

CITY FOOLS  
"HOOD!" pg 2

RAVE &/or SAVE Burma-  
Shave pg 6 & 7

"You're not cause,  
nor !!" pg 7

# the Alley NEWSPAPER

NEWS & VIEWS OF PHILLIPS SINCE 1976  
DECEMBER 2015 • VOLUME 40, NUMBER 12

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



@alleynewspaper



## Life after 40

What will "Life after 40 years old" be for The Alley Newspaper?

*"Has The Alley Newspaper served a purpose? If so, what is it?"*

The answers to these questions from our readers, our writers, our advertisers, our supporters will lead Alley Communications into reinvigorating and more importantly, revising what we do and how we do it beginning in 2016—a year of Anniversary Celebration and Deliberation.

Enjoy the beginning of the Anniversary Celebration at the "Life After 40 Exhibit" with highlights of our 40 YEARS of publishing on December 16<sup>th</sup> 2015; 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at

the American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Avenue, Mpls. The American Swedish Institute is the our community's castle!


That evening is also the American Swedish Institute's Holiday Open House for the Phillips Community without Admission Charge. Come and celebrate the importance of cultural identity through seeing some of the arts and crafts in this architectural treasure of our community. Enjoy some lite holiday refreshments and remarkable winter hol-

iday decorations throughout the Turnblad mansion. If you have never been there before, this is a great opportunity to enjoy the whole castle and their new, modern Nelson Cultural Center with its restaurant called FIKA.

If you've been there before, you'll know you want to seize this no-admission fee opportunity because every year is excitingly different. This year also has the opportunity to see The Alley Newspaper's "Life After 40 Exhibit." Alley Communications

is pleased and grateful to be able to have ASI host this exhibit at this marvelous home of the Turnblad Family, publishers of Svenska Amerikanska Posten, a Swedish Newspaper from 1885 to 1940 and eventually increased circulation to 40,000 by Turnblads' ownership that began in 1897. Swan Turnblad began as a typesetter and Christina a housemaid and bookkeeper. Their life is truly a "rags to riches" story of immigration to America and reminder of most Americans having immigrant heritage.

Wander through the entire castle, chat with neighbors, enjoy a few refreshments, visit The Alley Newspaper exhibit featuring interactive displays. Catch the spoken word-rap-poetry "Wendell Phillips: Agitation is the Atmosphere of the Brains" by Phillips resident and The Alley Newspaper cartoonist Dave Moore, producer of "Spirit of Phillips" and Dave's Dumpster [see front page]. For more information, call Harvey Winje, Alley Communications, 612-990-4022.




**WHAT IF**

Sorry --- I'm an Alley-haulic and I can get hyperbolic! I'm the Ghost of Alley-future, which means ROOM FOR EVERYONE! Without You & Your Story Our tale is incomplete.

\* JUST KIDDING ABOUT THE MONEY TALK TO DAVE MOORE ABOUT PAYMENT

**Here's the Count-down Clock**



Save The Alley by BEING The Alley

**ALLEY GETS MILLION DOLLAR GRANT! \***

**MONEY CAN ONLY BE USED TO PAY CONTRIBUTORS**

**EXTRA BONUSES FOR FIRST-TIME TALES OF PHILLIPS**

**If you don't get it in The Alley soon, it may be too late !**

Did you know it is illegal to be in a Mpls. alley if you don't live on that block? Your neighbors are checking it out ! But anybody in Phillips Neighborhood can be in THIS Alley ! This newspaper is YOUR Alley. Your neighbors are checking it out!

*(See Fine Print)*

**DAVE'S DUMPSTER**

**HUGE REWARDS!**

**WHAT You Can Do:** (PICK ONE) (OR MORE)

- WRITE STORIES
- JOIN THE BOARD (COUNTS AS TWO)
- DELIVER THE NEWS To your neighbors
- COMMITTEE WORK (fresh ideas valued)
- ILLUSTRATE
- PUBLIC RELATIONS
- CONTRIBUTE TIME
- HELP HARVEY (NOT THE RABBIT)
- ETC. (IMAGINE)

**HERE'S WHAT You Will RECEIVE:**

- FAME
- ADULATION
- PERKS
- WEALTH
- RESPECT
- AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

**CALL NOW!**

**We Cannot Understand Each Other If We Don't Share Our Stories !**

MMM I LIKE TWEETS YUM!

Or maybe you could paws and write a poem in Burma-Shave style verse. (more signs posted On page 7)

**YOU WEREN'T FROM HERE BUT NOW YOU ARE YOU'RE PHILLIPS NEIGHBORHOOD'S NEWEST STAR !**

You are invited to Alley Communication's "Life After 40" Exhibit of 2015 at ASI Dec. 16th 5-8 PM, See page 8





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**Alley Communications, a 501C-3, Not-for-Profit Corp. publishes The Alley Newspaper and other media.**

*"When the great newspapers don't say much, see what the little independent ones say." – Wendell Phillips*

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

**Volunteers who had a part in making this issue:** Robert Albee, Shari Albers, Allina Health, BackYard Initiative CHATS, Burma-Shave, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Patrick Cabello Hansel, Linnea Hadaway, Hennepin County Franklin Library and Staff, Sue Hunter Weir, Lake Area Press, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Tim McCall, Minnesota History Center, Peter Molenaar, Dave Moore, Out in the BackYard, Brad Pass, Carol Pass, Phillips Wellness 50+, Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, Steve Sandberg, Sunny Sevigny, Claudia Slovacek, Crystal Trautnau Windschitl, David West.

