day. Laugh about how silly someone thinks you look, but in the end, you win.
- **DRINK WATER** throughout the day!
- Ideas for a few more fun, family activities: hopscotch, get your chalk, call on your creativity, and hop right on into health as a family unit.

**KEEP IT MOVING!**
Creating and obtaining Health can be fun and every step or movement you make counts. Join the Backyard Community Health Hub as we journey together achieving health and balance, drinking plenty of water, or moving with us in other wellness and balance activities.

These excellent classes are FREE through the generosity of the Backyard Community Health Hub a program of the Cultural Wellness Center & Allina Health.