



the Alley

NEWSPAPER

NEWS & VIEWS OF PHILLIPS SINCE 1976
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The Alley Online!
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Ripple to Tidal Wave

The Phillips Aquatic Center is becoming a reality as money is doubled and enthusiasm tripled for equity use
The Phillips Aquatics Center Update

BY DENNY BENNETT

It has been another whirlwind month of looking for money everywhere we can to deliver on our promise to bring EQUITY, ACCESS & the OPPORTUNITIES that swimming can bring to all in Minneapolis! Of course, our answer to this seemingly befuddling political riddle is not new committees, or task forces, but rather, to update and enhance the first PUBLIC, indoor pool right here, in the heart of the Phillips Community! The Phillips Aquatics Center is a reality! Swimming lessons in Minneapolis will no longer only be for the more affluent, we are leveling the playing field! Our focus will be on saving our children first, but we will have adult classes as well. Equity.

As you learned last month, our good friends at the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) kicked off the new phase of this Capital Campaign by giving us a \$250,000 matching grant. We've had some generous individual donors, right from this Community, start to donate to match against that, and then Wells Fargo for \$25,000 & EPIC for \$50,000.

- Since then, more good news!
- The Margaret A. Cargill Foundation donated \$50,000.
 - The Rogue Foundation pledged \$50,000 (through Minneapolis Foundation).
 - Midtown Phillips Association will contribute \$50,000, pending final January vote.
 - Ventura Village Housing & Land Use Committee voted to give \$50,000 (NPP/NCR), which goes to membership for a vote in January.

We have much more in the works. I even have had a meeting with a family foundation referred to us by the St. Paul Foundation!

As a high enough dollar amount is reached and we estimate that we have realistically maximized the potential of capital campaign gifts; we simultaneously have to answer the question of which Optional Plan to recommend to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

In the most recent historical proposal from Minneapolis Swims (late 2013), three designs were put forth, "Option A" at a cost of \$2.8M, "Option B" at cost of \$5.8M, and "Option C" at a cost of \$8.2M.

Option A is essentially restoring what is there now: a 6-lane pool with a shallow and a deep end, and no bleachers. Option B would change the 6-lane pool into an 8-lane pool, restore the old bleachers, (eliminating upstairs offices, but replacing them downstairs), add a 4-lane warm water, shallow 25-yard lap pool, and add classrooms for meetings and instruction. Option C adds more space, and adds a 2 story diving well.

Coming up with the Minneapolis Swims Board recommendation for a proposed plan



A modified "Option B" embellishment of Phillips Aquatic Center facilities would add more building onto the south side at a loss of some parking and green space but separating the pool's entrance from the other uses and making a more visible and attractive approach from 24th Street.

was not done lightly. To get another, un-biased opinion, I brought in Mortensen Construction, which was kind enough to donate its time to assist us. With them, we started from the assumption that if we only raise \$X, \$Y or \$Z, given the

no access fee for people to use the facility. So the revenue, then, must necessarily come from sources like "lane rentals," as an example. Hence, there will be certain hours of the day when lanes in the pool will be used by our boys and girls

on the swim teams at South, Roosevelt and Washburn high schools, for which Minneapolis Public Schools will be paying \$150,000 annually toward the pool's operating costs.

With Option A, the 6-lane pool, this presents challenges, because even with our proposed 18-hour day,

community access time starts getting chopped- possibly to an unacceptable level. Option C would have been a dream! But the numbers were just too far out of reach given our short fundraising window.

Phillips Pool
see page 10



The existing six-lane pool built in 1972 is without water or swimmers today because it requires updating of safety improvements such as the drainage device. Implementing modified "Option B" would add two lanes to this pool and an additional four lane warm water specialty pool.

pool that is there and the needs of the community, what is the best facility we could get?