**Delivery:** To every Phillips Community residence, every Powderhorn Park Neighborhood, 160 businesses, places of worship, institutions in Phillips and adjacent neighborhoods by Sara Nelson Delivery. Many Phillips homes delivered by volunteers, Tara, and Andrew.

**Board of Directors:** Cathy Strobel-Ayres, President; Sue Hunter Weir; Joan Hautman, Monthly Alley Communication Board Meetings: 6:30 PM 3rd Wed. Call for Location. Letters and e-mails to Alley Communications and/or its Editor become the property of Alley Communications dba The Alley Newspaper and may be chosen for publication.

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**Advertise:** ads@alleynews.org 612-990-4022

**January Issue Submission Deadline December 15**

*"Let me make the newspaper and I care not who makes the religion and the laws." – Wendell Phillips*

The Alley Newspaper is a Member of



**Give. And light a fire under inequality.**  
www.changeisbetter.com  
651-647-0440

BY ERIN THOMASSON



#### Used Book Sale

**Sat. Dec. 12 • 10 am to 3 pm**  
Bargain hunters and book lovers Friends of the Library selling hundreds of adult & children's fiction & nonfiction books in hardcover & paperback withdrawn from the Hn Cty Libraries or donated by the public. Funds benefit the library.

#### Children & Family Programs Family Storytime

**Fr., Dec. 4, 11 & 18, 10:30 am**  
All ages & their parent or caregiver. sing, read, write & play together in a format appropriate for young children. Share books, stories, rhymes, music & movement.

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

**Tues., 5–7 pm.** Urban gardening to digital photo/video to theater.

#### Teen Tech Workshop

**Wed., 4:30–6 pm.** Make music, videos, animation & other projects using both hi-and lo-tech tools, everything from iPads & 3D printers to synthesizers & sewing machines.

#### Young Achievers

**Thur., Dec. 3, 10 & 17, 4:30–6 pm.** Want community involvement? Bring your friends

## 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**

& come for poetry, arts, games & more!

#### Adult Programs

#### Education Alternatives

**Mon., Dec. 14, 1:00 pm.**

Monthly discussion of problems in education & solutions, based on Knowles Dougherty's blog: [educationspersistentproblems@wordpress.com](http://educationspersistentproblems.wordpress.com). With *Osher Lifelong Learning Institute*.

#### Memoir Writing Group

**Thurs., Dec. 17, 1:00 pm.** Want to create a record of personal history? With *Osher Lifelong Learning Institute*.

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

Free, one-to-one tutoring for adults who are learning English & math, preparing for the GED & citizenship exams, and gaining life skills. We need volunteers, too! No experience necessary; training & materials provided.



It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends upon his not understanding it.

— Upton Sinclair —

AZ QUOTES

## Phillips West Neighborhood Upcoming Events

**www.phillipswest.info**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday)**  
**6:00 to 7:30 p.m. – Phillips West Community Meeting!**

Join your neighbors and other Community Partners for updates from Local City Government, Business Partners & Police. This meeting will take place at the Center for Changing Lives in the Centrum Room (2400 Park



Avenue). Free parking is available in the rear of building off Oakland Avenue. Free Delivery Pizza & 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](mailto:pwno2005@yahoo.com)



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## No More – Trucks – Congestion - Pollution No Water Yard in East Phillips

## City Water Works at the Roof Depot Site Who Pays? – Who Gains?

BY CAROL PASS, EPIC PRESIDENT

#### City's move:

#### Eminent Domain of the Roof Depot Site

Because the owner of the Roof Depot property was not interested in selling to the City at this time, the City is reportedly resorting to their seldom-used big gun, Condemnation leading to Eminent Domain. This will allow the City to take the property from the rightful owner, in exchange for a price the court determines. Fair? No! Neither to the owner nor to the community! Once again, our problem is we, the East Phillips residents, PAY and the rest of the City GAINS at our expense! Why should we consent to this action or the City goal as currently offered in the first place?

Most of us know well that East Phillips neighborhood is one of the most over-burdened in the state with polluting industries and that its residents and children suffer the attendant serious health consequences and their related debilitating problems: more asthma, more ADHD, more cancer. In 2014, EPIC, the East Phillips Improvement Coalition, refocused to continue its long struggle to protect this neighborhood of low income and diverse people with many children from already existing pollution. At that time, EPIC's process compelled the City to expose their closely guarded secret plan to dump MORE pollution and congestion on East Phillips. This comes in the form of their attempt to relocate

the City Water Works Maintenance Department and its fleet of 68 work vehicles, many of which are diesel, along with over 100 employee vehicles at the Roof Depot site – 1860 E 28<sup>th</sup> St. at the intersection of Cedar Ave and 28<sup>th</sup> Street.

