

Pollution
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Syl Jones at BYI Expose of Stories
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the Alley NEWSPAPER

NEWS & VIEWS OF PHILLIPS SINCE 1976
DECEMBER 2014 • VOLUME 39, NUMBER 11

The Alley Online!
www.alleynews.org



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DECEMBRRRR...rings Hope midst Troubling Times



BY BRAD PASS

The 7,000 children and youth of the Phillips Community will once again have a place to learn to swim. If one young person's life is saved from drowning by this huge effort to bring swimming back to these neighborhoods with immense "kids of color" population, all the blood, sweat and tears will have been worth it. The fact that every drowning victim in Mpls., the City of Lakes, for several years has been a youth from a diverse community who was not able to swim and without an available and affordable place to learn has motivated this project.

The Phillips Pool project is intent on resolving this serious inequity of the City.

The East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC) has been in the forefront of the community wide effort to save and renovate the defunct swimming pool in the Phillips Community Center, 2323 11th Ave. S, Minneapolis.

East Phillips Neighborhood members supported the pool in a series of votes to allocate \$50,000 of EPIC's NRP dollars for the reconstruction of the pool and facility. EPIC sequestered these funds hoping for a matching grant. The Shakopee Mdewakanton

Sioux Community made that offer. The combined gift of \$100,000. caused the dream for the full facility to "get real". The renewed, Phillips Aquatic Center, will have refurbished main pool and a new zero entry warm water teaching / therapeutic pool along with locker rooms and all the new filtration systems.

EPIC Board President, Carol Pass, presented an oversized version of EPIC's check to Denny Bennett, President of Minneapolis Swims at a news conference at the Center on Nov. 6th. Janet Lee and Ellen McGinnis presented a \$25,000. check from

EPIC \$50,000 to Phillips Pool Doubled by Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

Wells Fargo. Others present were Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Vice Chairman Keith Anderson, State Representative Karen Clark, Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, Park Commissioner Scott

Vreeland, Dean Dovolis, Principal of DJR Architecture, City CM Abdi Warsame & Aisha Gomez, representative of CM Alondra

EPIC Pool
see page 4

Kimberly Adams, and Sharrod Rowe, parents of Sha-kym Adams, the Minneapolis South HS sophomore football player who tragically drowned on August 6th in Lake Nokomis were also at the presentation.. They spoke supporting the pool and swimming competence for all, in hopes of averting any further tragedies in Minneapolis Lakes.

They are the Honorary Co-Chairs of a scholarship fund that has been set up in their Son's name. If you would like to donate to the "Sha-kym Adams 'Learn-to Swim' Scholarship Fund", please indicate that on your check and mail it to Minneapolis Swims, 2323 11th Ave. S. Suite 135, Minneapolis, MN 55404

2015 is The Alley Newspaper's 40th Year and you can help it to be the best year yet!

Who would have imagined back in 1975, The Alley Newspaper would still be exploring and growing into its vital purpose of serving as a community- governed media source today? But here we are, thanks to all of you-readers, writers, and advertisers.

Help with opinions.

But, in staying true to our mission, we are not yet done exploring our purpose. The leadership of Alley Communications, publisher of The Alley Newspaper, seeks assistance imagining what the future of the organization may hold and how to sustain The Alley Newspaper. They are planning to spend the year convening some of the readers, writers and contributors into listening and brainstorming circles. As the format for delivering news changes in this new era of technology, how might The Alley stay flexible and current while continuing to reflect the authentic voices and opinions of the Community? If you would like be part of this dynamic conversation, please email editor@alleynews.org or call 612-990-4022.

At the end of 2015, The Alley plans to share what has been learned

and to celebrate the 40 years of this vibrant community-news source. Watch for details.

Help with support of money.

In the meantime, please make a financial contribution to The Alley Newspaper to support a financially strong 40th year. Aid in propelling the newspaper into a future where Alley Communications will continue to provide an essential venue for the many amazing community voices that are heard throughout the year!

Any and all financial contributions matter beginning with \$5 on

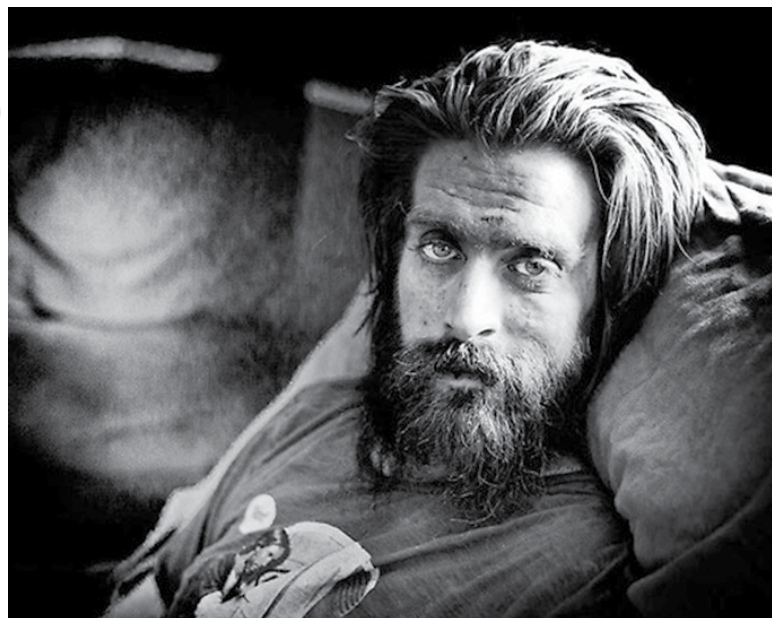
up! Each contribution is valued, not just for the dollar amount, but for the vote of support it represents. We are counting on you to help keep The Alley Newspaper a "free" community newspaper filled with photos, opinions, stories, news and views that YOU submit. Contribute today! Send your tax deductible donation to Alley Communications, PO Box 7006, Mpls., MN 55407 or submit online at GiveMN.org.

see **Alley Highlights in 2015** page 4

Phillips Wicoie Nandagikendan Dakota and Ojibwe Language and Culture Immersion Program SEE PAGE 6



"My Last Words to George W. Bush and Dick Cheney"



BY TOMAS YOUNG

Counterpunch Editor's Note: News came Nov. 10, 2014 that Tomas Young, 34, an Iraq war vet turned anti-war activist, had passed away in Seattle. He enlisted in the Army two days after 9/11. After Ft. Hood, Texas training he was deployed to Iraq and paralyzed five days into the tour after being shot through his spinal cord. Many CounterPunchers may remember Tomas from the excellent Body of War documentary film by Phil Donahue about Tomas' struggles following his return from Iraq. RIP Tomas Young. We promise to carry on your fight. – Joshua Frank * Reprinted from Counterpunch [See page 7 for Young's letter to George W. Bush and Dick Cheney in June 2013.]