As you look at revenue generation models for pools, the money is either coming from core constituents or from outside sources. This was another huge factor for us. It is our dream for this to truly be a public pool, meaning little or

Commentary Ripple to Tidal Wave

BY HARVEY WINJE, EDITOR AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR

One ripple begun by a neighbor instigated more until a tidal wave of support brought the Phillips Pool and Gym to fruition in 1972.

The saga of the Phillips Pool has ebbed and flowed since it was added to Wendell Phillips Jr. High School.

The Community knew the need for a pool and a better gymnasium. They initiated the campaign for Model Cities money to build an addition to the original school built in 1926.

The school demolition was vehemently protested by the Community in 1984. Their protest saved the Pool and Gym even though it could not be used because of lack of heat. The boiler that heated the school and the addition was in the demolished building.

One ripple at a time caused a tidal wave that opened the building again. Time and again one drop, one ripple led to more so

Ripple to Tidal Wave
see page 10

Fix-It-Tech pg 2



PaintCare FREE! Old Paint drop-off! pg 9



HOBTPhillips Project
Exposé pgs 5 & 8



The Alley Annual
Review & Report
pgs 3, 6,
7, 9, 10, 11



"Phoenix of Phillips"
Magazine Release Event
Jan 29 at MGM pg 10



Kareem Abdul-Jabbar:
The Police Aren't Under
Attack. Institutionalized
Racism Is. pg 11



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, American BackYard Initiative CHATS, Denny Bennett, Patrick Cabello Hansel, Chelsea Culver, Elise Ebhardt, 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, Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Library of Congress, Jana Metge, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Minneapolis Swims, Jonathan Miller, Peter Molenaar, Dave Moore, Meghan Muffett, Brad Pass, Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, Sunny Seigney, Erin Thomasson, VenturaVillage, 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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Call Harvey 612-990-4022

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**February Issue
Submission
Deadline
January 15**

BY ERIN THOMASSON

Children & Family Programs Family Storytime

Fridays at 10:30 am. For children of 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, Jan 9, 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 Urban 4-H Club

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

Teen Tech Workshop

Wed, Jan 14 & 28, 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 the library's Teen Tech Squad.

Young Achievers

Thursdays, 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, Jan 9, 1–3 pm. Join our discussion of new and interesting nonfiction titles. Bring along your recommendations for future meetings. For additional

Programs at the Franklin Library

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info
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www.hclib.org
Mon, Fri & Sat: 9am–5pm
Tue, Wed & Thurs:
9am –8pm
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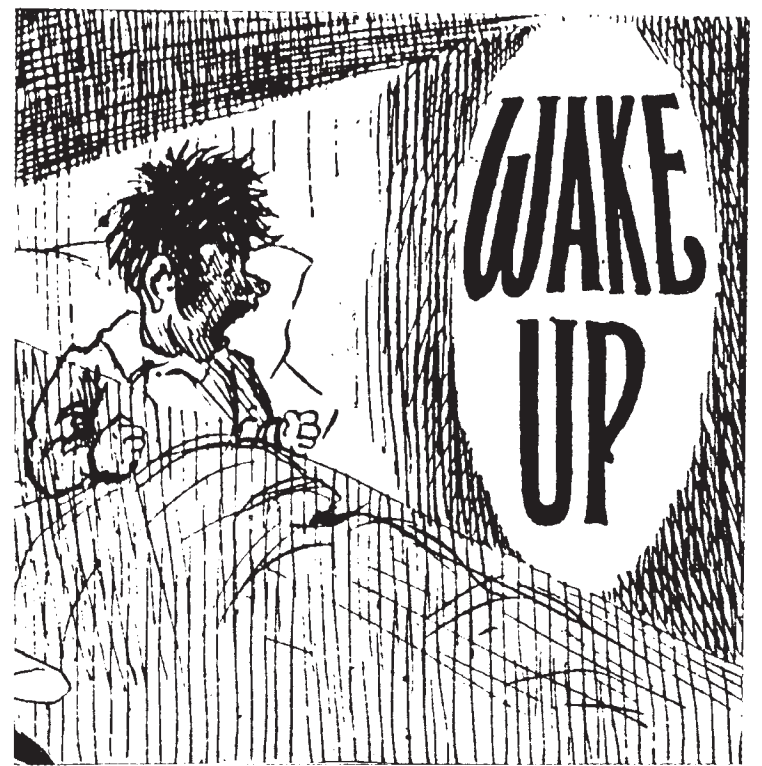
information, call the library, 612-543-6925.