We now know this project has been in the works since before 2002 with no information shared with the community, including this most recent move. Consider: *Where is the Community Engagement? Ignored for a decade! And even now there has been next to none! Where is the Equity? Interesting how quickly this Moral Posturing gets thrown overboard when it gets in the way of the needs of people who don't live here! People should know by now that EPIC does not change its stance and commitment to justice and fairness because it gets costly in time and convenience! Shouldering the community out of the way goes on primarily in the communities of poverty and diversity. The stated Equity policies of the City itself demands a different approach and, at the very least, shared sacrifice!*

*We call upon the other neighborhoods, especially those who have not had to continually fight these battles, to join us in opposition and a more fair and equitable solution to this battle. Call your Council Members. They are not listening to us who don't empower them. We need your help!*

## EPIC Acts

### The Board & Membership Passed the Following Resolution, 11-12-15

BY EPIC BOARD MEMBERS

**Whereas the City of Minneapolis is apparently COMMITTED to acquire the Roof Depot Site and force upon East Phillips the City Water Works Maintenance Facility, and**

**Whereas in doing so, the City of Minneapolis is in violation of all 7 of its own "Core Principals of Community Engagement" (2007, City Council) and also, breaches the public trust; and**

**Whereas The City of Minneapolis is ignoring its new definition of "Equity" i.e., "Fair and just opportunities and outcomes for all people."; and**

**Whereas Eminent Domain is**

being used as a weapon of prejudice against a low income and indigenous community as well as being selectively used against an individual business owner; and

**Whereas** all of the cost, namely the sacrifice of the protection and public interest of our people and their chosen future, falls on the residents of East Phillips and all the gain goes to the rest of the City, especially those areas that do not have these challenges; and

**Whereas** the City plan will bring no new jobs, no new tax revenue while eliminating the existing

**EPIC Acts**

see page 7



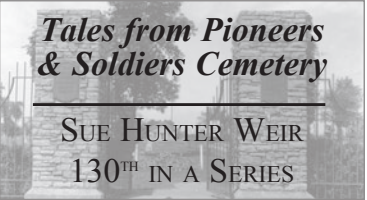
# Early deaths plague Montain family

Albert Montain and his friends were just fooling around. His friends dared him to climb to the top of the telegraph pole at the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Cedar Avenue on the West Bank. He made it, but as he turned to wave to his friends he made contact with the electrical wires and was electrocuted. It was September 26, 1911, and Albert was sixteen years old.

Albert had lost both of his parents by the time that he was six. His mother, Christine, died from tuberculosis on January 16, 1901, and his father, Adolph, died from **brain fever on March 29, 1903.**

The responsibility for holding the family together fell to Albert’s older siblings. Richard, the oldest, was 18 years old when their father died; Hilma, the oldest daughter, was 17. The other three of six children were Ellen, aged 14, George aged nine and Walter aged eight.

Their parents, Adolph and Christine Montain, were born in Sweden. They married in 1883 and the following year left Sweden for Minnesota. By 1884 Adolph was working in the flourmills. He spent the rest of his life working in the mills, mostly employed as an oiler but occasionally as a sweeper or watchman. Richard followed in his father’s footsteps and by age 18, he, too, went to work in the mills.



When she turned 18, Hilma began working as a seamstress. Within a few years, Ellen began working as a machine operator for the Northwest Knitting Mills, George as a clerk for the Soo Line Railroad, and Walter as a finisher for Boutell Brothers. By the time that he was 16 years old, Albert already had a job. He was a driver for the Northwest Automobile Company.

When Albert died, it had been ten years since Christine had died and eight years since Adolph’s death. His siblings were grown and ready to move on, and soon after his death the family began to scatter. George moved to the West Coast where he worked as a locomotive engineer in the Puget Sound Naval Ship Yards. He married and had several daughters; he appears to be the only one of Adolph and Christine’s children who had children who survived infancy. Richard married and moved to Ohio where he worked in an automobile factory.

Both of Albert’s sisters died young. Ellen Montain got married on January 22, 1913 and gave

birth to a baby girl on October 18, 1913, but the baby was born prematurely and died after only three hours. The baby, identified in cemetery records as the Babe Arthur Anderson, shares a grave with Adolph Montain near the intersection of Cedar Avenue and Lake Street. Ellen Montain Anderson died 14 months later, on March 18, 1914, at the age of 25. She is buried in Lakewood Cemetery.

Hilma Montain married on July 12, 1910. She gave birth to one child on May 20, 1913, but he died the same day. Hilma Montain Myhre died on July 9, 1917, after giving birth to another son, Robert; Robert died on July 11, 1917.

Walter is the only son who stayed in Minneapolis. He served in World War I and upon his return, married Saretta Barden. Their only child was a baby girl, stillborn on December 21, 1921. Walter’s died in 1966 and he, his wife and daughter are buried in Lakewood Cemetery. His death marked the end of the Montain family line in Minneapolis.

Albert Montain is buried with his mother in a grave close to the 29th Street bridge on Cedar Avenue. His mother’s name is the only one on what turned out to be their shared marker.



Adolph Montain died in 1903 and was buried here near the intersection of Cedar Avenue and Lake Street. Babe Arthur Anderson, his grand-daughter, who died three hours after birth by his daughter Ellen in 1913 was buried in same grave site.



Christine Montain died in 1901 and was buried beneath this marker close to the Cedar Avenue 29th Street bridge. Albert Montain was here with his mother after his accidental electrocution in 1911 but without his name being added to the marker.

