

Dr. Penney Wheeler, Allina Health CEO, says "The BackYard has evolved into a promising example of community-led change. pg 12

Kid's Program for Kid's Fundraiser pg 5

# the Alley

## NEWSPAPER

NEWS & VIEWS OF PHILLIPS SINCE 1976  
JUNE 2015 • VOLUME 40, NUMBER 6

The Alley Online!  
[www.alleynews.org](http://www.alleynews.org)



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# WORTH WAITING

*Worth Waiting? Waiting through winter for the month of May that starts with parades, continues with many marvelous events, and ends with graduations? Worth Waiting for so many events they won't all fit on one page? Worth Waiting one kindergarten year, elementary school years, middle school years, high school years, vo-tech years, college years, grad school years for graduation? Worth Waiting? Hopefully, most will agree – Yes, Worth Waiting!*



Courtesy MAIC

May begins with Minnesota American Indian Month Parade honoring and celebration of Minnesota's indigenous people.



Courtesy Scott Vreeland

1,300 Andersen School students and many adults celebrated Arbor Day at Stewart Park, 26th and 12th Ave, by planting 150 trees.

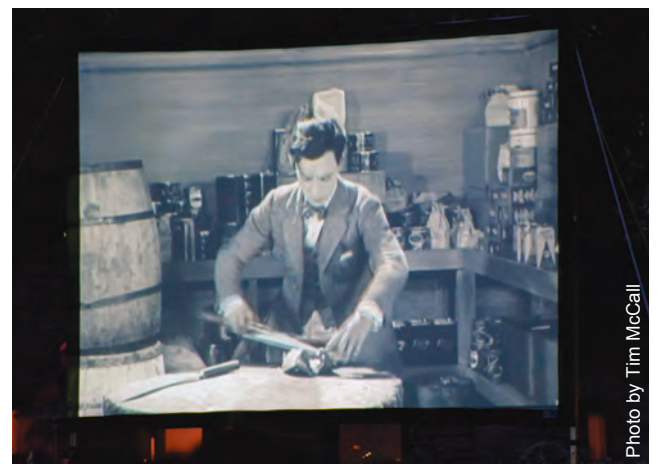


Photo by Tim McCall

Buster Keaton entertained 200 movie patrons at Cinema at the Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery.



Courtesy HOBT



"And Still We Rise," was the 41st Annual Parade and Pageant theme advocating an end to any and all racial oppression.



Robert Albee

Norway's 17th of May Constitution Day celebrated at Mindekirken Memorial Lutheran Norwegian Church with parade.



Tim McCall

The 147th Honoring the Veterans Ceremony at Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery



Anna Jarvis and daughter Anna Jarvis began Mother's Day to raise awareness of poor health conditions in her community.



William Kingsbury

A dozen Ventura Village residents planted blooming flowers in Franklin Avenue flower pots beautifying the Avenue



Courtesy Hennepin Works

Cepro "Park," a former grain elevator, adjacent to the Midtown Greenway Celebrated its creation and initiated new planning.



Cinco De Mayo, 5th Of May, honors Mexican army victory vs. French at Puebla in 1862; celebrations at 2nd, Bloomington, and 27th East Lake.



Courtesy Banyan Community

All Seven Banyan Community graduating Seniors signing Acceptance Letters to colleges of their choice.



Robert Albee

On Sunday May 31, Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders sought support from a "packed-in" gathering of over 3,000 people (100's more listened outside) at the Mpls. American Indian Center Auditorium/Gymnasium at 1530 East Franklin Avenue.





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**Alley Communications, a 501C-3, Not-for-Profit Corp. publishes The Alley Newspaper influenced by these words by Ann Greene Phillips and Wendell Phillips:**

*“We came into this world to give truth a little jog onward and to help our neighbor's rights.”*

**Donations are needed, welcome, and Tax Deductible.**

**Volunteers who had a part in making the issue:** Robert Albee, A-POD, Augsburg-Fairview Academy, BackYard Initiative CHATS, Banyan Community, Denny Bennett, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Susan Gust, Linnea Hadaway, Evan Hall, Hennepin County Franklin Library and Staff, Hennepin County Public Works, Sue Hunter Weir, Soren Jensen, William Kingsbury, Mary Pat McNeil, Jana Metge, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Tim McCall, Lisa Middag, Jonathan Miller, Peter Molenaar, Jeff Moeller, Dave Moore, Norway House, Ruth Olkon, Out in the BackYard, Brad Pass, Carol Pass, Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, Elizabeth Plaetz Lori, Palani Pozzani, ue Riesgraf, Elizabeth Saunby, Sunny Sevigny, Erin Thomasson, Ventura Village, Scott Vreeland, Penny Wheeler, Felicia Wesaw, Crystal Trautnau Winschitl.

**Delivery:** Volunteers and Sara Nelson Delivery to 150 Apartments, Businesses, Worship places, and Organizations to all Phillips' residences many homes and meetings by these volunteers

Beverly, Brad, Carol, Patrick, Cathy, Dave, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Jana, Marjorie, Midtown Phillips, Paul, Phillips West N Org., Sue, Tara, Ventura Village within blocks of these neighborhoods :Ventura Village, Phillips West, Midtown Phillips, East Phillips, Central, Powderhorn Park, and Corcoran; and a few places in Longfellow, Cooper, Cedar-Riverside, Elliott Park, Whittier, and Lyndale.

**Circulation: 7,800 hard copies and online.**

**Printing by:** Page 1 Printers  
More people are needed to deliver papers to neighbors and/or meetings and events.

Call Harvey 612-990-4022

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**June Issue  
Submission  
Deadline  
May 15**

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## History of Mother's Day



*Anna Jarvis and daughter, Anna Jarvis raised awareness of poor health for women.*

Contrary to popular belief, Mother's Day was not conceived and fine-tuned in the boardroom of Hallmark. The earliest tributes to mothers date back to the annual spring festival the Greeks dedicated to Rhea, the mother of many deities, and to the offerings ancient Romans made to their Great Mother of Gods, Cybele. Christians celebrated this festival on the fourth Sunday in Lent in honor of Mary, mother of Christ. In England this holiday was expanded to include all mothers and was called Mothering Sunday.

In the United States, Mother's Day started nearly 150 years ago, when Anna Jarvis, an Appalachian homemaker, organized a day to raise awareness of poor health conditions in her community, a cause she believed would be best advocated by mothers. She called it “Mother's Work Day.”

Fifteen years later, Julia Ward Howe, a Boston poet, pacifist, suffragist, and author of the lyrics to the “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” organized a day encouraging mothers to rally for peace, since she believed they bore the loss of human life more harshly than anyone else.

In 1905 when Anna Jarvis died, her daughter, also named Anna, began a campaign to memorialize the life work of her mother. Legend has it that young Anna remembered a Sunday school lesson that her mother gave in which she said, “I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a memorial mother's day. There are many days for men, but none for mothers.”

Anna began to lobby prominent businessmen like John Wannamaker, and politicians including Presidents Taft and Roosevelt to support her campaign to create a special day to honor mothers. At one of the first

services organized to celebrate Anna's mother in 1908, at her church in West Virginia, Anna handed out her mother's favorite flower, the white carnation. Five years later, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution calling for officials of the federal government to wear white carnations on Mother's Day. In 1914 Anna's hard work paid off when Woodrow Wilson signed a bill recognizing Mother's Day as a national holiday.

At first, people observed Mother's Day by attending church, writing letters to their mothers, and eventually, by sending cards, presents, and flowers. With the increasing gift-giving activity associated with Mother's Day, Anna Jarvis became enraged. She believed that the day's sentiment was being sacrificed at the expense of greed and profit. In 1923 she filed a lawsuit to stop a Mother's Day festival, and was even arrested for disturbing the peace at a convention selling carnations for a war mother's group. Before her death in 1948, Jarvis is said to have confessed that she regretted ever starting the mother's day tradition.

Despite Jarvis's misgivings, Mother's Day has flourished in the United States. In fact, the second Sunday of May has become the most popular day of the year to dine out, and telephone lines record their highest traffic, as sons and daughters everywhere take advantage of this day to honor and to express appreciation of their mothers

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**The Alley is social!**  
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off Oakland Avenue. Free Catered Dinner & Beverages will be provided! If you would like more information or would like to get involved with the neighborhood please contact Crystal at 612-879-5383 or email her at pwno2005@yahoo.com Please not there will be no July or August Phillips West Community Meeting.