Memoir Writing Group

Thurs, Jan 15, 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

The Franklin Learning Center offers 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. Contact us at 612-534-6934 or flc@hclib.org.



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Violent Deaths: Century-wide Comparison

2014 almost 4x more per capita and guns used over twice as often

Minneapolis closed out 2014 with 32 murders of record*. The number is low in contrast to many other recent years but it is still much higher than the murder rate of 100 or so years ago. In 1912, there were ten murders in Minneapolis—four of the victims are buried in Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery. Four of those ten murders, including two of the people buried in Pioneers and Soldiers, were never solved.

There was nothing particularly clever about how any of the murders were committed. Only one of the ten deaths was planned in advance, and even then the murderer made a terrible mistake. On February 10th, someone left poisoned candy on the doorstep of Simon O’Malley, the intended target. Unfortunately, O’Malley gave a piece to his three-year-old-neighbor, Bonnie Ready, and she died as well, a child in the wrong place at the wrong time. Their murders were never solved.

The four people buried in the cemetery are Alice Mathews, Fred Wescott, William Burke and Henry Carlson. Alice’s case, like Simon O’Malley’s, demonstrates how little police knew about forensics at the time. Police did some fingerprinting and chemists could analyze and identify certain toxic substances but that was about the limit of the science available to help police solve

crimes. Even when they were convinced they knew who the murderer was, they were often unable to prove it. They were forced to rely on eyewitnesses and on confessions, neither of which proved to be particularly reliable.

Alice Mathews was strangled during a failed rape attempt on March 23, 1912. There were no obvious suspects although the police, who were under intense public and political pressure to solve the case, arrested at least half-a-dozen people and held them for varying lengths of time before concluding that they had no case against any of them. Over the next several years, one man, with a lengthy history of mental illness, repeatedly confessed to Alice’s murder. Police listened to him each time even though they knew that he couldn’t possibly have committed the murder. This self-confessed “killer” was determined to convince them otherwise but never succeeded.

Police believed that Fred Wescott was stabbed by Isabel Getzman, better known by her stage name, “Scotch Maggie.” A witness had seen the two arguing in the back of the Rising Sun Café, which Getzman owned and where Wescott was employed as a cook. The police arrested Getzman but their case against her fell apart when their only witness disappeared.

Tales from Pioneers & Soldiers Cemetery

SUE HUNTER WEIR

119TH IN A SERIES

The other two burials were for William Burke and Henry Carlson, both of whom died from skull fractures. Burke fought with a patron of the Cedar Avenue Saloon where both had been drinking. He was arrested and sentenced to five days in the workhouse, but he was sick and unable to work during his stay there. Two days after he was released his wife took him to the hospital where he died from an injury that he had received the night that he was arrested almost two weeks earlier.

Carlson died from a blow that he received from David Ploof. The two men had been at a party when they started to argue. Carlson used “vile language” about Ploof’s wife. The two men encountered each other in the street the next day and the fight continued. Ploof struck Carlson who fell and hit his head. Carlson made it home under his own power but died a few hours later.

Three of the ten murders committed in 1912 involved guns. Two of those cases were domestic homicides—husbands killing their wives. In both cases, the women had left their husbands. The third case was a shooting at a party where a man was killed because he refused to hand over the ten cents that he owed to the man who killed him.