## 15th Annual Green Tomato Cook-off

# Passles and galettes of green tomatoes cooked and tasted by Phillips aficionados, connoisseurs, and chefs

BY CLAUDIA SLOVACEK

Midtown Phillips neighbors and friends gathered for our 15<sup>th</sup> annual Green Tomato Cook-off at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 28<sup>th</sup> Street on October 22<sup>nd</sup> to taste delectable green tomato dishes. We had three judges who assessed each dish based on taste/smell, eye appeal, practicality, and unique use of green tomatoes. We divide the dishes into three categories: Savory, Sauces/Condiments, and Sweets.

This year, while the dishes were fewer in number than in past years, the variety and tastiness did not fail us. Pastor Patrick and his kids took first place in the Sauces category with a wonderfully balanced green tomato and peach chutney. Second and third place in the Sauces category were won by Alice Paczkowski, who tried two versions of the same recipe, but with slightly different takes of the ingredients: one that was all fresh items from her garden and one that utilized some canned garlic and other semi-processed items.

There were no entries this year in the Sweets category, but some prior year entries remain memorable – green tomato pie, and our all-time favorite, green tomato ice cream.

In the Savory category Sue-Hunter-Weir won second place with a hot dish that was deemed a unique presentation by the judges. First place was nabbed by Pastor Patrick with his exquisite kale and

green tomato quiche – both tasty and healthy for you.

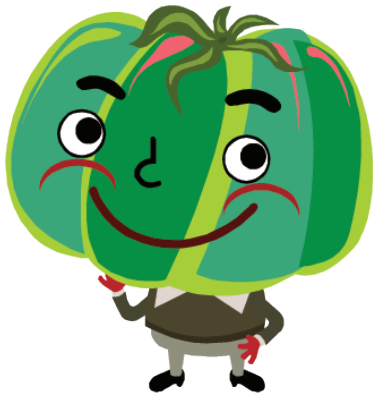
Best of Show was Sue Hunter Weir’s dish of galettes with green tomatoes. Cash prizes were given to each first place category winner and best of show winner. Other prizes were also handed out as well as ribbons for each of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places.

In addition to the entries for the categories, we continued our tradition of frying up a passle of green tomatoes. Paul Weir and Corrie Zoll also assisted Sue in this endeavor. Those attending said they were some of the most delicious fried green toma-

atoes they’d ever had. Seconds and thirds made the rounds because folks just couldn’t get enough of them.

While this year was an exception, held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of October, 2016 will have us back on the third Thursday in October at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. There is no entry fee and the contest is open to all. The only rules are the item must fit into one of the three categories: Sweet, Savory or Sauces/Condiments, and green tomatoes must figure into recipe. Green zebras are not allowed as they are green when ripe, and tomatillos are also not allowed as

a main ingredient. Other than that, the possibilities are endless. So, start planning now for your entry in 2016.



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## EPIC Continues its Tradition of Affordable Renewal

EPIC is proud to be one of the few Minneapolis neighborhoods to continue rebuilding and restoring our physical infrastructure in the great tradition of NRP projects of the past. In a progressive city it is critical to remember urban renewal is never done.

The photo on the right shows the beginning foundation work on the first of several affordable new homes to be built by EPIC in partnership with PRG (Powderhorn Residents Group) in East Phillips.

EPIC is also the acronym for East Phillips Infill Campaign. EPIC's infill housing campaign is an effort to fill our many remaining vacant lots with affordable new homes and is designed to build back from the years of slum-lord neglect. The hope is that new and better housing will bring additional families and greater stability to the neighborhood.



*This is an example of the Quality EPIC Homes*



*Excavation begins for two new affordable infill homes on the 2400 block of 16 Ave. S.*

## For Your Calendar: \* Have a Great Holiday!

**The EPIC Board of Directors** meet on the FIRST Saturday of the month – Next Meetings; Saturday, 12/5/2015 and 1/2/2016 at 10:00 AM.

**The EPIC General Membership** meets on the SECOND Thursday – Next Meetings; Thursday, 12/10/15 and 1/7/2016 at 6:30 PM  
Agenda includes Neighborhood Industrial Pollution, Crime Initiatives, and EPIC project updates.

**The East Phillips Park Programming Partnership** meets on the LAST Tuesday – Next meetings; No December Meeting – Join us 1/26/16 at 11:30 AM. Lunch is served.  
Updates on Partner Programming, Park Events & News.

**Meeting Location:** All the above meetings and events are held at the East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center located at 2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. The Center is wheelchair accessible and all are welcome.

**The East Phillips Community 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. Gardeners** meet on the second Saturday of Each Month during the gardening season, normally from April through September. Next meetings are Next Year Saturday, 4/9/2016 & 5/14/2016 at 9:00 AM in the Community Center at 2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. Subsequent meetings will be held in the Garden.

- \* **East Phillips Residents wanting a 2016 Garden Plot, contact Brad Pass at 612-916-8478**
- \* **Watch this space for additional or changed meeting information**

*Designed and Paid for by East Phillips Improvement Coalition*



## MIDTOWN PHILLIPS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INC.

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

### BOARD MEETING AGENDA TUESDAY DECEMBER 8, 6:30-8PM.

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

- I. Approve November 10, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes (6:30pm)
- II. Financial Report (6:35pm)
  - MOTION: Accept and receive August, September, and October Financials
  - Finalize 2016 budget
  - Review treasurer responsibilities and systems in expectation of transition
- III. Interest from loan payments (7:00pm)
  - MPNAI has received \$2,645 in interest from our revolving housing loan program; applicants are repaying their loans. Loan monies are from Phase II funds. How should funds be reinvested?
- IV. Construction consultant update (7:15pm)
  - Regarding properties: 2424 12th ave, 2415 15th ave, 2446 15th ave, 2527 14th ave, 2528 14th ave
- V. New Americans Youth Soccer Club partnership update (7:30pm)
- VI. Welcome to Midtown Phillips signage update (7:40pm)
- VII. Utility Box art project update (7:45pm)
- VIII. Housekeeping and On-going Business (7:50pm)
  - Annual meeting committee
  - MPNAI phone number
  - Chair responsibilities discussion