BY ERIN THOMASSON  
**Children & Family Programs**  
**Family Storytime**

**Fri. 10:30 am.** All ages and their parent or caregiver. Talk, sing, read, write and play together  
**Puzzlemania!**

**Thurs. June 11 - Aug 13, 2-3 pm.** For families: a variety of educational and fun puzzles and games!

**Live Show: Puppet Storytellers**

**Fri. June 19, 10:30-11:30 am.**

For families. Watch puppets tell stories about animals, adventures and overcoming adversity. Be ready for added fun by rhyming, singing and dramatic play!

**Urban Harvest: Chickens in the City**

**Fri., June 19, 2:00 pm.** Rob Czernik from Powderhorn Feed Co. will share everything you need to know about keeping chickens in the city! Learn about different breeds, housing the birds, feeding your hens and more, plus meet a live chicken.

**Súper Kinder: listos para el kínder / Súper Kinder: A School Readiness Program for Latinos**

**Tues. & Thurs June 23 thru July 23, 10:30 am-12:30 pm**  
Se requiere inscripción; empieza el 26 de mayo; límite 10. La Biblioteca Franklin ofrecerá una clase gratis en español para los niños que van a entrar al kínder en septiembre y sus padres o quien los cuida. Le enseñaremos como preparar a su niño para entrar a la escuela con actividades divertidas que podrán hacer en casa. Este programa es gratis y está diseñado especialmente para familias que hablan español como primer idioma. Inscribase directamente en la Biblioteca Franklin o llame al 612-543-5648.

For families. Ages 4-5 and their parents/caregivers will meet at Franklin Library for five weeks to learn activities and skills that build early literacy and ensure school success. This program is for families who speak Spanish as their first language. Register at Franklin Library or 612-543-5648.

**Urban Harvest: Healthy Bees, Healthy Lives**

**Fri. June 26, 2:00 pm.** Kristy Lynn Allen, founder and head beekeeper of The Beez Kneez, will share information on grassroots efforts to counteract the dramatic decline in honeybee populations, and give tips on how to become a bee supporter or even a beekeeper.

**Franklin Teen Center Programs Urban 4-H Club**

**Tues 5-7 pm.** We do everything from urban gardening to digital photo/video to theater.

**Act Out for Teens: Duke It Out**  
**Wed June 10, 4:30-6 pm.**

Entering grades 6-9. Learn the secrets of stage combat from an experienced Guthrie teaching artist. Slap, punch and kick without hurting anyone – just like actors do it on stage! It looks real, but it's just pretend. No experience necessary!

**Teen Tech Workshop**

**Wed June 3 & 17, 4:30-6 pm.**

Get creative and make music, videos, animation and other projects using both high- and

## Programs at the Franklin Library

**1314 E. Franklin Avenue**  
**Complete program list or info**  
**612- 543-6925**  
**www.hclib.org**  
**Mon, Fri & Sat: 9am-5pm**  
**Tue, Wed & Thurs: 9am -8pm**  
**Sun: 12-5pm**

low-tech tools, everything from iPads and 3D printers to synthesizers and sewing machines.

**Kids Tech: MaKey MaKey**  
**Wed June 17, 3-4:30 pm.**

Entering grades 4-6. Turn fruit, dough and even your friends into game controllers using a laptop and a device called MaKey MaKey.

**Young Achievers**

**Thursdays, June 4, 11,&**

**18, 4:30-6 pm.** Do you want community involvement? Then bring friends and come for poetry, arts, games and more!

**Writers in the Library:**

**Unwritten Stories of Somali**

**Youth with Marian Hassan**

**Sat, June 6-27, 2:30 pm.** Somali youth are invited to work with renowned author Hassan to write their unwritten stories. Over six workshops, participants will explore questions of what home means to them and document their personal stories, to be published as a book.

**Adult Programs**

**Education Alternatives**

**Mon June 8, 1-2 pm.** Join this monthly discussion of persistent problems in education and possible solutions, based on the writings in Knowles Dougherty's blog: [educationspersistentproblems@wordpress.com](mailto:educationspersistentproblems@wordpress.com).

**Memoir Writing Group**

**Mon June 15, 1:00 pm.** Would you like to create a record of your personal history? Bring what you have written and are willing to read to the group for helpful comments and suggestions.

**Franklin Learning Center:**  
**612-534-6934**

Free, one-to-one tutoring for adults who are learning English and math, preparing for the GED and citizenship exams, and gaining life skills. We are always looking for community volunteers! No experience necessary; we provide training and materials.

## Apartments for Rent

**21st St. & 16th Ave.**  
**2 BR \$755. + Util.**

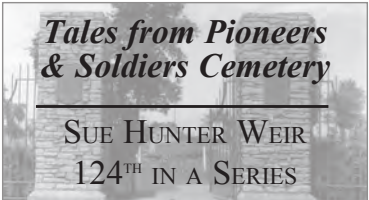
**East 26th St. near Portland Ave.**  
**2 BR \$780. + Util.**

**33rd St. & Nicollet Ave.**  
**2 BR \$765. + Util.**

**33rd St. & 1st Ave.**  
**2 BR 2 Bath \$995. Includes Util.**  
**612-825-6283**



# “Death of Another Old Citizen,” James Jones, 58



**James Jones**  
James Jones was an American success story. An Irish immigrant, he worked as a common laborer for many years. After he moved to Minneapolis, he started a boarding house which, through his hard work and effort, grew into the Minneapolis House, one of the city’s most respectable hotels. His hotel was located at the “corner 1st and Utah,” or, or as we know it, First Street and First Avenue North. Mr. Jones died in Minneapolis on July 11, 1872, from cancer of the liver at the age of 58 years. He is buried in Lot 96, Block C near four children who, judging from their ages and



when they died, were his children and grandchildren. Mary Jones died on February 4, 1863, from measles at the age of six years, four months and 20 days. Emma Jones died on February 28, 1863, from diphtheria at the age of four years, three months and 19 days. According to cemetery records, she was born in the United States. Charlie Jones died on August 25,

1873, from cholera infantum at the age of two and a-half weeks. Mary Francis Jones died on April 2, 1874, from congestion of the lungs at the age of three years. Mr. Jones’ obituary ran on the front page of the Minneapolis Tribune and gives us some idea of the type of man that he was and how highly regarded he was.

Death of Another Old Citizen  
James Jones, proprietor of the American House, died yesterday morning at 7:30 o’clock. His family and friends were not wholly unprepared for this event, as Mr. Jones had been declining several weeks. From the first, the nature of his disease left little hope of his recovery. He bore the painful affliction without a murmur, and looked forward to death and the future with hope.

Mr. Jones was born in the Northern part of Ireland, August 1st, 1814, and when quite a young man came to America, finally settling in Newmarket, Rockingham county, New Hampshire, where he was employed as a laborer for years, much of the time as a hand in one of the cotton mills at that place. Determined to better his condition, and satisfied that he could do better in the West than in an Eastern manufacturing village, he came to Minneapolis about fifteen years ago. Soon after reaching here he started a small boarding house, and gradually prospering opened the American House a number of years ago. By attention to business, never allowing another to do for him what he could do for himself, he acquired quite a competency. In all his dealings he gave evidence of the strictest integrity, and with all who knew him his word was his bond.

For a number of years past Mr. Jones has been a member of the Centenary M. E. Church, in this city. He was a consistent Christian, and among his latest utterances was, “Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, for his end is peace.”

His funeral will take place from the Centenary Church to-day at 4 p.m.  
*Mpls. Tribune, July 12, 1872*

## At the 147th Memorial Day Service “...increased devotion ... for...last full measure...”



*“we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain...”*

**BY SUE HUNTER WEIR**  
*“One of the benefits of being retired and old is that you can pick and choose...I tell you that because I’m here today because I want to be. I appreciate this opportunity to address you today and for letting an old soldier feel important one more time.”*  
– Major General,Retired, Paul C. Rehkamp

Flags. A band. Junior ROTC cadets and a Major General. Veterans. And Taps. Everything that you need to have a perfect Memorial Day was there for the 147th annual Memorial Day Observance at Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery. And if our keynote speaker, Major General Rehkamp felt like an old soldier, he fooled everyone who heard his wonderful keynote speech. The weather likely kept a few participants away but the service at Pioneers and Soldiers has

always had a small-town feel. The mood is fitting for a cemetery where Memorial Day, once Decoration Day, events have been held since the General Logan issued his order in 1868 that set aside one day a year to remember those who died in service to their country. Major General Rehkamp reminded us that: “[Memorial Day] is a national holiday and a very special day. In America we acknowledge the special events in our history. Each year we set aside time to remember our war dead, to recognize the labor that built America, to give thanks for all we have. These holidays mark significant events and have always been reason for ceremony and programs like this one here this morning. This weekend we pause to spend a moment to reflect on Memorial Day and its true meaning. We reflect on the how, when and especially the why we pay tribute to our war dead. We know that this day was originally called Decoration Day. That it’s roots go started with the Confederate dead and then

## Audience dry, Actor, Director Buster Keaton wet at local Cemetery Cinema

**BY SUE HUNTER WEIR**  
It was touch and go all day on Saturday. Would it rain or not? In the end it turned out to be a beautiful evening. Sweater weather but no umbrellas needed! More than 250 people enjoyed “The Navigator,” a 1924 Buster Keaton silent film. The amazing Dreamland Faces played an hour-long live soundtrack that captured Keaton’s slapstick perfectly. We hope to have them back again next year for what is shaping up to be a new tradition in pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery.