The Alley
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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 August issue:
Robert Albee, BackYard Initiative CHATS, Denny Bennet, Katherine Blauvelt, Patrick Cabello Hansel, Jim Davis, Angela Fiero, Friends of the Library, Susan Gust, Linnea Hadaway, Hennepin County Franklin Library and Staff, Hennepin County Library Special Collections, Sue Hunter Weir, In the Heart of the Beast Theatre, Tim McCall, Jana Metge, Midtown Global Market, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Jonathan Miller, Peter Molenaar, Dave Moore, Brad Pass, Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, Sunny Sevigny, Erin Thomasson, LAURA Waterman Wittstock, Crystal Trautnau Winschitl,

Delivery: to 250 Apartments, Businesses, Places of Worship, and Organizations by Lyle James Delivery and to many homes and meetings by these volunteers Beverly, Brad, Carol, Patrick, Cathy, Dave, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Jacy, Jana, Heidi, Howard, Marjorie, Midtown Phillips, Paul, Phillips West N Org., Simmons Family, Raymond, Stephanie, 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.

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More people are needed to deliver papers to neighbors and/or meetings and events.
Call Harvey 612-990-4022

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

January Issue Submission Deadline December 15

The Alley Newspaper is a Member of



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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 in a format appropriate for young children. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement.

Childcare Group Storytime Fri, Dec. 5, 9:30–10 am.

Talk, sing, read, write and play together in a format appropriate for the children in your care. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement.

Franklin Teen Center Programs 4-H Mentoring Club

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

Teen Tech Workshop

Wed, Dec. 10, 4:30–6 pm. Get creative and make music, videos, animation and other projects using both high- and low-tech tools, everything from iPads to LEGOS®. Led by Teen Tech Squad.

Young Achievers

Thurs, 4:30–6 pm. Do you want to be involved in your community? Then bring your friends and come for poetry, arts, games and more!

Adult Programs

55+ Nonfiction Book Club

Fri, Dec. 12, 1–3 pm. Join our discussion of new and interesting nonfiction titles. Bring along your recommendations for future

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

meetings. Info 612-543-6925.

Memoir Writing Group

Thurs, Dec. 18, 1–3 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.

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- Help you apply for Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare
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Phillips West Neighborhood Upcoming Events

www.phillipswest.info



December 4th (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, Saint Mary's University, Minneapolis Swims, Hennepin County 35W Access Project, Residents, and Minneapolis Police. at Center for Changing Lives in the Centrum Room (2400 Park Avenue). Free parking in the rear of building off Oakland Avenue. Free Jakeeno's Pizza & Beverages will be provided! Info: Crystal at 612-879-5383 or email her pwno2005@yahoo.com.

ADVERTISEMENT

Dear Alley readers:

I want to thank readers of the Alley newspaper for your help and encouragement in my campaign for Hennepin County Commissioner, District 4. There was a noticeably higher level of support for me in the Phillips and Powderhorn neighborhoods, where the Alley is widely distributed and read. This was reflected in a higher percentage of votes, and was also demonstrated by the many homes and businesses that allowed my

campaign to place yard signs and posters on their property. Thanks to you, I received over 10,000 votes - about one in four ballots cast.

I have formed a campaign committee to run for the Minnesota State Senate in District 62, which also includes the Phillips and Powderhorn neighborhoods. I am looking for people to serve on that committee. Please contact me if you are interested, at (612) 386-6538. Thank you again.

Captain Jack Sparrow



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"Yellow Journalism" adds insult to injury of family

It's not unheard of for a reporter to get carried away with a story and exaggerate a little for dramatic effect.

The story about David Fisher's death was one of those stories. It ran in the Minneapolis Tribune on September 4, 1903, under the headline, **"Killed on Way to See His Dying Wife, David C. Fisher, Old and Feeble, Struck by a Street Car As He was Tottering from Poor Farm to City Hospital—Was Going to Make Perhaps Last Visit to His Aged Partner In Life, Separated by Illness and Misfortune."** This lengthy headline more or less tells the whole story and a little more.

When Annie Fisher got sick in the spring of 1903, her husband, who was old and somewhat frail himself, could no longer take care of her at home. She was taken to the City Hospital where, according to newspapers accounts, she was expected to die any day. She was over 90 years old and in poor health.

Annie and David Fisher had been together a long time. According to the 1895 Territorial Census for Minnesota, David Fisher had moved to the United States from Canada in 1857, one year before Minnesota became a state. Annie was born in Indiana.

They were married in St. Anthony on January 1, 1860. They married relatively late in life; although records give varying birth years for each, they were

both approximately forty years old. In the 1860s they adopted two children: a daughter named May and a son named James.

David held a number of jobs over the years. He started out as a cooper. In 1879 he got a job as one of the city's poundmasters, the equivalent of working for Animal Control today, except that in addition to dealing with dogs and cats, he would have had to contend with the horses, cows and sheep residing within the city limits. He earned a reasonable, though not lavish salary, about \$10 a week. When that job ended about six years later he worked as a watchman and a barnman, most likely for the animal pound. Not long before he died, he was reported to have been running a laundry out of his home.

Old age, poverty and illness finally caused the couple to be separated. When Annie got sick, David went to live at the County Poor Farm. He was taking the streetcar from the Poor Farm to City Hospital to visit Annie when he was run down and killed. Newspaper reporters made much of the fact that he was on his way to visit his dying wife. According to the story he had collected some "dainties" for her and told the staff that he might not be back for several days which led a reporter to conclude that she was within days of dying.