**NO DECEMBER COMMUNITY MEETING**

*Happy Holidays!*

### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

**BOARD: Tuesday January 12, 6:30-8pm.** Stewart Park (Arts & Crafts Room)

**COMMUNITY: Tuesday January 26, 6:30-8pm.** Stewart Park (Community Room)

## GET INVOLVED!

**Do you live, work or own property in Midtown Phillips?**

**Join the Neighborhood Association!**

**There are two open board member positions:**

- At Large Rep
- District 4 Rep (26th to 28th Streets and 12th to Bloomington Avenues)

**Or be a part of a committee on a topic of interest to you and your community:**

- Housing
- Safety and Livability
- Midtown Festival
- Clean Sweep
- Community Outreach
- and more!







# VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

NOVEMBER 2015

DEC. 9TH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING @ 7:00



VOLUME 5 NUMBER 1

## Ringling Bells of Great Joy!



A test-filling of the pool took place in November to assess the integrity of the existing swimming pool at the Phillips Community Center. It will be drained again to allow the upcoming construction to this and to the new warmer water training pool!

## ATTENTION RESIDENTS OF VENTURA VILLAGE!

The following actions will be considered and voted on at the December 9, 2015 Ventura Village Membership Meeting

- 1) Move to reallocate \$50,000 of Ventura Village NRP (Neighborhood Revitalization Program) Phase II funds from Administration 1.1.2 to Parks/Open Space 1.1.2. These funds are designated to be used by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for a hot water pool at the Phillips Community Center.  
Explanation: The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has recently developed detailed plans to refurbish the pool at the Phillips Community Center and to build a new training pool. The budget does not include enough money to include a small hot water pool. The hot water pool is needed for students and other pool users to warm up in between using the other 2 pools. The hot water pool is also needed as a therapy pool by adults, especially elders.
- 2) Move to reallocate \$55,000 of Ventura Village NRP (Neighborhood Revitalization Program) Phase II funds from Administration 1.1.2 to Housing 1.2.1. These funds are designated to be used to add funds to Ventura Village's Fix-up grant program.  
Explanation: Current applications exceed the available amount of money in the program by about \$55,000. This reallocation will allow Ventura Village to fund neighborhood residents who have already submitted applications to fix up their homes.
- 3) Move to reallocate \$56,263 of NCR (Neighborhood Community Relations) funds in Ventura Village's 2015 CPP (Community Participation Program) contract for use on the Ventura Village Neighborhood Priority Plan (NPP) priorities.  
Explanation: \$56,263 was allocated from Ventura Village's 2015 budget to fund the Ventura Village Neighborhood Priority Plan. Of this total amount, \$40,000 of these funds are designated to be used for the hot water pool at the Phillips Community Center, \$10,000 are designated to be used for outdoor improvements on the north side of the Phillips Community Center, and \$6,262 would be assigned in the future.

## FREE EVENT!



*An Easy to Learn Game for All Ages!*



Let's Play  
**BOCCE BALL**



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BlueShield  
Minnesota

Center for  
Prevention

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Play are nonprofit independent businesses of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

## SATURDAYS

11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Phillips Community Center  
Upstairs Dining Room

Come join in a fun and easy to learn game that can be played by people of all ages! We are introducing an indoor version of the game to see how we can enjoy some wintertime recreation while getting the exercise we all need! In the beginning sessions, we will only be introducing the game, so we aren't so fixed on holding to "international" rules. Our goal is to have elders or adults teaming with youth and children since it's a game that can accommodate different ages on the

same "team". We are looking for people to team up into groups of four (two opposing teams of two players, hopefully male and female. This is a game of subtle moves and finesse, not brute strength or big muscles. Therefore testosterone-laden participants usually lose. Come enjoy with us; we'll have the coffee on!

RSVP & Contact Person is Robert Albee  
@ 612.812.2429 for more information.



## NEXT VENTURA VILLAGE MONTHLY MEETINGS:

DECEMBER 17TH: HOUSING & LAND COMMITTEE: 5:30 PM  
DECEMBER 17TH: CRIME & SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6:30 PM  
JANUARY 5TH: WELLNESS, GARDENING & GREENING: 6:30 PM  
JANUARY 6TH: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE: 6:00 PM  
JANUARY 9TH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 6:00 PM  
JANUARY 9TH: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 7:00 PM

## Nominations for Ventura Village's Board of Directors

Members of Ventura Village seeking election to the Board of Directors, whether nominated by themselves or another, shall register name, address, phone number, membership category (as defined in Article II Section I of the Ventura Village Bylaws), and place of primary residence, at Ventura Village's office fourteen (14) calendar days (Nov. 25) prior to the scheduled election.

Nominations submitted by mail shall be addressed to the Ventura Village mailing address and postmarked no later than fourteen (14) days (Nov. 25) prior to the scheduled election. Nominations for election to the Board of Directors will not be accepted from the floor.