In addition to the film, Taco Taxi was on hand with their great food and a number of visitors arrived early and went on a new version of the Smartphone History Hunt. If you haven’t had a chance to try it, we’ll set it up again for the fall showings, and we will be participating in **Open Streets on August 2 from 11 to 4**. Stop in and get a dose of history.

Our ghost-themed schedule for fall is more or less set so mark your calendars:  
**August 29:** Sanso Y Blue

expanded it to all Civil War dead. It was originally a day to honor military members who died in our nations Memorial Day has become the day we also remember all our family and friends and think about them and family and friends who have died. **However you and I must never...never ever...forget that the primary purpose of this day is to remember all those who died in service to America!”** Thank you to Major General Rehkamp, JROTC from Minneapolis Transitions School, the Seward Concert Community Band, American Legion Post #1, Boy Scout Troup 3082, and Mike Barth, City of Minneapolis Street Department, for giving all of us the opportunity to remember.



Demon Contra Los Monstruos Orchestra (1974)  
**September 12:** The Haunting (1963)  
September 26: Poltergeist (1982)  
**October 3:** Haxan: Witchcraft Through the Ages (1922) with the Rats & People Motion Picture  
Look for more details in future editions in the Alley and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/PioneersAndSoldiersCemetery](http://www.facebook.com/PioneersAndSoldiersCemetery). Special thanks to John Moret and Trylon Cinema, Mike Barth and Aaron Hanauer, City of Minneapolis staff.



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Ask them, "Was it worth waiting?"

## Graduation – A Time to Celebrate at Banyan Community



BY SUE RIESGRAF

We have many graduations here at Banyan (a community development organization in Phillips)... milestones that Banyan kids are reaching AND are prepared to move onto the next level. Our **FIFTH GRADERS** are leaders and are preparing to enter MIDDLE SCHOOL. Our **EIGHTH GRADERS** are preparing to enter HIGH SCHOOL. Our **SENIORS** have their college plans in place- and are OFF TO COLLEGE this fall! Our **college kids** are also graduating and making the transition to CAREERS. These graduations give us a reason to pause and celebrate. Banyan kids "grow up" at Banyan because we are family. We are excited as a family to see our youth make successful transitions.

The Banyan **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES** had many college options to choose from - both near and far, big and small, urban and rural. But after years of planning for this decision, countless meetings with parents and youth, applications completed, FAFSA forms filled out and sent in, scholarship applications submitted (all with

the guidance of our College and Career Counselor) - they chose.

We are excited to report that over half will be living on campus, and to make college a reality - 75% of the tuition costs will be covered by merit and need based scholarships and grants.

Look out - Bethel University, Augsburg College, Loyola University, Minneapolis Community & Technical College, Minnesota State University, Mankato, and the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities - Banyan youth will be on your campuses this fall, ready to make a difference!

We are so proud of all these accomplishments and milestones.

Banyan Community is a non-profit community development organization rooted in the Phillips neighborhood to transform lives by developing youth, strengthening families, and creating community. For more information about our work visit us at [www.banyancommunity.org](http://www.banyancommunity.org) or call (612) 722-8512 or email us at [info@banyancommunity.org](mailto:info@banyancommunity.org)



# LORING PARK ACOUSTIC MUSIC FESTIVAL

## FEATURING:

The Wild Goose Chase Cloggers • The Little Thunderbirds  
Frank Hornstein & Friends • St. Anthony Main • Traki  
Joyful Noize • The Good Intentions Bluegrass Band  
Brady Perl • Patty & the Buttons • Blue Hazard  
Diversity Street Dancers

## Sat., June 13th, 2015

## Noon–8 p.m.

## FREE



the Friends  
of Loring Park



LORING KITCHEN & BAR



Loring Corners

Food vendors will be on site

**Sponsored By:**

MPRB/Loring Park, Citizens for a Loring Park Community, Friends of Loring Park,  
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City of Minneapolis/NCR, and several individuals and businesses!



For more info email us at [loveloring@gmail.com](mailto:loveloring@gmail.com)



## CEPRO Neighborhood Greenspace Celebration and Planning

BY SUNNY SEVIGNY

Wednesday, May 13, members of the community enjoyed a Neighborhood Greenspace Celebration as part of the St. Paul Riverfront Corporation's annual Placemaking Residency. The event took place on the site of the former CEPRO grain elevators between 10th and 11th avenues. The event centered around engaging community members in discussions about what has already been done on the site in the past, and identifying some ideas and next steps need-

ed to continue its development. There was a community workshop led by a representative from Gehl Studios from San Francisco, a talk on building healthy communities by Dr. Richard Jackson, as well as live music, a mobile sign shop, Zumba, and an aerialist performance. Many members of the community came out to participate in the workshop, or brought their children to enjoy the day in the open greenspace, make some art, and listen to live music from local artists.



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[MIDTOWNGLOBALMARKET.ORG](http://MIDTOWNGLOBALMARKET.ORG)



Felicia’s “Fairy Garden” on Franklin Avenue



Felicia Wesaw nurtures Sweet Grass near My Relations Gallery, Pow Wow Grounds, and NACDI office for its healing effect on passersby.

Felicia Wesaw knows that even a small amount of traditional plants can be an antidote to the overwhelming amount of concrete and asphalt in an urban setting like Franklin Avenue. She appreciates the abundance of beautiful murals and their positive effect on the mood of the streets. Her planting and tending to “Sweet Grass” is a small patch put a powerful aura that people have mentioned to her has a healing effect on an often troubled world and perplexed people.



A dozen Ventura Village residents planted blooming flowers in Franklin Avenue flower pots beautifying the Avenue

Waite House To Serve Lunch For Youth This Summer

Healthy Lunches Served at No Charge to Ages 18 and Under

With summer right around the corner, it’s time to think about keeping children healthy while school is out. Pillsbury United Communities will be providing free meals to children during the summer at Waite House, 2323 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Minneapolis on Monday-Friday from 1-2 p.m. Dates of the program are June 15 to July 31, 2015. There are no income requirements or registration and any child under age 18 may come to eat. Each year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture partners with local organizations like Pillsbury United Communities to provide free meals to children when school is out for the summer. For more information visit the Waite House in person or contact Rachel Sell, Catering and Youth Nutrition Manager at 612-455-0381 or visit the national Summer Food Service Program on the internet at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/summer>. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Open Arms MN will serve nutritious Free Meals this Summer at East Phillips Park Cultural Community Center

Open Arms of Minnesota is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all children without charge and will meet nutritional standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at East Phillips Park Cultural Community Center 2307 17h Ave. So. Mpls., MN 55404 Monday through Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> –August 13<sup>th</sup>. Snack: 1:00 PM-2:00 PM Dinner: 5:00 PM -6:00 PM Open Arms MN Offices and Food Service Center is at 2500 Bloomington Ave. 612-872-1152 OPENARMSMN.ORG

Family Friendly Music To Support At-Risk Children And Families

First Annual Summer Concert for Kids!