David was crossing the street
at Sixth Street and Sixth Avenue

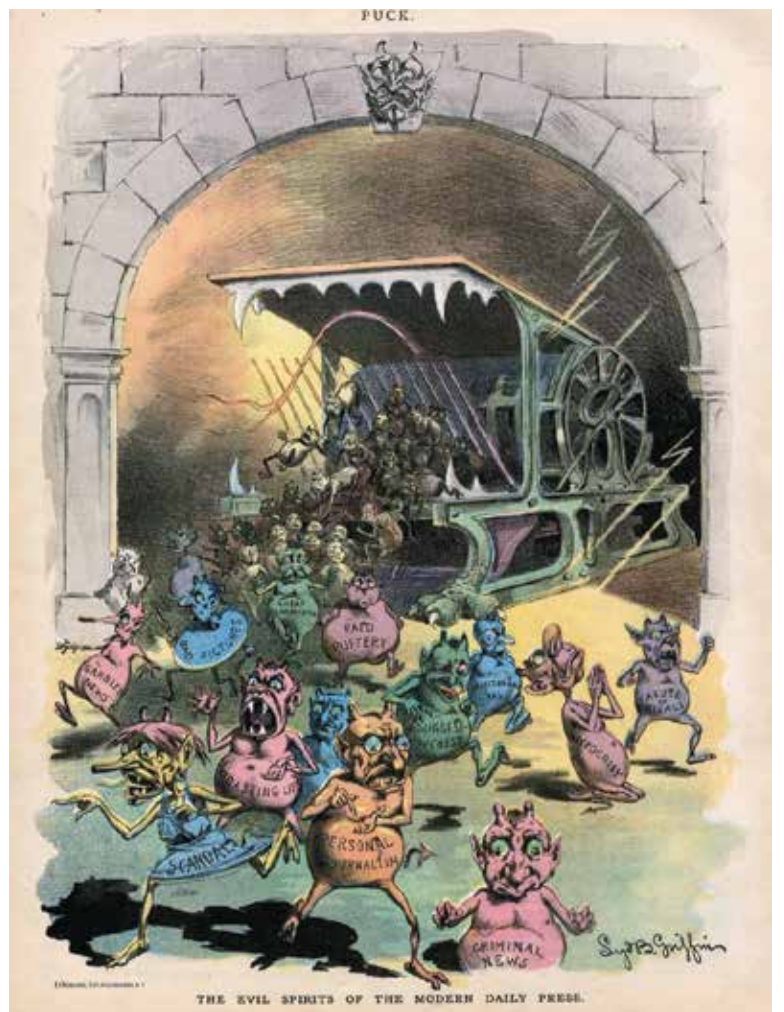
Tales from Pioneers & Soldiers Cemetery

SUE HUNTER WEIR
118TH IN A SERIES

South apparently paying little attention to what was going on around him. The motorman on a passing streetcar rang the bell and Fisher stopped and waited for the car to pass. He started walking again but was struck by the "trailer," a second car on the streetcar. He died before he could be taken to the hospital.

At first, staff at the hospital withheld the news of her husband's death from Annie because, according to the papers, her doctors were afraid that the shock might kill her. When they did tell her, "[s]he took the news philosophically, although it was a great shock to her feeble, nervous system." She was unable to attend her husband's funeral but she was visited and comforted by friends.

Apparently the Tribune reporter who covered the story thought that it wasn't sad or dramatic enough. Although there is little question that Fishers had experienced hardship during the last several months of David Fishers's life, there is nothing in the story to support the Tribune's claim that theirs was "a life of sorrow." And it wasn't true, as the Tribune claimed, that there was "no one to care for his dead body—his [David's] life truly had become a barren one." While it's unclear where their adult children were living at the time of his death, David Fisher had made



Nasty little printer's devils spew forth from the Hoe press in this Puck cartoon of November 21, 1888.

Yellow journalism, or the yellow press, is a type of journalism that presents little or no legitimate well-researched news and instead uses eye-catching headlines to sell more newspapers. Techniques may include exaggerations of news events, scandal-mongering, or sensationalism. Yellow journalism happens in local and national main stream media all too often; yes, even in Minneapolis.

arrangements some years earlier with B. R. Bain, a friend and neighbor, to take care of his and Annie's funeral arrangements. Mr. Bain kept his promise to David Fisher. Four years later he had occasion to keep it again. Annie Fisher, who was described in 1903

as “old, decrepit and fast failing,” lived for another four years. She died on December 13, 1907, at the age of 96. Three days later she was buried next to her husband in Lot 44, Block P.

Now Hiring for Part-Time Neighborhood Coordinator – Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association

For more information and to apply go to:

www.ppl-inc.org/who-we-are/work-at-ppl

Job Summary

Project for Pride in Living, at the request of Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association (MPNA), has agreed to host a position to support the community improvement work of MPNA. This part-time position provides administrative support/assistance to help ensure the smooth functioning of Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association. Duties include providing contract management and administrative support to Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association; Monitor neighborhood issues at City Council and Regulatory committees; state and county issues; and with other neighborhood entities; Manage logistics for all neighborhood and Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association Board meetings and communicate details to the Board members; Provide administrative assistance to Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association Board that includes, but is not limited to, drafting and typing correspondence, copying material, preparing mailings, filing, assisting with special projects, site tours and special events; Financial and budget management.



Bulletin! Important Midtown Phillips Vote For Pool Donation

Midtown Phillips
Neighborhood Association,
Inc. approved to consider
dedicating \$50,000 of
Community Engagement
funding to saving and
renovating the Phillips
Community Center indoor
Swimming Pool located
at 24th St & 11th Ave So.
There will be discussion
and a Community Vote on
Tuesday, January 27th from
6:30-8:00 at Stewart Park /
2700 block of 12th Avenue.



DECEMBER Midtown Phillips BOARD Meeting:

Tuesday December 9, 6:30-8pm.