Ventura Village is located upstairs in the Phillips Community Center at 2323 - 11th Avenue South • Minneapolis • 612-874-9070



## “I Didn’t Know That!” *Don’t be misled/by white vinyl siding/a lot of history/ in these walls is hiding*



Burma-Vita moved into 2019 East Lake Street in 1925. Built in 1900, the building had once been home to Hugnad Hall, a Scandinavian workingman’s lodge, and then the Winget Mfg. Co. making aprons, sunbonnets, and dust caps.

BY SHARI ALBERS

Burma-Shave and its iconic signage was at 2019 East Lake Street

Remember when highway speed limits were 55 miles per hour and billboards were not common sights? Many of us who grew up in the 40s and 50s may recall the sequenced red and white signs that once dotted the roadway landscape. Positioned one hundred paces apart, each sign displayed one line of verse. Together, the signs created a whole poem. The last sign, like a well-placed exclamation mark, sported the familiar Burma-Shave logo.

*She eyed/his beard/and said no dice/the wedding’s off/I’ll cook the rice/Burma-Shave*

*Use this cream/a day/or two/ then don’t call her—/she’ll call you/Burma-Shave*

*Past/schoolhouses/take it slow/ let the little shavers grow/Burma-Shave (1940s)*

Clinton M. Odell’s father developed a recipe for a pain soothing liniment. The product, called

Burma-Vita, never sold well. Young Clinton, a successful insurance salesman with a law degree from the U of M, commissioned a chemist to further develop the liniment into a brushless shaving cream. They called it Burma-Shave.

Burma-Vita moved into 2019 East Lake Street in 1925. Built in 1900, the building had once been home to Hugnad Hall, a Scandinavian workingman’s association, and then the Winget Manufacturing Company where workers fabricated aprons, sunbonnets, and dust caps. While Burma-Vita produced Burma-Shave, its historic advertising campaign took shape around the same time the company moved to this East Lake Street location.

Clinton’s sons Allan and Leonard were hawking the products door-to-door, when Allan found advertising inspiration along a road in Illinois. A gas station had erected a series of signs that led onlookers to its

location. The growing popularity of the automobile had people criss-crossing America along new highways, and Allan saw marketing promise.

Allan and Leonard cut recycled wood into 36” lengths and hand-stenciled the first red and white signs. Erected on Highway 35 between Minneapolis and Albert Lea, the first series of signs eventually grew to 7000 all across America. Customers demanded the product. Drug stores along the sign routes stocked Burma-Shave on their shelves. It was said that Burma-Vita was one company that did not lose money during the Depression.

At some point, the Odells began to rhyme the sign messages and created national contests to solicit new jingles. Rhyme contests brought in thousands of entries each year. \$100 was paid for each verse used. Some years, there were 50,000 entries. Farmers along highways eagerly claimed extra income as they rented stretches of



The same building today after many different owners and occupants. The building has had a variety of cosmetic coverings that conceal the original exterior in the photo on the left. A Museum of the Streets plaque describes the building across the street near the YWCA.

land for Burma-Shave signage.

*To kiss/a mug/that’s like a cactus/takes more nerve/than it does practice/Burma-Shave*

*We’re widely read/and often/ quoted/but it’s shaves/not signs/for which we’re noted/Burma-Shave (1953)*

*Slow down, Pa/sakes alive/ Ma missed signs four/and five/Burma-Shave (1955)*

Around 1935, the Odells moved their Burma-Vita business to a larger facility in Bryn Mawr neighborhood. Phillip Morris Co. purchased Burma-Vita in 1963, eventually phasing out its products

and signature advertising campaign. Today, a few Burma-Shave signs are said to be seen at gas stations, taverns, and county museums. The Smithsonian Institute exhibits some signs in its Popular Culture division.

*If you don’t know/whose signs/ these are/you haven’t driven/very far/Burma-Shave*

*The wolf/is shaved/so neat and trim/Red Riding Hood/is chasing him/Burma-Shave*

*The bearded lady/tried a jar/ She’s now/a famous/movie star/ Burma-Shave*

### Odell connection to Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden

Eloise Butler taught science in Minneapolis high schools from 1874 to 1911. She took her students on field trips to woods and swamps in Glenwood Park (now Wirth Park). One of Butler’s botany students, Clinton Odell, had become a successful businessman with his Burma-Shave product. Odell took great interest in preserving and developing the garden, personally paying for materials and labor. A main benefactor and volunteer, Odell donated the money to create the upland garden. Concerned that the garden be maintained, Odell recruited volunteers and a founding director, literally making him the first “Friend of the Garden.”

## CALL TO RAVE and (maybe) SAVE Burma-Shave

BY STEVE SANDBERG

Thanks to The Alley Newspaper for its willingness to highlight a rare opportunity; the **opportunity to save the Burma Shave building**, a building loaded with history that has been on the corner of 21st Avenue and East Lake Street since the year 1900. Many if not most of you have passed that building, now covered with white vinyl siding, unaware of its history. (See excellent accompanying article by

historian Shari Albers)

It was early October when friend and Corcoran resident Tom Manley noted that asbestos had been removed, utilities cut off, and that the building was slated for demolition.

Since then, a handful of heritage-preservation minded local historians and myself have been working hard to demonstrate that this would be a waste of a unique historic opportunity and resource.