On Sunday, June 7th, Cedar Cultural Center will be full of local musicians and fans to enjoy family friendly music and community in support Southside Family Nurturing Center (SSFNC) and its work serving young children and families living in poverty and at risk for abuse and neglect in South Minneapolis. The Summer Concert, a new event to raise money and awareness for Southside Family Nurturing Center (SSFNC), will be an all ages show with family friendly music by The Bunny Clogs, Clementtown, and the Roe Family Singers. During the show there will be face painting, balloon animals, and a silent auction! The event will take place Sunday, June 7th at 11:30am at Cedar Cultural Center (416 Cedar Avenue). The proceeds from the Summer Concert for Kids will fund the critical early childhood education and family support services provided by SSFNC. SSFNC’s dual-generation supportive services include therapeutic early childhood education and intensive parent support and education services to families living in moderate to severe poverty and experiencing risk factors such as mental illness, housing instability, chemical dependency, and family violence. More info on SSFNC at [www.ssfnc.org](http://www.ssfnc.org). Tickets available at <http://www.thecedar.org/events/2015/06/07/summer-concert-kids> \$16 Adults/ \$10 children/ FREE for children 2 and under Doors open at 11:00am, Show will be 11:30am to 1:30pm

# Summer Concert For Kids!

A benefit for  
**Southside Family Nurturing Center**  
A program for at-risk children & families in  
South Minneapolis

**Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> – 11:30am**  
**@ Cedar Cultural Center**  
416 Cedar Ave S, Minneapolis

**Featuring:**  
Roe Family Singers  
Clementtown  
Bunny Clogs

Tickets available at [www.thecedar.org](http://www.thecedar.org)

[www.ssfnc.org](http://www.ssfnc.org)







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## City Leaders move to press neighborhoods to spend down NRP funds

By C Pass, East Phillips Resident

Neighborhood leaders have until June 26th to comment on a plan to move the NRP Plans of Neighborhoods toward ending...note I did not say 'completion', I said 'ending'. According to this new proposal, N'hoods have 7 years from the approval of their NRP Phase II Plan to finish expending 85% or at least contracting out 95% of their funding plus program income from their loans, etc. If this is not complete they must enter a process where they submit a plan and reach these thresholds in a year or implement a major neighborhood review and revision in 18 months to accept or revise current strategies or request a waiver. N'hoods without a Phase II Plan must have one by December 31, 2016.

All of these requirements take place under the threat of reallocation of a neighborhood's funds to other n'hoods by action of the NRP Policy Board and City Council. Haven't we seen such 'takings' before? It is clear to many of us that the low income, less educated, most diverse N'hoods will be the most impacted, since they struggle the most to get things done.

Note: initially there never was an end date to using NRP funds. N'hoods were encouraged to be very strategic, to manage funds with an eye to providing for their residents when the source of funds ran out. NRP Phase II was designed to be a 10-year plan. Quite a few N'hoods have revolving loans created to assist the neighborhood in the long term. EPIC does and we already received \$50,000 paid back on loans and expect more to then be reallocated to help our residents in the future. If the City can give the Vikings \$25 million for a stadium and the State can give Nicollet Mall \$25 million for a renovation, they can leave our NRP funds alone. Is their stated philosophy of equity real or just hot air???

## The EPIC Report – June

# East Phillips SummerFest



It's time to  
**CELEBRATE**  
in  
**East Phillips Park**  
**Sunday, June 21st**



1:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Minneapolis Park and Recreation

in Partnership with

The East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC) and

Many neighborhood artists, vendors & friends invite you and your family to a PARTY in the PARK

### For your Calendar:

**EPIC Board of Directors** meets:

Saturday, 6/6/15 & 7/4/15 At 10:00 AM

**EPIC General Membership** meets:

Thursday, 6/11/15 & 7/9/15 At 6:30 PM

**EPIC's East Phillips Community 17<sup>th</sup> Ave.**

**GARDEN Steering Committee** meets :

Saturday, 6/6 & 7/4 at 9:00 AM

**East Phillips Park Programming Partnership**

meets:

Tuesday, 6/30 & 7/28 At 11:30 AM. Lunch is served

### East Phillips SummerFest

**Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

**1:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

**All the above are at the:**

East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center

Located at 2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.

The Center is wheelchair accessible

**EPIC's East Phillips Community 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. GARDEN**

**Gardeners meet** (in the Garden - 2428 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.:

Saturday, 6/13 & 7/11 at 9:00 AM

Designed and Paid for by East Phillips Improvement Coalition



## MIDTOWN PHILLIPS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INC.

### JUNE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday June 9, 6:30-8pm.

Stewart Park (Arts & Crafts Room)  
2700 12<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Minneapolis

- Approve minutes of 5/12 board meeting (5 min)
- Orientation on funding sources, auditing and the expectations for MPNAl per our management response by Robert Thompson, NCR (40 min)
- Review for Approval HOTB 2015 proposal (15 min)
- Review for Approval Somali/American Radio Station KALY-LP 101.7 FM proposal (15 min)
- Midtown Phillips Festival planning/MPNAl booth (5 min)
- Public comments (10 min)

### JUNE COMMUNITY MEETING AGENDA

Public attendance encouraged for community discussion and awareness of local issues.

Tuesday June 23, 6:30-8pm.

Stewart Park (Multi-purpose Room)  
2700 12<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Minneapolis

- Approve minutes of 5/26 community meeting (5 min)
- Q&A on policy for local park field use with Scott Vreeland, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (30 min)
- Midtown Phillips Summer Safety Strategy (50 min)  
—Inspector Sullivan, 3rd Precinct, Minneapolis Police, will be joined by HN County Probation, Midtown Safety Center, HN County Attorney Gail Baez, Minneapolis Park Police, Transit Police, and 3rd Precinct Community Prosecutor.
- Midtown Phillips Festival announcement (5 min)



## MIDTOWN PHILLIPS FESTIVAL JULY 25, 2015

Saturday, Noon to 8 pm  
Stewart Park, 2700 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. So.



This event is produced by Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Inc with funding support from City of Minneapolis, Phillips Partnership and Project for Pride in Living. This is an Associated Aquatennial Event.

### FESTIVAL DE PHILLIPS DE MIDTOWN, 25 DE JULIO, 2015

Sábado, mediodía a 8 pm, Parque de Stewart, cuadra de 2700 de Av 12 Sur  
EXPOSICIONES • CABINAS DE PROGRAMAS DE RECURSOS • VENDEDORES DE ALIMENTOS  
• JUEGOS DE CARNAVAL • GAMBOL INFLABLE • PLATAFORMA INFANTIL • CABALGATAS  
• MÚSICA EN VIVO • ENTRADA GRATIS • BIENVENIDOS A TODO EL MUNDO

Para más información: [www.midtownphillips.org](http://www.midtownphillips.org) | 952-996-6490 | [midtownphillips@gmail.com](mailto:midtownphillips@gmail.com)

Este evento es producido por Midtown Phillips Asociación de Vecinos, Inc. con el apoyo financiero de la ciudad de Minneapolis, Asociación de Phillips y Proyecto para orgullo de vivir. Este es un evento asociado con Aquatennial.

[www.midtownphillips.org](http://www.midtownphillips.org) | 612.232.0018 | [midtownphillips@gmail.com](mailto:midtownphillips@gmail.com)

This Monthly Alley Newspaper Half Page was paid for by Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Inc.





Just Waitin' For Bernie...



Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt. in his first week as a 2016 Presidential Candidate talks to thousands in Phillips

**Bernie Sanders, 2016 Democratic Presidential Candidate** has reintroduced “Populism” into American politics to a huge crowd gathered at the Minneapolis American Indian Center. The United States has been hijacked by a small group of billionaires willing to sacrifice millions in their greedy efforts to gain even more of the American wealth for their small group of high-rollers. No President has the power to change the way politics has tilted the playing field toward their own interests; only a political revolution can change the landscape. Sanders is popular on Facebook for short segments of truth telling and it was clear that his messages fall squarely into the hearts and minds of those who came to see and hear him in person. Many of South Minneapolis’ “progressives” attended but the enthusiastic crowd was also well balanced with younger people ready to carry the torches for a real future.

Backyard Equity: Now that’s a new one!

How many of the Alley’s readers have a real backyard of their own? Many of Phillips newer Americans are confined to tiny apartments with hardly any amenities. Imagine you have a large extended family that you’d like to invite over, but there’s no daytime equivalent of bunkbeds. Where to put the visitors? Ventura Village residents are working on a plan to develop the north side of the Phillips Community Center into a place rentable for a nominal fee whereby all those family members can gather for some fun and games. If successful and joined by Waite House’s seeking to put in an adjacent play area, residents and stakeholders could have a place for adults and children to have a semi-private backyard to hold weddings, anniversaries and other kinds of celebrations. Ventura Village will build a deck and a gazebo for music and “speeches” and the rest of the space will be open to tables, games and other gathering goodies.



All of this backyard depends on a supportive vote by the Park Board Commissioners and staff, who would manage the space once completed. A funding request has been submitted to the Community Innovation Fund of the City’s Neighborhood and Community Relations Department, for one-time only financial help. If funded, this effort will be a project in which Phillips residents will be invited to join in to help in a Barn-raising kind of effort that focuses dollars on the materials and seeks volunteer help for the build-out. This is equity that can build a better community by more folks joining to make something new!

Will Low Power Community Radio help bring about change we need?