Stewart Park (Arts & Crafts Room), 2700 12th Ave S,
Minneapolis

- Housing committee update (10 min.)
- Financial report and discussion on 2015 budget (30 min.)
- Banyon to present on partnership (30 min.)
- New business (20 min)

**** NO DECEMBER COMMUNITY MEETING** due to holiday

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

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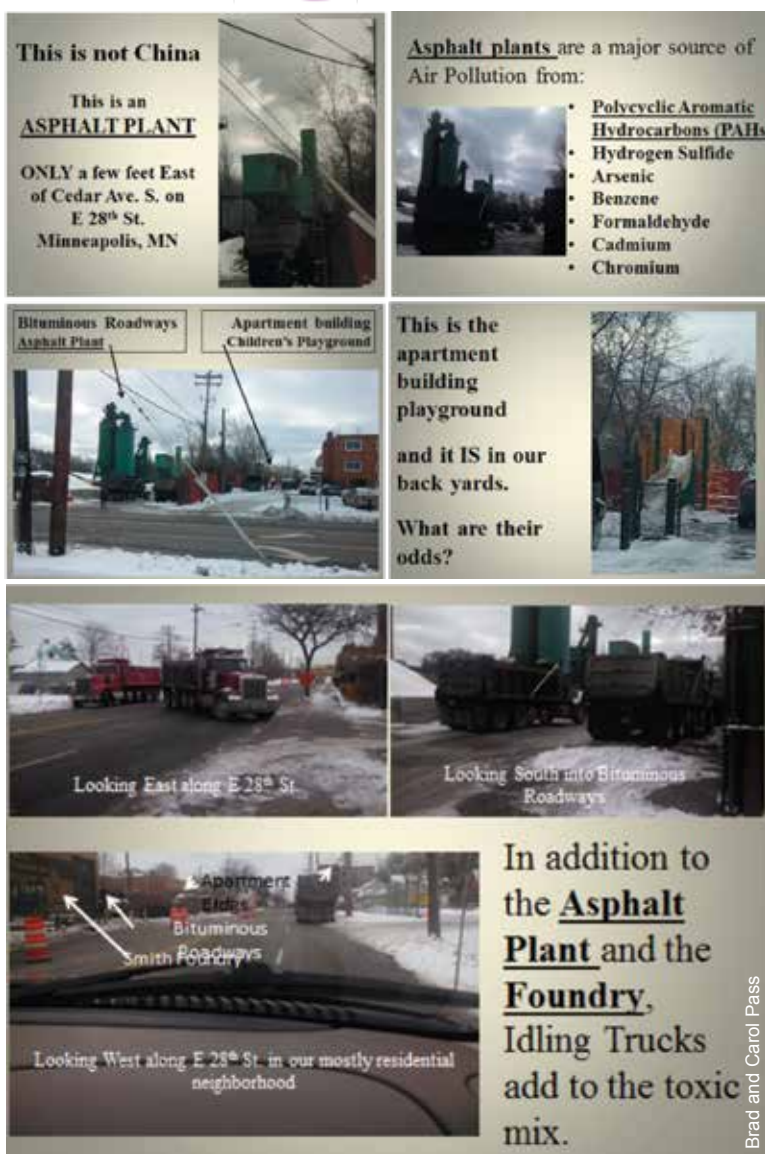
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East Phillips Improvement Coalition

IMPORTANT!

East Phillips Improvement Coalition Community Meeting

December 11, Thursday, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, East Phillips Park Community Center



future development is seriously at risk or actually compromised.

PAHs are only one of the serious pollutants produced by Asphalt plants such as Bituminous Roadways located at 2825 Cedar Ave. S. Their neighbor, Smith Foundry at 1855 E. 26th St. is also a serious source of industrial pollution in this residential neighborhood. Both industrial sites border the Midtown Greenway and in addition to their emissions, they bring the added pollution of constant heavy truck traffic.

A. Now the Minneapolis Water Department is negotiating to purchase the Roof Depot at 1860 E. 26th St. with the idea of moving their City wide repair and maintenance facility onto the site bringing the additional diesel pollution of their fleet of trucks. This activity will need to grow as the City grows. We believe this activity should not be moved to East Phillips, but should go to the very large Water Works in the south side of Fridley where there are no population and pollution issues and plenty of room to grow.

B. Because of our commitment to the well-being of the families and children in East Phillips, the EPIC Board and Membership passed motions at our last community meeting to press forward in an effort to respond to these major issues of industrial pollution that are endangering the lives of our children. The motion passed follows:

i. *MOTION: Establish a Clean Air Task Force to press for repurposing the heavy industry areas of East Phillips (east of the intersection of 28th St. and Cedar Ave) to the goals of transit-oriented residential housing, to disallow*



any further introduction of heavy industry and ultimately eliminate heavy industrial polluting enterprises from within the boundaries of East Phillips.

C. A PowerPoint will be shown at the next EPIC community meeting on December 11th. We have begun to act on this and we need the whole community to come alongside to help if we are to reach our objective. Residential housing has been a long-standing goal for East Phillips, derailed in the past by the many other urgent campaigns to keep our neighborhood safe for families and children: the fight against the Midtown Burner and the Xcel high voltage power-lines, and the struggle to rebuild housing and reduce crime. We believe the time is now to complete the conversion of East Phillips from a place of danger and health challenges for our children to a place focused on their future health, joy and future well being. This goal should not take a back seat to any other concern. The process to follow will be discussed.

Photographs were taken on a November day, 2014

2. Rebuilding East Phillips and restoring our heritage Affordable Home Ownership.

The EPIC Board and community also moved to restore our funding to the now empty NRP Phase II strategy for new construction of affordable homes on our many vacant lots. This funding has already been approved by a large survey accompanying our NRP Phase II plan and additional votes by the community. This final vote endorses the restoration of the fund by means of the CPP dollars we saved for this purpose. The houses only require \$15,000 a piece as our part of the subsidy to make them affordable.

i. *MOTION: EPIC will set aside \$120,000 to build 8 new houses on 8 empty lots and that we seek contracts with PRG and GHMC.*

We will also discuss the Ambassador program, the Computer and Financial Literacy Programs, the 25th Street barrier, and the progress on the EPIC Office.

Join us and support your neighborhood!!!

Proposed Agenda

Two important concerns will be addressed:

1. Community Action directed at local Pollution and its impact on our children.

Many of us in East Phillips have been concerned about our high level of pollution for many years, in particular the pollution from the Asphalt Plant of Bituminous Roadways and from Smith Foundry. In the past the neighborhood has earnestly requested of

the businesses that they seek new sites far from children.