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# Burma-Shave

No Brush - No Lather

Forestalling demolition does not in any way impede the planning for the site.

The new owner of the building is the Minneapolis Public Schools who will eventually develop the site to replace the Adult Education Building being torn down (they have up to 10 years to continue using the building at Hiawatha and Lake St.), and also for an expanded South High campus. They seem intent on clearing the land now, and planning their usage later. By

**Burma-Shave**

see page 7

### Apartments for Rent

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

33rd St. & 1st Ave.  
Laundry and Family Rm.  
2 BR 2 Bath \$950. Util. Paid

24th St. & Harriet Ave.  
Uptown Area  
Spacious Lower  
6 Rms. & Parking  
\$895. + Util.

612-825-6283





Enter the Corner Store

At the height of his manhood, our Jesus would lead a nonviolent resistance to the Roman occupation. Then, three centuries later, the early period of Christian martyrdom would come to an end.

1189 – 1192...

In the Third Crusade, evidently as a matter of convenience, Richard the Lionheart would slit the throats of 3,000 Muslims, children included.

1936...

George Dimitrov famously stated: Fascism is the open terrorist dictatorship of the most reactionary, most chauvinist and most imperialist elements of finance capital.

1963...

The CIA facilitates the systematic murder of Iraqi communists – including hundreds of doctors, teachers, and technicians.

1979...

Saddam Hussein assumes the Iraqi presidency (and is handed a fresh slate for execution) even as we (yes, “we”) arm Osama Bin Laden in his war against a secular “socialist” Afghan government.

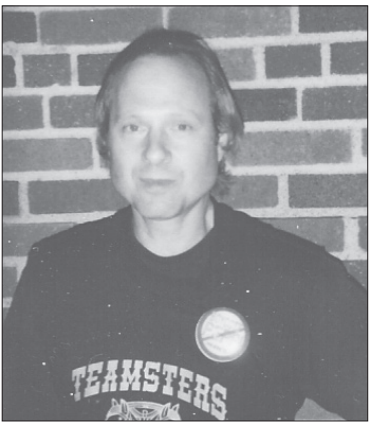
[9-11] 2001...

2003...

“Shock and Awe.”

November 14, 2015

The man behind the counter was a familiar brown-complected Muslim who anticipated my request for a newspaper. The headline screamed: “Paris Under



PETER MOLENAAR  
Raise Your Voice

Siegel!” The awkward moment was resolved through eye contact. “What is wrong with this crazy world?” he implored. “You are not the cause of it and neither am I” was my answer.



Don't fail to take advantage of this outstanding special offer. Good only during the month of June, 1950. You will never make money any easier, at a time when Burma-Shave is really on the move.

DOESN'T KISS YOU   LIKE SHE USETER?   PERHAPS SHE'S SEEN   A SMOOTHER ROOSTER

**Burma-Shave**

JUNE, 1950   ★   The Rocky Mountain Druggist

69

**Burma-Shave**  
from page 6

then it will be too late to save what, contrary to being a liability, is truly a historic resource, and an opportunity to partner education and historical preservation with:

- history of immigration: as in the early 1900's, immigration is once again a dominant theme for our community
- history of working men and women: this a remaining factory



building, the only one remaining of the many that once dominated the area

- history of advertising: Burma Shave as a truly revolutionary advertising vehicle.
- Educational schools and museums: conversations have been started to partner with: local colleges; Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Augsburg, U of M; local museums Eastside Freedom Library, Minnesota History Museum, and Mill City History Museum

- Poetry and song: when Tom Waits appears on Prairie Home Companion, we hope for a tie in check out his song, “ Burma Shave “)
- Poetry and spoken word: Burma Shave jingles are a fun inroad to other forms of poetry and spoken word
- Reuse Recycle: Here's a chance to demonstrate that principle!

**Steve Sandberg and David West began making Burma-Shave sign facsimiles to highlight the interest in the many historical facets of the Burma-Shave factory on East Lake Street where signs and their products were manufactured from 1925 to '935. Watch for the 2015 version of the famous signs that added humoring and advertisement to highways throughout the U.S.**

*We're widely read/and often/quoted/but it's shaves/not signs/for which we're noted/Burma-Shave*

*Slow down, Pa/sakes alive/Ma missed signs four/and five/Burma-Shave*

*Listen birds/these signs cost money/so roost awhile/but don't get funny/Burma-Shave*

DAVE MOORE  
DAVE'S DUMPSTER

# COMMUNITY EDUCATION TRUMPS ROAD POETRY

2019 E.Lake building to be torn down by Mpls. Schools for new Comm. Ed. Building --- former home of Burma Shave Co.

In the 1920s, Burma Shave invented “road poetry” to advertise the soap they made. 4 or 5 signs would be posted in sequence along a road, forming a humorous jingle.

You look like   you live in a cave!   You'd look better   if you only shaved!   **Burma Shave**

The building looks north at Pioneer Cemetery— influencing their traffic safety signs?

He drove too fast   rubber he burned !   Things were just fine   till he missed a turn.

AT LAST ! WE GET TO MY BIG IDEA !

Pay homage to a style invented here: Phillips neighborhood / The Alley signs !  
Post “Burma-Shave-style” poems along our streets !   (Oh, go ahead...)