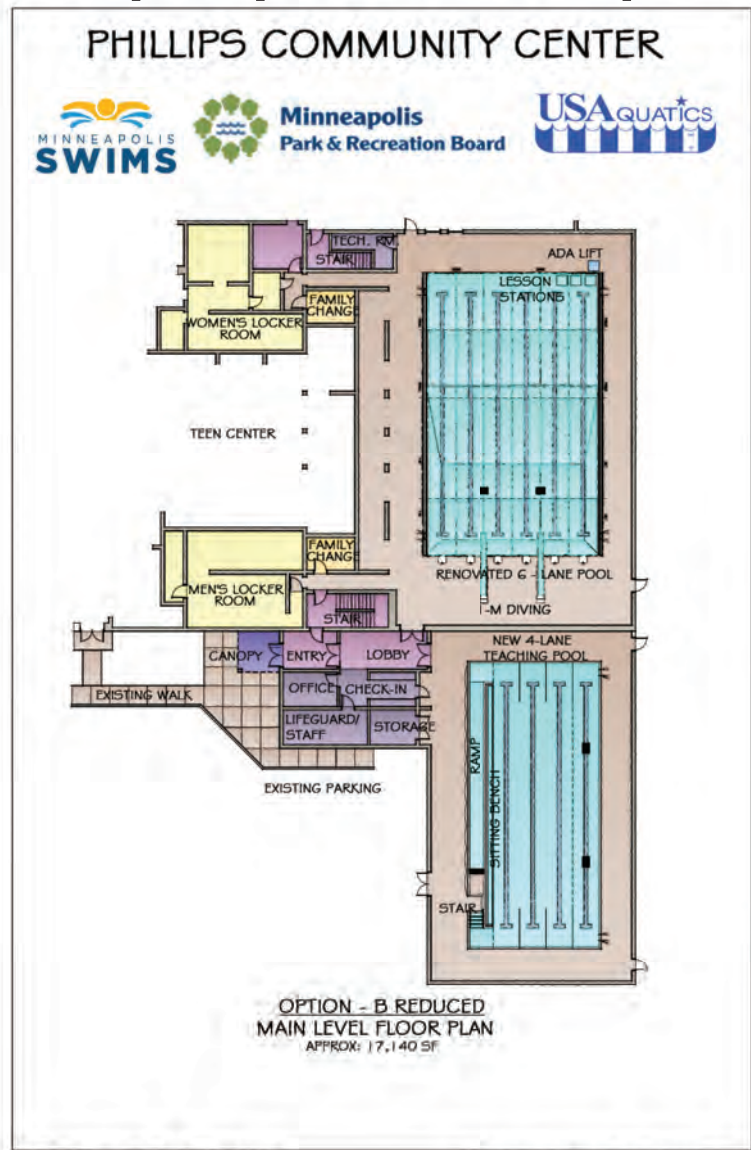
Forty years ago, Minneapolis was one of many cities in the United States where groups of media activists began the long effort of establishing small radio stations in an effort to democratize the air waves and put to power back into the peoples’s hands. KFAI-FM developed out of a group called Fresh Air Radio and a north-side group with similar intent started KMOJ-FM. Despite that success the media in general was seeing a huge consolidation of media into the hands of a few conglomerates. Although the per hour listenership at these stations is not huge, they have afforded the ability for many voices that would never be heard to be there. With technological leaps, both these and other community radio stations can stream their broadcast on the internet, changing what some earlier called narrow-casting into global-casting. A couple of years ago, President Obama signed the Local Community Radio Act into law following a 15 year effort by Prometheus Radio and Common Frequency, signaling a new era in community radio expansion. The Somali American Community and Pillsbury United Communities both sought and won the legal right to construct and operate Low Power radio stations that serve an approximate 5-mile radius. KALY-LP 101.7 FM’s broadcast tower and antenna will be located on Lake Street just across from the McDonalds near 35W. Studios will be located at the Phillips Community Center near 11th Avenue and 24th Street, as will the studios for PUC’s station co-located with the Waite House inside the PCC. Both broadcast groups are working on developing technical, programming, and volunteer outreach efforts because both will be listener-supported stations in a similar manner to KFAI, KMOJ and Minnesota Public Radio. Given programming already available on these stations, the new stations will be challenged to produce a different voice to the community and could be, in part, competing for the same listeners. Within the Somali community a huge opportunity awaits because many of the elder Somalis and some of the newly arrived cannot yet speak English, nor can many read or write any language. By providing much-needed informational content in the Somali and Oromo languages, elders and new immigrants will have a vehicle in which to receive navigational information on local resources, people available the help them and news they might not be able to receive from their Homeland. Most important as well is the ongoing anti-Muslim, anti-Somali sentiment stirred up by threats of political terrorism abroad and fictionalized into many dramatic television series. Former Senator, Norm Coleman called Minnesota, “the Land of 10,000 Terrorists”, with hardly a blink from local media as to the hate/scare-mongering that rhetoric elicited. Social Media lit up with huzzahs to Coleman’s message, prompting a recognition that anti-defamation capabilities from the Somali community will be needed as time passes. KALY-LP will not be having a constant focus on heavy drama and politics; most supporters are looking for a much lighter, happier voice, both in English and Somali. Some hope to learn Somali language from targeted training programs, but music, the arts and wellness issues will be included in much of the programming being designed. As they say in the media, Stay Tuned! —Robert Albee

VENTURA VILLAGE MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

2nd Wednesdays: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 6:00 PM	2nd Wednesdays: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 7:00 PM
1st Wednesdays: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE: 6:00 PM	Last Thursdays: CRIME & SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6:30 PM
1st Tuesdays: WELLNESS, GARDENING & GREENING: 6:30 PM	PARKS COMMITTEE: Call 612-871-7973 for next meeting time
Last Thursdays: HOUSING & LAND COMMITTEE: 5:30 PM	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Call 612-599-1066 for next meeting time



## Phillips Aquatic Center Update



MARCH 25, 2015

MINNEAPOLIS, MN

BY DENNY BENNETT

1. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, the MPRB passed the following resolution to fund the difference between whatever the final figure raised by Minneapolis Swims ends up, and the final cost to finish "Reduced Option B"- sketch attached.

That the Board adopt Resolution 2015-165 captioned as follows:

Resolution 2015-165

**Resolution Authorizing Selection of Option B – Reduced for the Phillips Community Center Aquatic Facility Using a Mortgage as a Source of Funding and Not the Capital Budget. Furthermore that Staff Report Further Findings Regarding Capital Funding, Operations Costs, and Construction Cost Estimates for the Board to Consider on July 15, 2015.**

2. With the recently announced grant of \$200,000 by the Piper Family Foundation, we have raised just over \$3M now towards the generous estimate of \$5.4M cost of building "Reduced Option B". Our goal is to raise another \$1,000,000 before the campaign ends.

3. At last night's MPS Board

meeting, Finance Chair Gagnon announced that the committee unanimously approved authorizing District leadership to begin conversations with MPRB leadership to explore a Capital contribution by MPS that would give them equity in the Aquatics Center, and increase the lane count in the main pool to 8, giving them a permanent 8-lane competitive District pool. This is expected to be voted on by the full board at next month's meeting. The high end estimate for this increased size would be \$2.5M, bringing the total cost to \$7.9M.

Again, please thank members of both boards for their support—we are strongly supported by both boards! Secondly, please forward any thoughts on development opportunities. Finally, visit our Facebook page, "Like" our posts, and share them on your site! Our best grants have come to us by word of mouth! Help us spread the word! <https://www.facebook.com/mplsswims>

Denny Bennett is Minneapolis Swims Board of Directors President 612-804-0488 [denny@denneybennett.com](mailto:denny@denneybennett.com)

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## Minnesota Department Of Natural Resources Celebrates Arbor Month By Encouraging Tree Planting And Education



Photo courtesy of MP&amp;G Marketing Solutions

1300 kids having Arbor Day Fun at Stewart Park with MNDNR and MPR

May 14 Arbor Day celebration to include the planting of 150 trees by 1,300 Minneapolis students

With Arbor Day and Arbor Month just around the corner, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wants to encourage residents to plant more trees. This year's theme "Plant Strong, Live Long" focuses on the importance of proper tree planting.

DNR is providing a variety of resources to help Minnesotans get their trees off to a long, healthy life. Resources include simple, how-to instructions in a handy "Pocket Guide to Planting Trees." The guide, available on the DNR website, highlights the variety of planting methods for various types of trees being planted: bareroot, burlap wrapped or container. Also available on the DNR website is a short video How to Plant Tree Seedlings that provides easy to follow tips and tricks.

Another important factor in the

overall health of the state's tree population is diversity. That is why as part of this year's state celebration, the DNR is partnering with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) to plant more than 150 trees from 14 botanical families, 29 genera, and 50 different species (or cultivars) as part of the annual Minneapolis Arbor Day celebration.