Guns were involved in 30% of the murders in 1912. At the time



Minneapolis City Hall and Hennepin County Courthouse (also known as the “Municipal Building”), designed by Long and Kees in 1888, is the main building used by the city government of Minneapolis, Minnesota as well as by Hennepin County, Minnesota. The structure has served many different purposes since it was built, although today the building is 60 percent occupied by the city and 40 percent occupied by the County. The building is jointly owned by the city and county divided right down the middle and controlled by the Municipal Building Commission. This photo is from the early 1900’s showing that little has changed with the building’s exterior while the surroundings have changed greatly.

there were 300,000 people living in Minneapolis, and it was the country’s 18th largest city. Today the city’s population is 400,000 (a 25% increase). If the murder rate had increased at the same rate as the population there would have been between 12 and 13 murders in 2010. Instead there were 40, 30

of which (75%) involved guns.

Alice Mathews, Fred Wescott, William Burke and Henry Carlson are buried in unmarked graves in various locations throughout the cemetery.

*Subject to changes; e.g. a delayed death.




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By Dave Moore & Linnea Hadaway

**Alley
Communications
2014 Annual
Review & Report
of The Alley
Newspaper**

Also, see 2014 Front
Pages Review on
pages 6 & 7.

What does it mean that The Alley Newspaper is Community Owned and Governed? Here's one answer: the following 84 people have contributed writing and/or advice for what gets printed.

Thorbjorn Adams
H. Lynn Adelsman
Robert Albee
Tara Beard
Denny Bennett
Katherine Blauvelt
Nancy Bordeaux
Bart Buch
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Alondra Cano
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Jillian Clearman
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Alley Annual Report
see page 9

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VENTURA VILLAGE'S GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - WED. JAN 10TH

Neighborhood Priority Plan's Community Meeting is Jan 20th

Ventura Village's residents and stakeholders are invited to attend a very special **Neighborhood Priority Plan Community-wide Meeting** to be held at the Phillips Community Center on *Tuesday, January 20th starting at 7:00 PM* in the upstairs Dining Room. Snacks and beverages will be provided for the event.

It is hoped that the meeting will focus on, and "identify, preserve, and build on the existing [Ventura Village] assets and positive qualities... or identify opportunities or problems to be addressed" by the neighborhood in this upcoming year.

Examples of other neighborhood plans will be made available, along with a presentation by each of the Ventura Village Committee Chairpersons. This is the greatest opportunity for all interested parties to weigh in on drafting the neighborhood's plan in the entire process.

The Priority Plan Process is different.

In previous years, each of the neighborhood committee's submitted an outline of desired activities, processes and procedures and then requested funding in the upcoming annual budget to pay for those activities and any supportive investments of equipment or contracts needed to achieve the expressed goals.

In this year's process, residents and stakeholders will be invited to meet in small groups to discuss the direction they want Ventura Village to go in and help determine what might be the key goals and strategies. In some cases, residents might submit lists of activities that they want to undertake or champion in the upcoming year. There will be due consideration given to how much money is currently available and constraints on how it can be spent. Those who have been charged with handing funds previously, will outline these constraints and the history surrounding them from the original NRP (Neighborhood Revitalization Plan) days to current NCR (Neighborhood Community Relations) funding processes and requirements from the City.

Looking at some other neighborhood plans, one could assume that this is largely *much ado about nothing* in that many are extremely vague and required very little forethought. On the other hand, some other more engaged neighborhoods have taken this process very seriously and provided considerable thought and attention to *their* planning. In order to get some "big" things done for Ventura Village, current Board members have expressed the desire to put considerable effort into ensuring that *our* residents and stakeholders are engaged at the very outset and *deeply support the plan* before it is submitted to the City for final approval and funding.

Parks and Swimming are major issues.

With a new board of directors for Minneapolis Swims has come a renewed effort to finally get the swimming pool at the Phillips Community Center revitalized and implemented. Proponents of the pool have already visited two of the Phillips neighborhoods and received strong support for providing matching funds to the current commitments and a *challenge dollar match* from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community for up to \$250,000. Earlier commitments by Ventura Village were not accepted in a timely manner and now must be renewed. This will be one of the major discussion items expected at the January 20th Priority Plan meeting.