Recently our concerns have been greatly escalated by the ominous Nov. 12, 2014 Star Tribune article stating that **100%** of the children of nonsmoking mothers who were exposed to high levels of the industrial pollutant polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) during pregnancy, were diagnosed with ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). This means many of our children's

EPIC News for December 2014



FIVE East Phillips Youth Soccer teams WIN BIG

December has been a big month for EPIC. Here are a few of our highlights.

Phillips Aquatic Center Pool NEW Funding: EPIC Donated \$50,000.00 to the Park Board for renovation of the Phillips Community Center Pool. We are deeply grateful to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC), which offered a match for up to \$250,000 making the total EPIC donation \$100,000. EPIC had set this money aside just waiting for such an opportunity. Wells Fargo also donated \$25,000,

with the match, the day's total was \$150,000 for the pool.

FIVE East Phillips Youth Soccer teams WIN BIG: The 11u, 13u and 18u teams took home the City Park Championships and received the trophies. 15u and the young women's team also played a vigorous and strong season. The 11u and 13u teams are seen here holding their trophies and celebrating a congratulatory meal with family and friends. Rep. Karen Clark, EPIC Board member Ali Macalin, Board President Carol Pass and Jean Whitehill,

East Phillips Park Director, also attended. (11u means 11 years & under)

Computer & Financial Literacy Classes: The East Phillips Park Programming Partnership, a Standing Committee of EPIC, is partnering with Wells Fargo, the City of Minneapolis Information Technology Department and the Park to bring Free Classes on Financial Literacy and Computer Literacy to the newly updated East Phillips Park Computer Lab. Contact Brad Pass at 612-916-8478 - bpas@usinternet.com or the Park - 612-370-4888 to sign up.

Empty Bowls: Empty Bowls at East Phillips Park – A charity event to help fight hunger in our community. Guests can receive a handcrafted bowl made through the ceramics program at the park and a simple meal of soup and bread. Suggested donation is \$10. Proceeds benefit the Open Arms of MN program. Friday, December 12th, 4-8pm.

“Sha-kym Adams ‘Learn-to Swim’ Scholarship Fund

Many of you remember the tragic story of Sha-kym Adams, the Minneapolis South High School sophomore football player who drowned on August 6th in Lake Nokomis. His parents, Kimberly Adams, and Sharrod Rowe, are the Honorary Co-Chairs of a scholarship fund that has been set up in their Son's name. It is their hope, that that with this fund, they can help prevent other parents from every having to go through what they have.

If you would like to donate to the “Sha-kym Adams ‘Learn-to Swim’ Scholarship Fund”, please indicate that on your check and mail to Minneapolis Swims, 2323 11th Ave. S. Suite 135, Minneapolis, MN 55404.

EPIC Pool

from page 1

Cano, and School Board members Mohamed Noor and Siad Ali and many community members.

Carol Pass thanked East Phillips residents and the EPIC Board who worked so hard to save this money for the community and its Pool project. She also acknowledged the three year commitment of Hannah Lieder in framing and defining the critical need for this life saving year-round facility in the heart of inner-city Minneapolis

The entire community thanks all the donors and especially the

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community for their generous match of up to \$250,000. More money is available for matching pool donations and Park Board Commissioner Scott Vreeland wrote a personal check to take advantage of doubling his donation. If you would like to contribute to this incredible project do not miss this opportunity to double your money. Mail a check to Minneapolis Swims, 2323 11th Ave. S. Suite 135, Minneapolis, MN 55404

Or contribute online at www.razoo.com/story/Minneapolis-Swims.



VENTURA VILLAGE'S ANNUAL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2014

Establishing Ventura Village's Neighborhood Priority Plan

The City of Minneapolis adopted a Neighborhood Priority Plan (NPP) policy in 2013 that outlines an expectation that each official neighborhood "identify major initiatives ... and to communicate ... priorities to the City and other jurisdictional partners. Stay tuned for an official announcement as to when Ventura Village will begin this process, which will open with a Special Meeting in which a proven process will be used to elicit ideas, preliminary priorities and potential partners. It is expected that the process will "identify, preserve, and build on the existing assets and positive qualities... or identify opportunities or problems to be addressed. Possible actions to be taken by the neighborhood can be included.



The City's website does contain examples of other neighborhood plans. Some are very simple and others more complex. The most important component, however, if providing an opportunity for all interested residents and stakeholders to weigh in on the plan itself.

Proposed Priority Plan Process:

1. Community process for formulating the draft Neighborhood Priority Plan:
 - Taskforce appointed by Ventura Village Neighborhood Chair;
 - Taskforce formulates possible priorities list;
 - Special Community Meeting for drafting Neighborhood Priority Plan;
 - Establish additional "listening sessions" at community venues;
 - Survey Conducted of Neighborhood Priorities, 1st & Second Choices
 - Write-in options permitted;
 - NPP Taskforce reviews & tabulates results & drafts the NPP proposal;
 - Ventura Village sets up a 21-day *Notice of Intention* to adopt NPP.
 - Ventura Village Board & General Membership adopt draft NPP
2. Design procedures to ensure that under-represented communities are able to participate in the NPP process.

Neighborhood Priority Plan Approval Process:

The following is the proscribed process established by the City of Minneapolis Neighborhood Community Relations (NCR) for Neighborhood Priority Plans. This list demonstrates the lengthy process and procedures necessary to adopt such a plan:

1. Consult the NCR Support Specialist regarding process & procedures;
2. Appoint Taskforce to develop NPP Process (Oct. 2014)
3. Develop NPP Process (Nov. 2014)
4. Ventura Village Board approves NPP Process (Nov. 2014)
5. Execute NPP Process (Nov. 2014 - Jan. 2015)
6. Draft NPP is formulated and written (Jan. 2015)
7. 21-day Notice to Community of Draft NPP (Jan 2015 Mailing)
8. Ventura Village Board & Membership approve Draft NPP (Feb 2015)
9. Forward Draft NPP to NCR Support Specialist (Feb 2015)
10. NCR Jurisdiction Staff issues a response in 30 Days (Mar-Apr 2015)
11. NCR/Ventura Village resolve any matters raised during review
12. Ventura Village approves FINAL Amended NPP ((Apr 2015)
13. NCR and City Attorney's Office review (Apr 2015)
14. NCR Policy Board approval (May 2015)
15. Minneapolis City Council approval (Jun 2015)

Expectations of a Neighborhood by Minneapolis' NCR:

The City of Minneapolis Neighborhood Priority Plans Policy of July 19, 2013 states in part:

"the neighborhood should identify how it has involved, or will involve, the community in developing and approving the plan. During the plan approval process, the neighborhood will be asked to (1) describe the community process they followed to develop the priorities, (2) how they involved under-represented communities, and (3) provide background on their neighborhood's priorities."