On May 14, 1,300 kindergarten through eighth grade students from Andersen United Community School will learn first hand how to properly plant trees in the park next door to their school. From 8 a.m. to 10:15 a.m., students will work together with their parents and teachers to plant, mulch and water trees throughout Stewart Park in the Phillips Neighborhood. The event will conclude with a 12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. official ceremony with In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre providing edu-

cational entertainment and a choir performance by 150

4th-graders singing the praises of trees.

According to MPRB Sustainable Forestry Coordinator Philip Potyondy, "Planting a diversity of trees ensures a strong urban forest. None of the trees we will be planting is susceptible to Asian longhorned beetle, emerald ash borer, or Dutch elm disease."

More Info:

Fruits of the City will also be on hand to talk about their program and the benefits of fruit trees. Fruit trees are among the trees being planted, which also include shade trees, conifers, flowering trees, and nut trees. Some of the common names of more than 150 trees being planted are Douglas Fir, Tamarack, Ponderosa Pine, Lilac, Dogwood, Magnolia, Cherry, Plum, Apricot, Pear, Hickory, Filbert, Walnut, Beech, Cork, several varieties of Oak, and Ginkgo.

For more information on how to plant trees, the many benefits trees provide and the 2015 State Arbor Month Celebration, visit: [mndnr.gov/arbormonth](http://mndnr.gov/arbormonth).

## St. Paul's Summer Splash!

Our theme for summer 2015 is "The Gift of Water". Events include a Creativity Camp for Children, June 8-12, Block Party July 19, Open Eye Puppet Show July 29. St. Paul's Semilla Arts Program will be doing new mosaic garbage cans in Phillips this summer, and participating in the Lake Street Open Streets on August 2. There will be photography and creative writing courses for youth and adults. And the Phoenix of Phillips hopes to bring out its second edition in the fall. Writers of poetry, short fiction can submit their work to: [stpaulscreate@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulscreate@gmail.com)

## WELNA HARDWARE



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# Come to a Saturday Puppet Show!

Saturday Shows for Kids at Calhoun Square in June and July.



HOBt Saturday Puppet Shows for Kids are on the road in summer 2015! Join us every Saturday in June and July starting at 10:00am at Calhoun Square in Uptown for a FREE, family-friendly puppet show and workshop.

WHERE: In the Calhoun Square atrium (first floor). Calhoun Square is located at the corner of Lake St. and Hennepin Ave., in the heart of Uptown Minneapolis.

WHEN: Every Saturday during June and July. Shows at 10:00am and 11:30am. Each Saturday includes a “Make and Take” activity between the first and second shows for the first 45 participants - be sure to stay after or arrive

early!

SCHEDULE:

June 6 - On the Day You Were Born

June 13 - Coyote Stories

June 20 - The Way of the Monarch

June 27 - The Old Woman Who Swallowed a Fly

July 4 - Buppet Labs

July 11 - Lupita Does Not Want to Sleep!

July 18 - I Love Science

July 25 - Nalah Goes to Mad Mouse City

More information available at: <http://hobt.org/events/saturday-puppet-shows-for-kids-at-calhoun-square/>

Follow The Alley on Twitter or on Facebook: @alleynewspaper

**Life is hectic**

**Keep a healthy family at the top of your list.**

The Hennepin County Child and Teen Checkups program can help with the details.

Services are free for children, teens and young adults who are on Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare, including young parents.

Call to learn more 612-348-5131

[www.hennepin.us/checkups](http://www.hennepin.us/checkups)

# Register for an HOBt Summer Camp!

HOBt is offering week-long day camps this July for kids ages 4-18



Build a puppet, learn to stilt, create a parade, make a costume, join the circus!	July 6-10, 1pm-3:30pm	Teaching Artist: Nicole Amaris
Minimum enrollment for all camps is 10 students.	The Amazing Dancing Hands Ages 8-12	July 20-24, 1pm-3:30pm
Full camp descriptions and more details at <a href="http://hobt.org/education/summer-camps/">http://hobt.org/education/summer-camps/</a> .	Teaching Artist: Sandy Spieler	Make-A-Parade Ages 8-12
July 6-10, 9:30am-12pm	July 13-17, 9:30am-12pm	Teaching Artist: Angie Courchain
Butterfly Camp	Urban Stilt Walking Revolution! Ages 8-18	July 27-31, 9:30am-12pm
July 6-12	Teaching Artist: Nicole Amaris	I Love a Love Parade Ages 4-8
Teaching Artist: Laurie Witzkowski	July 13-17, 1pm-3:30pm	Teaching Artist: Esther Ouray
	Box Troll Boxventure! Ages 8-12	July 27-31, 1pm-3:30pm
	Teaching Artist: Seth Eberle	Join the Circus Ages 8-12
	July 20-24, 9:30am-12pm	Teaching Artist: Esther Ouray
	Stilt Walking 101 Ages 8-18	At the Avalon Theater 1500 East Lake Street Mpls. MN 55407

# MayDay Parade 2015...And Still We Rise

We rise to END any and all forms of racial oppression. So that all can breathe full and limitlessly and know they are free and divine. YES!

We rise so that the legacy of slavery and oppression will not live on anymore. Not in the prison industrial complex or racial profiling or state-sponsored violence or senseless killings or ignorant stereotypes or hateful confusion or soul depression or greedy indifference. This stops NOW.

We rise to heal the dis-ease of racism in all our hearts and the collective heart of the United States of America! We rise with galvanizing fire so that all the pain and sacrifices of our ancestors can be fully vindicated and freedom fully arrives! YES!

We rise so that all can know a free heart when walking in the streets. We rise so all can lay in the shade of the Tree of Life, feeling luscious breezes and warm kisses knowing all are loved to their core. YES!

We rise in affirmation that Black Lives are sacred. And sweet, ingenious, inventive, unfolding, blossoming, courageous, resilient, ancient, soulful, queer, folk, complex, diverse, precious and infinite.

**Parade Sections:**

- Ecstatic Origins**  
Celebrates All Life twined together as a Tree of Life.
- Elephant in the Room**  
Examines the longstanding mechanism of racial oppression and white privilege in the United States of America.
- We Rise!**  
We rise with galvanizing fire to heal the dis-ease of racism in all our hearts and the collective heart of the United States of America!

**Black Lives Are Sacred**

Affirming a daybreak that’s wondrously clear with the action of health and freedom for all, we envision: the police force as teams of Grandmas, of social systems based on Cooperative Abundance, of Children living free and being taught the Whole Truth of ancestry, of Love raining down and cleansing all.

**And Still We Rise**

Recognizes that our human rising is grounded in the continual generative energy of our living earth.

**The title of this year’s MayDay theme is inspired by Maya Angelou’s poem *Still I Rise*.** Thank you Maya Angelou (1928-2014)! Your many years of stunning, passionate work feeds us

# Still I Rise

**BY MAYA ANGELOU**

You may write me down in history  
With your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may tread me in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I’ll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?  
Why are you beset with gloom?  
’Cause I walk like I’ve got oil wells  
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,  
With the certainty of tides,  
Just like hopes springing high,  
Still I’ll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?  
Bowed head and lowered eyes?  
Shoulders falling down like teardrops.  
Weakened by my soulful cries.

Does my haughtiness offend you?  
Don’t you take it awful hard  
’Cause I laugh like I’ve got gold mines  
Diggin’ in my own back yard.

You may shoot me with your words,  
You may cut me with your eyes,  
You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
But still, like air, I’ll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?  
Does it come as a surprise  
That I dance like I’ve got diamonds  
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history’s shame  
I rise  
Up from a past that’s rooted in pain  
I rise  
I’m a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.  
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
I rise  
Into a daybreak that’s wondrously clear  
I rise  
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.  
I rise  
I rise  
I rise.





University of Minnesota School of Public Health Dean John Finnegan with Allina Health president and chief executive Dr. Penny Wheeler

**Dr. Wheeler**  
from page 10

neighborhood?

What if she had been enrolled in a WIC Program after she recovered from her surgery and received that support?

What if she had someone to whom she could turn when her boyfriend was using and abusing?

What if, in the words of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Marletta was surrounded by a culture of “health”?

What if she had choices? Would her two children still have had their mother?

Of course there are other stories that keep us awake. I know of John, a victim of inequitable care, who died prematurely of a preventable heart ailment and who his mother described as being “erased” by support services and medical care. Or how about Andy who was 17 years old and had

a mental health crisis? With no access to local care (no room in the strained mental health environment) and being shipped to a hospital 120 miles from home,

responsible for each other and each other’s well-being. We can’t re-write those of Marletta, John and Andy. But, together, we can support many people we don’t yet

**You see, we thought of it as working to improve the health of the people in Allina Health’s back yard. Pretty soon, though, community leaders straightened us out, by essentially saying “excuse us, Allina Health, but you are in OUR back yard and we are tired of being done to and done for.” Luckily, we listened.**

and given no follow-up care, he committed suicide two weeks after discharge.