Other priorities that are expected include support for the **Peavey Park Plan** that has languished without a Park Board champion for nearly three years. This and ongoing crime and safety issues are expected, but it is hoped that there will be something else to round out the plan to make sure it is encompassing, welcoming and relevant to residents of all ages and cultures.

"Action without vision is only passing time; vision without action is merely day dreaming, but vision with action can change the world."

Nelson Mandela



Pictured above is Cecil Smith, a Ventura Village board member and a strong proponent of the Peavey Park Plan to transform the historically troubled park into an exciting destination. This is an example of how we have learned to step up and provide leadership shaping our future.



VENTURA VILLAGE'S 2015 MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE:

- 2nd Wednesdays: Board of Directors Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- 2nd Wednesdays: General Membership Meeting @ 7:00 PM**
- 1st Tuesdays: Community Engagement Committee @ 5:00 PM**
- 1st Tuesdays: Wellness, Greening & Gardening @ 6:30 PM**
- Last Thursdays: Housing & Land Use Committee @ 5:30 PM**
- Last Thursdays: Crime & Safety Committee @ 6:30 PM**
- Business Committee Meetings: Call for next meeting time.**
- Parks Committee Meetings: Call for next meeting time.**
- Executive Committee Meetings: Call for next meeting time.**

Sign up to teach us or learn from us!

- **Learn Everyday Basic Somali Language**
- **Learn Everyday Basic Spanish Language**
- **Join our Cooking Group to teach or learn**
- **Join our Photography Class**
- **Join our Class to Learn about Islam Religion**
- **Join our Community Gardening Groups**
- **Suggest a Class You would like to take or one you would like to teach!**

There will be sign-up sheets at the next Ventura Village General Membership Meetings or you can call us at 612.874.9070; leave message and we'll call you back!

Explore Art, and Culture

PULLOUT POSTER!
Remove from the paper
for the full experience

What’s behind the name...In the Heart of the Beast?

In 1979, company member and poet Steven Linsner suggested the name ‘In the Heart of the Beast’ as a metaphor for our theatre. He wrote,
“To be puppeteers in the Heart of the Beast
...is to find ourselves in the great world Beast of families, races, ages, sexes, classes, corporations and nations, people, (and creatures!) all different, working out a way to live together.
...is to work puppets. To hold life in our hands, to sense how we are all like puppets—worked by instincts, voices, and forces above us and below us.
...is to carry and protect something very old like a heart within us, a secret, a promise. Like carrying a flickering candle through a dark place. Like carrying a family in a horse-drawn wagon.
...is to travel the roads of history and loss, in search of something like a new heart: new communities, new families, new work, new holidays.
...is to tell the story of people who live in the heart of the beast---as courageous and resourceful as they really are.”



A giant butterfly spreads its wings at the 2014 Big Puppet Party celebration. Created by youth artists from Collaborative Village Initiative, with teaching artists Laurie Witzkowski and Nicole Amaris, the butterfly ushered in an energetic dance number. The annual Big Puppet Party showcases the artistic work of youth involved in The Phillips Project. Family and community members gathered for the event, sharing a meal donated by many local businesses and volunteers.



Opening Ceremony for The Big Puppet Party. 2014. Graceful deer welcome the audience before busting into their dance moves.



Original video footage shot by Phillips youth is projected on a giant cheetah puppet as part of the Big Puppet Party 2013

and stiling in the summers, also learning video filming and editing to create movies of our experiences for the Bike-In Movie Night in September. **Fall programming-** We have now made a tradition of getting back to basics with the puppets in the fall with each site creating big and small puppets for our annual Big Puppet Party at the HOBt theatre with a youth performance and feast for the youth, families and friends. This last year, we worked with 90 youth in the Phillips community. Over 150 Phillips community residents attended the Big Puppet Party in December.