SOCIAL JUSTICE   A CONSTANT FIGHT   THE ALLEY'S THE PLACE   SET THINGS RIGHT

GIVE US YOUR TIRED   ABLE, YOUR POOR.   PLANT THE SEEDS --   THEY WILL MATURE!

IF TRAFFIC JAMS   YOU DO NOT LIKE   PARK THE CAR   GRAB YOUR BIKE

GOT AN ISSUE?   WANT TO MAKE A SCENE?   ALLEY'S THE PLACE   SHARE YOUR DREAM !

WENDELL PHILLIPS   OUR PROUD NAMESAKE!   WE MAY BEND   WE WON'T BREAK!

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD VALUES   PEACE IF POSSIBLE...   JUSTICE AT ANY RATE !!

WE CLEARLY STATE:

- Move the Building: If MPS decides that this building can't be part of its plans, it can be moved to another of many nearby sites. I live in a home that I had moved from Richfield to Phillips neighborhood.

What can you do? Watch Alley Newspaper and let Minneapolis Public Schools, Corcoran Neighborhood Organization, and Alondra Cano know that you favor forestalling demolition until all historic preservation opportunities can be fully considered. Thank you!

**EPIC Acts**  
from page 2

tax revenue; and

**Whereas** the City plan will dramatically increase traffic congestion and pollution: and

**Whereas** in the ten plus years the City has been planning this acquisition, they have never once consulted and only recently informed the people of East Phillips of their intentions,

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that EPIC, as the Citizen Participation Organization of East Phillips, remains firmly opposed to this acquisition and to protect the health and vibrancy of our community will use any and all means politically and legally available to prevent it.

**Further** we call upon the Ways & Means Committee and full City Council to vote “NO” on any request to condemn and take by Eminent Domain the Roof Depot site AND to honor the directive to Property Services, Public Works and CPED to work with EPIC and East Phillips Residents NOW – Not After the Fact, to determine fair and equitable solutions to these issues.





News comes and goes, so do newspapers, but The Alley Newspaper has ridden the waves of change for 40 years! Gather and launch an enjoyable year of celebration!

in collaboration with

**American Swedish Institute's  
Holiday Open House for Phillips  
Neighbors**

~ **FREE** ~

**Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2015  
5:00 to 8:00**

**Holiday Refreshments**

**American Swedish Institute  
2600 Park Ave.**

Info:

editor@alleynews.org,  
P.O. Box 7006 Mpls., MN 55407  
or 612-990-4022

## Journey Through the Dark

*"Night and dark are good for us. As the nights lengthen, it's time to reopen the dreaming space." — Jeanette Winterson*

BY PATRICK CABELLO HANSEL

As the days grow shorter and the nights grow colder, we are still drawn outside at night. There is mystery in a winter night, there is danger, there is hope that someone will welcome us.

Cultures around the world—at least in the northern hemisphere—have developed celebrations that recognize the terror of the sun leaving while celebrating, even demanding its return. Many of these celebrations involve lighting candles or bonfires: Candles on the head of Santa Lucia ("Holy Light") in Scandinavia. Lighting of the Hanukkah ("Festival of Lights") candles for Jews, to remember the miracle of the oil when they rededicated the temple after the Macabbean revolution. The Christmas tree and its earth-based and Christian antecedents of celebrating the winter solstice. Many of these celebrations include processions outside, despite the cold in northern climes.

The traditional Mexican Christmas procession of Las Posadas combines both the darkness of the season and the light of welcome. Maria and José (Mary and Joseph) are two scared teenagers who are forced to leave their home and travel to unknown territories because of huge political forces beyond their control. They have to leave their families and depend on strangers for posada, or shelter. They face rejection after rejection, and then the most humble welcome.

Today, there are more refugees

in the world than any time since World War II. We've all seen the photos of people fleeing war and poverty to get to Europe. While immigration has slowed from Mexico, thousands of people—mostly youth—are fleeing violence in Central America. What if each of those families was Mary and Joseph? What if each of those children was the Holy Child, the one bringing peace? What if each of us was the shelter, the posada?

Las Posadas will be held on December 19 at 4pm at St. Paul's Lutheran at 2742 15<sup>th</sup> Ave S. When St. Paul's was founded in 1887, it was named Svenska Evangeliska Lutherska St. Pauli Kirkan—the St. Paul's Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church. Tens of thousands of migrants left Sweden to traverse cold North Atlantic seas, in search of a better life or to be reunited with family. Today St. Paul's is primarily Latino—Iglesia Luterana San Pablo—but that search for light through the darkness continues.

We will walk in the neighborhood seeking posada, so dress appropriately! The procession will conclude in a darkened sanctuary, where we will hear voices of light from many cultures. Afterwards, the fiesta will include dinner, music and a piñata. For more information, call 612-724-2862, or e-mail stpaulscreate@gmail.com. On Wednesday nights, St. Paul's Semilla Art Program will host workshops making art for the celebration.

## Join Neighbors for Munchies, Music and Movement

You are invited to come together with others in the community for fun and support. **Phillips Wellness 50+** is a grassroots movement of people aged 50 and older supporting each other to improve health and well-being of ourselves and the community...AND to have fun doing it. We can do this. Come be part of it.

Watch for information about a mid-December community kick-off event. Contact Debra Jones at 612-327-7087 or Richard Long at 612-743-9716 for details.

Phillips Wellness 50+ is supported by the Vital Aging Network, HealthPartners and a Bush Foundation Community Innovation grant.