These stories are heartbreaking, especially when we know that we are interconnected and

know and enable them to have more choices, lead better lives, and extend their capacity to love and support those around them.

To do so, we have to bring together medical care and public

health. We are finally understanding, in my world, that health challenges are not solved by medical systems. In fact, we all know that access to health care is only a small part of a person’s health. If we don’t have one foot in health care and a larger foot in the community—working together to create more positive conditions for health—people will suffer. Public health has the data and connections to reveal the problems in the community, and clinicians have the direct patient/community member connections to bring the stories to light and change perspectives, behaviors and policies. Together, we need to collaborate even more, with each other, with other sectors, and with communities themselves to catalyze a big turn toward better health for all.

There are positive examples of change all over our state that we can build on.

At Allina Health, we are privileged to be working in creative partnership with our neighbors in the communities immediately surrounding our headquarters in the old Sears building on Lake Street—now the vibrant Midtown Global Market and The Commons—and our largest hospital, Abbott Northwestern. For the past seven years we have worked on something we call “the Backyard Initiative,” with the School of Public Health. It has evolved into a promising example of community-led change. In fact, those of us at Allina Health had a big lesson to learn from the community at the start. You see, we thought of it as working to improve the health of the people in Allina Health’s back yard. Pretty soon, though, community leaders straightened us out, by essentially saying “excuse us, Allina Health, but you are in OUR back yard and we are tired of being done to and done for.” Luckily, we listened. Citizens—neighbors—have

defined for themselves what is health, zeroed in on social cohesion as a core health strategy, and have formed Citizen Health Action Teams to drive the changes of their choosing and their design. One of the citizen teams is A Partnership of Diabetics, which offers a strong peer support for those with this chronic condition.

I can’t help but wonder if Marletta had had this community team on her side, whether her story might have taken more positive turns.

It won’t be easy to get all of this done right so that, ultimately, there are no preventable, tragic stories left to tell. It will be an incredible challenge to change ways of thinking and doing things for the better. There will be whitewater along the way. It will be a character test for us as individuals and as a community. What will it take to relieve this unnecessary suffering? Is it a Sisyphean task to accomplish this?

The task of building a healthier state, nation and world is indeed tremendous, and it will test the character of each of you in the room.

I offer three pieces of advice to help us get there together:

1. Always clarify the intent of change. Why is it important? How will lives be affected for the better? Make it mean something.
2. Drive, don’t slide. Always bring your best and expect it of those who work with you. Be intolerant of anything that gets in the way of improving a life or lives.
3. Lead with love; make love your legacy. In the end, it is your passionate purpose that will carry you through the whitewater of change and resistance, lead to our collective ability to improve lives in unprecedented ways, and provide congruence between what we value at home, at work and in our communities.

Ultimately, our job together is to relieve suffering and extend hope and possibility. We have a moral imperative to do so and by so doing relieve undue suffering of those whose faces we may not know, but whose lives we have collectively committed to improving. Dr. Don Berwick, a wonderful mentor to so many, said, “I think health care is more about love than anything else, for if it’s not one person trying to relieve the suffering of another and that’s not love, I don’t know what it is.” Our job is to connect health care and public health to extend that love to the benefit of many. It is a charge and an opportunity for this moment in history, a moment at which health systems like mine finally understand that we are meant to be about more than responding to illness: we are meant to be about health. Let’s meet at the nexus and profoundly change the health and lives for untold numbers of Marlettas. We need each other, and those individuals we are collectively fortunate enough to serve need you. In this moment, this historic time for what we can do together, the only thing that exceeds my admiration for you is my hope for you. The moment is now, and the moment is yours. Thank you, congratulations, and let’s do this!

# A-POD

## A Partnership Of Diabetics

# JUNE 2015

*“Lend yourself to others, but give yourself to yourself.”*

Michel de Montaigne  
1533-1592 Writer

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2 Somali Language Meet-up @ 1:30 PM Horn Towers – 31st & Blaisdell Avenue South	3	4 English Language Meet-up @ 10:00 AM PCC Upstairs Office	5
8 English Language Meet-up @ 7:00 PM PCC Upstairs Office	9 Somali Language Meet-up @ 1:30 PM Horn Towers – 31st & Blaisdell Avenue South	10	11 English Language Meet-up @ 10:00 AM PCC Upstairs Office	12
15 English Language Meet-up @ 7:00 PM PCC Upstairs Office	16 Somali Language Meet-up @ 1:30 PM Horn Towers – 31st & Blaisdell Avenue South	17	18 English Language Meet-up @ 10:00 AM PCC Upstairs Office	19
22 English Language Meet-up @ 7:00 PM PCC Upstairs Office	23 Somali Language Meet-up @ 1:30 PM Horn Towers – 31st & Blaisdell Avenue South	24	25 MONTHLY DIABETES BREAKFAST 8:30 AM @ PCC DINING ROOM ENGLISH LANGUAGE MEET-UP @ 10:00 PCC • NEXT DOOR	26
29 English Language Meet-up @ 7:00 PM PCC Upstairs Office	30 Somali Language Meet-up @ 1:30 PM Horn Towers – 31st & Blaisdell Avenue South	31		

Allina Health  
BACKYARD INITIATIVE

PHILLIPS  
COMMUNITY  
CENTER  
2323 11TH AVE. S.  
This is the West  
Entrance to the  
Building. We are  
Upstairs on 2nd  
Floor. Call us @  
612.812.2429

JOIN OUR MONTHLY DIABETES  
COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS!

BREAKFAST  
FUNDING  
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BY:  
novo nordisk

A-POD PROUDLY SERVES AS A  
CITIZEN HEALTH ACTION TEAM (CHAT)  
MEMBER OF THE BACKYARD INITIATIVE OF ALLINA HEALTH



# Fly the Friendly Skies

Monday, May 18...

The Metropolitan Airports Commission was to convene its monthly meeting with a lengthy agenda. Star employees were to receive awards! Smile. However, the deeper concern was this: Should the low-wage classifications be bumped up \$1.00 from the minimum wage?

So rendezvous at the Lake Street Station for a light rail hop to Terminal I. Traverse the dark recesses...enter the light of day among red shirt activists. The gathering was lead by "15 Now" (Socialist Alternative) and SEIU Local 26. "Fight for \$15/hour at MSP Airport" was the slogan.

We were able to pass the security gauntlet (to mixed reviews) and entered momentarily the bourgeois market place. We did not dwell there, but ascended one flight to find the MAC meeting space.

After much to-do, the time for public testimony did arrive. I had filled out a card requesting to speak on behalf of the Communist Party USA. To my astonishment, my name was called first!

Sensing an historic moment of sorts, I held forth my own hand made sign: LIVING WAGE NATION NOW! The commissioners were reminded that in the modern world such slogans might be viewed almost anywhere instantly. Lifting the wage



PETER MOLENAAR  
*Raise Your Voice*

to the level of a living wage is then a MATTER OF NATIONAL PRIDE.

A spokesman for the Chamber of Commerce was to follow. Poor fellow. But the workers spoke with eloquence. For their families, a raise to \$10.00/hour would be woefully inadequate (and disgraceful).

[@alleynews](http://www.alleynews.org)



## Frank Reflections

# The "Food Chain" of Violence

BY FRANK ERICKSON

Why do Whites get to use violence to fight terrorism, but Blacks do not get to use violence to fight racism?

What is the difference between hurling bricks and bottles at police after what happened to Freddie Gray and hurling bombs

at Afghanistan after what happened on 9-11? Who are the true rioters and looters?

The crime is not racism. The crime is people of color responding to racism, in a manner that is viewed as unacceptable. The burden of ending racism is on those subjected to it and how they

respond to it.

The U.S. government having access to violence in the form of "War" as a vehicle for fighting terrorism does not come from the U.S. Constitution. Anyone can write up a constitution and claim it gives them the right to "war." "War" is a very simple straight forward physical phenomenon. It comes from being on top of the violence "food chain." Those with the most lethal violence have "access" to war---most of us are aware of this---but what we need to address is that the freedom to kill comes from being on top of the violence "food chain" and not from "war."

The U.S. government gets to claim its violence upon Iraq was "war" and then walk away from it, because they are on top of the violence "food chain."

The Boston Marathon bomber cannot walk away from his killings by claiming it was "war," because he is not on top of the violence "food chain; simple as that.