In previous years, Ventura Village's residents and stakeholders have conducted very formal planning process sessions. The process pictured above and on the left, represented planning for the Phillips Community Center and involved community-wide participants.

Ventura Village's Annual Meeting is time for both Elections and Festivities!

Each December, we gather together with some tasty treats and share some of our accomplishments for the year and also honor those neighborhood volunteers and stakeholders who have made our community a great place to live. **Join us!**

Ventura Village Bylaws related to annual elections:

Each year, one-third (1/3) of the positions on the Board of Directors shall be open for election at the annual membership meeting.

Members of the Corporation seeking election to the Board of Directors, whether nominated by themselves or another, shall register their name, address, phone number, membership category (as defined in Article II Section 1), and place of primary residence at the corporate office fourteen (14) calendar days 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 prior to the scheduled election. Said registration shall be available to the public at least three (3) and no more than thirty (30) 6 days prior to the Annual meeting or special meeting at which the election of Directors is held. Nominations for election to the Board of Directors will not be accepted from the floor.

VENTURA VILLAGE'S MONTHLY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE:

2nd Wednesdays: BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 6:00 PM

2nd Wednesdays: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP: 7:00 PM

1st Tuesdays: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE: 5:30 PM

1st Tuesdays: WELLNESS, GREENING & GARDENING: 6:30 PM

3rd Thursdays: BUSINESS COMMITTEE: 6:00 PM

Last Thursdays: HOUSING & LAND USE COMMITTEE: 5:30 PM

Last Thursdays: CRIME & SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6:30 PM

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Call for next meeting time.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Call for next meeting time.

DECEMBER IS VENTURA VILLAGE'S ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS

There will be Board Member vacancies to be filled, so this is the time to consider running for a seat or nominating somebody.

Phillips Wicoie Nandagikendan Dakota and Ojbwe Language and Culture Immersion Program

Senator Jon Tester Visits Language Program in Phillips

BY LAURA WATERMAN WITTSTOCK

Jon Tester won office in 2006 and has wasted little time since then to look deeply at the needs of tribes and nations. He became chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs this year when former chair Maria Cantwell stepped down.

Senator Tester’s visit to Minneapolis and the Wicoie Nandagikendan program is an example of how seriously he takes his chairman role: he wants to see Indian communities in action. He told Wicoie executive director Jennifer Bendickson that Congress needs to hear from people like her and others who are teaching Dakota and Ojibwe in the state. He said he enjoys his visits but the voices of the people are critical to restoring language.

This year, Senator Tester, along with four other senators, introduced and the Senate passed the “Native Language Immersion Student Achievement Act.” Under the Act, those eligible for funding include schools or private tribal, nonprofit organizations that have plans to develop and maintain, or to improve and expand, programs that support schools using Native American languages as the primary language of instruction of all curriculum taught at the schools.

The bill states that “[the] Secretary [of Interior] may award grants to eligible entities to devel-

op and maintain, or to improve and expand, programs that support schools, including prekindergarten through postsecondary education, using Native American languages as the primary language of instruction of all curriculum taught at the schools.”

Wicoie Nandagikendan is a small organization in the Phillips Neighborhood that works very hard to teach Dakota and Ojibwe to children from 16 months of age to kindergarten-ready five year olds. These tots are just at the brink of using language and their parents want them to learn their native languages. Wicoie also struggles, like many small nonprofits, to raise sufficient funds to keep the project going. Jennifer and consultant Jewell Arcoren are the hardworking engine of the organization who work with the language teachers to serve families from Little Earth of United Tribes and other parts of the metro area.

Two Dakota women (Jennifer is Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate and Jewell is Sisseton/Sicangu) had a taco sale on November 7th at the preschool immersion program – 2438 18th Avenue South in Minneapolis. Wicoie plans two events for Spring 2015: a community feast and a cook-off contest during Indian Month in May. All of these fundraising events are open to the public. They also invite donors to go to GiveMN.



John Gwinn

org and support language learning.

For those who are interested, the Wicoie Nandagidendan web site has phrases with pronunciations in Ojibwe and Dakota and information about program activities.

All of this activity sounds incredibly busy, but the major work of supporting language restoration and revitalization is where Wicoie and its partners meet part of the response Senator Tester said he needed. Wicoie will be visiting the state legislature to provide information about the program and others like it to keep state Legacy funds going to the dozens of language programs throughout the state.

In preparation, Wicoie received resolutions of support for this

work from the Indian Affairs Council, representing all eleven reservations in the state; the Urban Affairs Advisory Board to the Council; and the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID) group.

Jennifer and Jewell appeared on First Person Radio on Wednesday, October 29 to talk about their work and they brought a three-year old from the Wicoie program. The youngster sang three songs in Dakota. It was a stunning example of what can happen when language is taught to very young children. Wicoie starts with babies as young as 16 to 18 months, when language begins, on up to readiness for kindergarten. Data are showing much higher percentages of Wicoie kids to be ready for kindergarten than other groups.

It’s a program that we should all know about.

Laura Waterman Wittstock is a retired nonprofit executive and now hosts First Person Radio with Roy Taylor on KFAI-FM, Wednesdays at 9 am

*Jon Tester (born August 21, 1956) is the senior United States Senator from Montana, serving since 2007. He is a member of the Democratic Party.

Tester was first elected to the Senate in 2006, beating Republican incumbent Conrad Burns in one of the closest Senate races of that year. He won reelection in 2012 against Rep. Denny Rehberg in another close race. Tester previously served as the president of the Montana Senate and worked as a music teacher and farmer.