**Growing the Backyard**  
Encouraging and celebrating Urban Farming in the "Backyard" of south Minneapolis.

**SkillShares at Paradise Garden**  
34th and Chicago Ave  
Saturdays from 10-12  
May 16—Compost bin build  
May 30 - Garden planting  
June 13 -Build plant supports

**What skill will YOU share?**

For more information contact:  
**Tim Page**  
651-271-3795  
tp@holistichealthfarms.com



**Save the Date!**  
Growing the Backyard  
Neighborhood Celebration  
at the  
TEENs Enterprise Garden  
24th and Portland

**Sunday, June 7**  
3-6pm

Music	Resources
Food	Connections
Activities	FUN!
Gardening tips	Bike Library info



# Greenway Glow

## 6 p.m. - Midnight on Saturday, June 20

Join us for our annual arts festival and night bike ride on the Greenway!

6 p.m. - Midnight on Saturday, June 20th.

The arts festival is **free**, while the bike ride has a registration fee and donations that raise funds to support the Greenway.

Registered Greenway Glow bike riders get **FREE** appetizers and treats from Agra Culture Kitchen & Press, Prairie Dogs Hot Dogs & Sausages, Gandhi Mahal Restaurant, and more. *Plus*, drinks from New Belgium Brewing, glow lights, the chance to compete in the Arty-Cat Scavenger Hunt, and much more!

We will also be organizing a "Family Glow" from 6 - 9 p.m., in the Soo Line Community Garden (one block east of Lyndale). The *free* Family Glow will feature hands-on "make and take" art activities for kids.

Everyone is welcome to join us at the new Soo Visual Arts Center on Bryant from 8 p.m. - Midnight. There will be live music, gallery exhibits, and you can purchase tasty hot dogs and sausages from Prairie Dogs and drinks from bartenders from Bryant-Lake Bowl. **Free admission**







# BACKYARD INITIATIVE BACK PAGE



BYI AREA



## Connection with Allina Health is possible NOW!

BY DR. PENNY WHEELER

The following is a transcript of Allina Health president and chief executive officer Dr. Penny Wheeler's University of Minnesota School of Public Health Commencement speech. The speech was delivered on May 18, 2015 and contains several references to the Backyard Initiative. You can view a video of the speech at [sph.umn.edu/students/current/commencement/](http://sph.umn.edu/students/current/commencement/)

The last time I was on stage in this grand auditorium, I was 10 years old and playing the piano, and I was scared to death. Needless to say, I have changed and aged since. This historic hall has also grown up since then as well, so I hope I hit fewer clinkers today and can improve on my previous Northrup Auditorium performance. To do so is immensely important, as you are all so worthy of honor. I couldn't be prouder than to be a "Triple Gopher" by background and to be partnering with you, all of you, now and into the future to improve the lives of those we collectively serve.

We share something very precious together. Together, we share a noble mission. As Teddy Roosevelt said, "Far and away the best prize life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." My then 8-year-old daughter, Olivia, once paraphrased this by saying to a friend,

"My mom used to be a doctor, now she just does something about improving people's lives."

Together, we have a tremendous opportunity to positively affect people's lives in unprecedented ways through the connection between health care and public health. The lives of so many and the health of our broader communities depend on the convergence of our worlds. And we can't let this brilliant opportunity pass. We simply can't!

Through my remarks, on this very big day for us all, I want to give you an understanding, from my perspective, as to:

- why individual and community stories can and need to be positively re-written,
- how we can do so together at this unique time, and
- what this transformation demands of your talents and your character to change health for the better.

Let me bring in some of the stories—stories that keep us awake, stories that don't need to take the tough and tragic turns they have taken.

One such story burned into my memory banks is that of Marletta.



Allina Health president and chief executive Dr. Penny Wheeler delivers the commencement address at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health with several mentions of the Backyard Initiative

Marletta was a kind and loving woman who had a tough lot in life. A single mother of a three-year-old son, Marletta had not graduated from high school, lived on less than a livable wage, and was challenged physically by severe obesity and diabetes. I met her on a night when we would struggle to save her life.

She came to the ER at 27-weeks pregnant with abdominal pain and a bulge in her abdomen that was considered to be a weakening in her abdominal wall—a hernia. She had had only one care visit during her pregnancy. When she went to the OR, what was thought to be a hernia turned out to be something rare and frightening.

Marletta had a condition that was a surgical and obstetrical nightmare—a placenta percreta. This rare condition occurs when the placenta grows through the thick wall of the uterus and invades other tissue. In Marletta's case, it had grown all the way through the wall of her bladder. This dire emergency often results in severe and uncontrollable bleeding and irreparable damage to the affected organs.

We delivered her premature infant girl and then worked through the night to repair the severe damage, while feverously trying to keep up with her severe blood loss. After operating into the wee small hours of the morn-

ing, transfusing her with 23 units of blood, and holding a vigil for five days in the ICU, Marletta took a turn for the better. She still had challenges, but miraculously survived. Her wound got infected and broke down due to her size and a diabetic-related infection. The gaping wound had to slowly heal on its own, and she would be in the hospital three more weeks before she was well enough to go home. Her infant survived the ordeal as well.

Unfortunately, after nearly losing her life, Marletta's life got harder. While she earnestly held down her cleaning job and cared kindly and diligently for her two children, her boyfriend was cocaine addicted and abusive. Five years after being a near medical miracle, they fought over his drug use, and he strangled her to death.

How might Marletta's life had been different if we partnered with all our assets to serve her in better ways?

What if she had been supported to finish her education?

What if she had access to health screenings that led her to a stress and weight management program and diabetic care or had been offered these at her prenatal visit?

What if a community health worker had been accessible in her

**Dr. Wheeler**  
see page 10

The Backyard Initiative (BYI) is a partnership between the Community, Allina Health Systems and the Cultural Wellness Center. The goal of this partnership is to improve the health of the 45,000 residents living in the "backyard" comprised by the neighborhoods of Powderhorn Park, East Phillips, Midtown Phillips, West Phillips, Ventura Village, Central, and Corcoran. There are eleven Community Health Action Teams (CHATs) focused on improving the health through a variety of cultural and community-connecting activities. **For info on the BYI, please call the Cultural Wellness Center, 612-721-5745.**



[facebook.com/outinthebackyard](http://facebook.com/outinthebackyard)

**Out in the Backyard** helps lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people (LGBTQ) to counter isolation by connecting to each other and community resources. Join us for FREE fitness classes!

*\*part of The Backyard Initiative\**

All classes are FREE!

\*Powderhorn Park - 3400 15th Ave. S. MPLS

\*CANDO - 3756 Chicago Ave. S. MPLS

\*East Phillips - 2307 17th Ave. S. MPLS

\*The Exchange - 3405 Chicago Ave. S. MPLS



JUNE 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Zumba-6:30pm Powderhorn	2 Yoga-6:30pm East Phillips	3 Zumba-6:30pm Powderhorn	4 *New* Salsa-6:30pm Powderhorn ----- Yoga-6:30pm CANDO	5	6 Yoga-10:30am Powderhorn
7 Pilates-10am CANDO	8 Zumba-6:30pm Powderhorn	9 Yoga-6:30pm East Phillips	10 Zumba-6:30pm Powderhorn	11 *New* Salsa-6:30pm Powderhorn ----- Yoga-6:30pm CANDO	12 Self Defense-7pm The Exchange	13 Yoga-10:30am Powderhorn
14 Pilates-10am CANDO	15 Zumba-6:30pm Powderhorn	16 Yoga-6:30pm East Phillips	17 Zumba-6:30pm Powderhorn	18 *New* Salsa-6:30pm Powderhorn ----- Yoga-6:30pm CANDO	19	20 Yoga-10:30am Powderhorn
21 Pilates-10am CANDO	22 Zumba-6:30pm Powderhorn	23 Yoga-6:30pm East Phillips	24 Zumba-6:30pm Powderhorn	25 TBD-6:30pm @ Powderhorn ----- Yoga-6:30pm CANDO	26	27 Yoga-10:30am Powderhorn
28 Pilates-10am CANDO ----- Pride Parade - 10:30am ***	29 Zumba-6:30pm Powderhorn	30 Yoga-6:30pm East Phillips	* Thursday, 6/11- Community Potluck Dinner, 7pm @ 3233 Columbus Ave. S., MPLS  *** * Thursday, 6/18 - ALL Chat meeting, 5-7pm @ PPL, East Franklin Avenue, MPLS  *** Check our Facebook page for details on where to meet up for the Pride Parade.			

### Back Yard Initiative Back Page

The BYI Back Page is produced each month as a collaborative venture between the BYI Communications CHAT & Alley Communications, Inc., publisher of The Alley Newspaper. The Communications CHAT works with BYI CHAT (Community Health Action Teams) each month as a "resource CHAT" – helping to get the news and activities of the BYI out to the broader community.