Tomas Young
from page 7

beings, including children, including myself, were sacrificed by you for little more than the greed of oil companies, for your alliance with the oil sheiks in Saudi Arabia, and your insane visions of empire.

I have, like many other disabled veterans, suffered from the inadequate and often inept care provided by the Veterans Administration. I have, like many other disabled veterans, come to realize that our

mental and physical wounds are of no interest to you, perhaps of no interest to any politician. We were used. We were betrayed. And we have been abandoned. You, Mr. Bush, make much pretense of being a Christian. But isn’t lying a sin? Isn’t murder a sin? Aren’t theft and selfish ambition sins? I am not a Christian. But I believe in the Christian ideal. I believe that what you do to the least of your brothers you finally do to yourself, to your own soul.

My day of reckoning is upon me. Yours will come. I hope you will be put on trial. But mostly I hope, for your sakes, that you find the moral courage to face what you have done to me and to many, many others who deserved to live. I hope that before your time on earth ends, as mine is now ending, you will find the strength of character to stand before the American public and the world, and in particular the Iraqi people, and beg for forgiveness.

...A few highlights coming your way in 2015!

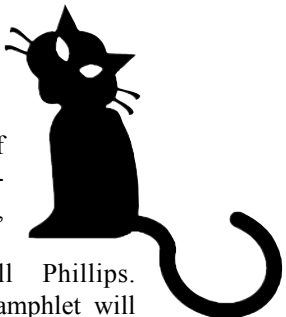
The Alley Newspaper is pleased to announce a few exciting events coming soon!

- In January, a new literary magazine called “Phoenix of Phillips” published by St. Paul’s Church will be available for sale at the magazine’s Opening Celebration, January 29, 2015, at the Midtown Global Market.

- Next up, Alley Communications will publish collected “Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery” by Sue Hunter Weir.

Finally, in the works is a pamphlet describing several key, historical, social justice events in Phillips Community and their correlation to the writing and speech-

es of abolitionist,



Wendell Phillips. This pamphlet will contain text by Harvey M. Winje, Susan Gust and cartoons by Dave Moore and Linnea Hadaway with the valuable editorial assistance of Jim Stewart. The pamphlet is derived from a book titled An Arrow to the Future: The Legacy of Wendell Phillips, an anthology of lectures from the 2011 Wendell Phillips Bi-Centennial Symposium. This book will become the 20th in a series called “Abolition and Anti-Slavery in the Atlantic World” published by Louisiana State University Press.

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN

Christmas Eve 4 pm: Carol Singing at
Bloomington and Lake
Christmas Day: 10 am worship
2742 15th Ave South
Call 612-724-3862 for more info

YOU'RE INVITED!

**Holiday
Neighborhood
Open House**

—

**Wednesday, Dec. 17
5–8 p.m.**

Thank you for being our neighbor!

The American Swedish Institute (ASI) invites any and all individuals living and/or working in the Phillips Community Neighborhoods of Ventura Village, Phillips West, Midtown Phillips, East Phillips and Little Earth of United Tribes; and Whittier Neighborhood to our annual Neighborhood Open House on Wednesday, Dec. 17 from 5 to 8 p.m.

- Free museum admission
- Complimentary refreshments by FIKA
- Explore ASI's holiday exhibits
- Craft activities for kids of all ages

No reservations required.
For information, please call 612-871-4907.

American Swedish Institute 2600 Park Avenue Minneapolis MN 55407 | T 612-871-4907 | ASImn.org

3440 BLOOMINGTON AVE.
POWDERHORN PARK
MINNEAPOLIS
M-F 6:30-6
SAT 7-5 • SUN 7:30-5
729-5627

ORGANIC &
FAIR TRADE COFFEE

FREE Wireless Internet

The Aura Of Tomas Young

Truly, the new science of brainwave imaging has begun to reveal some interesting things. For example, moments of compassionate giving manifest as definitive and relatively expansive “cloud” formations. As Christmas is approaching, we might now reconsider old reports that the spirit of Jesus emanated a visible aura.

But for now, I contemplate the image (year 2005) of a crew-cut “lad” named Tomas Young. Confined to a wheel chair, his sign reads: MR. BUSH WHY WON’T YOU MEET WITH ME? Alongside Tomas stands Cindy Sheehan. Cindy’s son Casey was killed in Sadr City (same city, same day) as the bullet severed Tomas’ spine. QUESTION: What “noble cause?”

From Tomas Young “The Last Letter” (an excerpt):
“I write this letter, my last letter, to you, Mr. Bush and Mr. Cheney...your lies, manipulation and thirst for wealth...I, and hundreds of thousands of my fellow veterans, know fully who you are...Your cowardice and selfishness were established decades ago.”
“My day of reckoning is upon me... I hope, for your sakes, that you will find the moral courage to face what you



PETER MOLENAAR

Raise Your Voice
have done to me and to many, many others who deserved to live. I hope that before your time on earth ends, as mine is now ending, you will find the strength of character to stand before the American public and the world, and in particular the Iraqi people, and beg for forgiveness.”
However, the sociological application of brainwave imaging has revealed that normal “waves of compassion” are diminished or completely lacking within members of the capitalist ruling class. This is especially true when they pass among us.
Tomas Young died November 10, 2014. He had lived upon death’s bed for a very long time. In the end, for all the world, he looked like Jesus.

My Last Words to George W. Bush and Dick Cheney

TOMAS YOUNG

I write this letter on the 10th anniversary of the Iraq War on behalf of my fellow Iraq War veterans. I write this letter on behalf of the 4,488 soldiers and Marines who died in Iraq. I write this letter on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of veterans who have been wounded and on behalf of those whose wounds, physical and psychological, have destroyed their lives. I am one of those gravely wounded. I was paralyzed in an insurgent ambush in 2004 in Sadr City. My life is coming to an end. I am living under hospice care.
I write this letter on behalf of husbands and wives who have lost spouses, on behalf of children who have lost a parent, on behalf of the fathers and mothers who have lost sons and daughters and on behalf of those who care for the many thousands of my fellow veterans who have brain injuries. I write this letter on behalf of those veterans whose trauma and self-revulsion for what they have witnessed, endured and done in Iraq have led to suicide and on behalf of the active-duty soldiers and Marines who commit, on average, a suicide a day. I write this letter on behalf of the some 1 million Iraqi dead and on behalf of the countless Iraqi wounded. I write this letter on behalf of us all—the human detri-



tus your war has left behind, those who will spend their lives in unending pain and grief.
I write this letter, my last letter, to you, Mr. Bush and Mr. Cheney. I write not because I think you grasp the terrible human and moral consequences of your lies, manipulation and thirst for wealth and power. I write this letter because, before my own death, I want to make it clear that I, and hundreds of thousands of my fellow veterans, along with millions of my fellow citizens, along with hundreds of millions more in Iraq and the Middle East, know fully who you are and what you have done. You may evade justice but in our eyes you are each guilty of egregious war crimes, of plunder and, finally, of murder, including the murder of thousands of young Americans—my fellow veterans—whose future you stole.
Your positions of authority, your millions of dollars of personal wealth, your public relations con-

sultants, your privilege and your power cannot mask the hollowness of your character. You sent us to fight and die in Iraq after you, Mr. Cheney, dodged the draft in Vietnam, and you, Mr. Bush, went AWOL from your National Guard unit. Your cowardice and selfishness were established decades ago. You were not willing to risk yourselves for our nation but you sent hundreds of thousands of young men and women to be sacrificed in a senseless war with no more thought than it takes to put out the garbage.
I joined the Army two days after the 9/11 attacks. I joined the Army because our country had been attacked. I wanted to strike back at those who had killed some 3,000 of my fellow citizens. I did not join the Army to go to Iraq, a country that had no part in the September 2001 attacks and did not pose a threat to its neighbors, much less to the United States. I did not join the Army to “liberate” Iraqis or to shut down mythical weapons-of-mass-destruction facilities or to implant what you cynically called “democracy” in Baghdad and the Middle East. I did not join the Army to rebuild Iraq, which at the time you told us could be paid for by Iraq’s oil revenues. Instead, this war has cost the United States over \$3 trillion. I especially did not join the Army to carry out pre-emptive war. Pre-emptive war is illegal under international law. And as a soldier in Iraq I was, I now know, abetting your idiocy and your crimes. The Iraq War is the largest strategic blunder in U.S. history. It obliterated the balance of power in the Middle East. It installed a corrupt and brutal pro-Iranian government in Baghdad, one cemented in power through the use of torture, death squads and terror. And it has left Iran as the dominant force in the region. On every level—moral, strategic, military and economic—Iraq was a failure. And it was you, Mr. Bush and Mr. Cheney, who started this war. It is you who should pay the consequences.
I would not be writing this letter if I had been wounded fighting in Afghanistan against those forces that carried out the attacks of 9/11. Had I been wounded there I would still be miserable because of my physical deterioration and imminent death, but I would at least have the comfort of knowing that my injuries were a consequence of my own decision to defend the country I love. I would not have to lie in my bed, my body filled with painkillers, my life ebbing away, and deal with the fact that hundreds of thousands of human



Tomas Young
see page 6

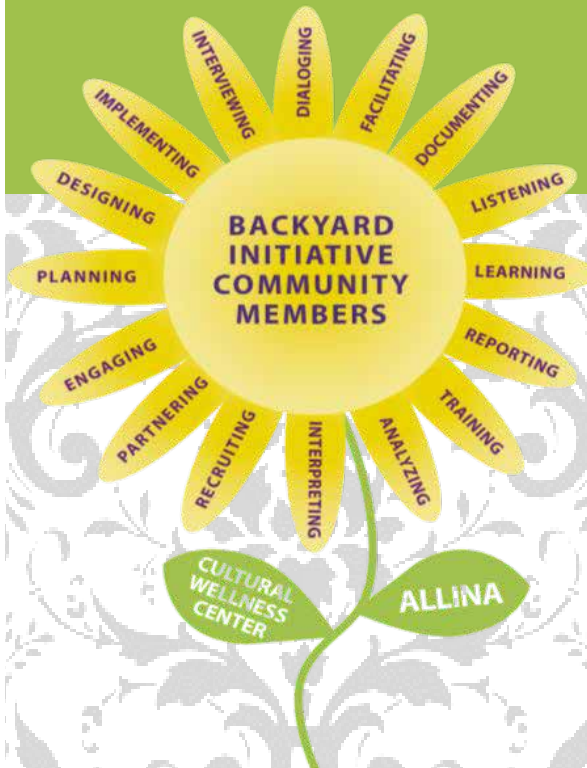


BACKYARD INITIATIVE BACK PAGE



BYI AREA

2014 Allina Backyard Initiative Dinner Dialogue



Harvesting the Critical Watershed Moments
for the Backyard Initiative
Stories from the People and their Processes

December 11, 2014 | 5-7:30 p.m.

The Backyard Initiative Whose job is it to improve health?

The Backyard Initiative is a dynamic partnership between the residents of South Minneapolis, the Cultural Wellness Center and Allina Health that goes beyond medical care to improve health. Citizen Health Action Teams (CHATs) build the capacity of residents to care for their own health. Residents from the area called the Backyard have created a definition of health and strategies to achieve this definition. They are preparing themselves to assume the responsibility for improving their own health.

Community, culture and connections are the seeds needed to cultivate health.



2025 Portland Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55404
ph: 612-721-5745

If you plan on
attending, it is
important to RSVP
with your name to
the Cultural Wellness
Center,
612-721-5745
or

Ruth Hampton Olkon
612-262-4430
ruth.olkon@allina.com

Join us December 11 5-7:30 p.m.

Pettingill Hall at Allina Health Commons

Midtown Exchange, 2925 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407

Syl Jones, nationally known medical journalist and playwright will lead the discussion between community residents, health care professionals and health care providers.

The Purpose:

To honor the people and processes that have made the Backyard Initiative an unqualified success.

To listen to and be moved by the stories of those who have participated in the Backyard Initiative.

To begin to develop a “narrative competency” within the organizations involved in the Backyard Initiative.

To harvest information and ideas for a larger, more comprehensive celebration that uses theater to illuminate the collaborative possibilities of Allina Health, the Community Resource Board, the CHAT Groups and the Cultural Wellness Center.

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.

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.