Respect and understanding of neighbors and place yield capacity for world view

***Further Intention-** We live in an extremely wealthy community, rich in diversity of cultures. We also are an economically challenged community in Phillips. We want to build on, learn from and swap the wealth we have through the work and relationships in The Phillips Project. The many differences we have are a strength but dealing with the challenges of our culture and economy oftentimes weakens us and alienates us from our neighbors. Our hope is that we will start to build bridges between neighbors, cultures, and create deeper understanding and respect. The idea is if you can respect and understand your neighbor and the place you live, you can discover the capacity to respect the world, especially when the world is so uniquely well-represented in the Phillips community. As early leaders in the place-making movement, HOBt strongly believes place-discovering is the initial and an integral step in the place-making process.

*Helping the Phillips Project

Many community members ask how they can help this program. The main way is to tell people about it. The other main way is to donate to the program. We have recently lost a main source of funding and are looking for new sources. If you would like to help in any way with the Phillips Project, contact me at bbuch@hobt.org. Or, just give a smiley “Hi!” to your neighbors!

Bart Buch is Education Director and Staff Artist In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre

HOBt Phillips’ Artist Team - Nicole Amaris, Amy Ballestad, Gustavo Boada, Julie Boada, Ramon Cordes, Seth Eberle, Alison Heimstead, Madeline Helling, Laurie Witzkowski

Phillips Youth Director Partners - Julie Graves and Rachel Sell- Waite House, Frank Downwind- Little Earth, Kirsten Flaten- Collaborative Village



Phillips Stilt Club leads the 40th annual May Day Parade, 2014. Youth from Waite House, Collaborative Village Initiative and Little Earth ages 6-13 led In The Heart of The Beast Puppet Theatre’s



Phillips Project Youth from all groups joined in various parts of the Annual MayDay Parades each of the four years.



the

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NEWSPAPER

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OCTOBER 2014 - VOLUME 35, NUMBER 9

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AWETUMN



**Phillips Community
CLEAN SWEEP
Green Sweep
Sat. Oct. 11
page 4**



**Franklin Community Library 100th Anniversary at 1314
East Franklin Party Oct 11th 1-5 PM • See page 5**



ALIEN INVASION
FILMED FROM ANOTHER WORLD!

THE THING FROM ANOTHER WORLD

See page 4



100th ANNIVERSARY
100 years of great news

**KNOWLEDGE
Is POWER!**



**Voter Registration at
"Buen Corner"
Vote November 4, pg 8**



**Green Tomato Cook Off
Oct 16 - See page 6**



**NY People's Climate
March Sept 21 & 5 South
High Youth page 6**



**Ingebretsen's Fall Events
page 6**

99%

**Celebrate 3 years of
Occupy
See page 6**



**Phoenix of Phillips
Literary Magazine page 6**



**Back Yard Initiative
page 8**



**CLOSING
after 77 Years!**



ALLEY MEDIA SOCIAL
November 5
WEDNESDAY 11-12 PM

give

**TO THE MAX
DAY**

NOV 13, 2014

HN Cty Library has reprinted The Alley 1976 thru 2007 and Bound in 13 volume set at Main L

A black silhouette of a cat sitting and looking to the left, with a long, curved tail. The cat has pointed ears and whiskers. The background is white with a horizontal line at the top.

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East Phillips Fest pg 4

Somali Museum's New Location July 1st pg 4

Ventura Village NEWS pg 5

Please Help Alley's "Shoestring" Budget pg 7

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the Alley NEWSPAPER

NEWS & VIEWS OF PHILLIPS STREET 1976
JULY 2014 - VOLUME 39, NUMBER 6

BRAVO! BRAVAVISSIMO!

Sandy Spielor receives the McKnight Distinguished Artist Award

BY THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION
June 20, 2014

The McKnight Foundation has named Minneapolis visual artist, performer, designer, director, and teacher Sandy Spielor as the 2014 McKnight Distinguished Artist. In recognition of artistic excellence spanning four decades, from his 17th year, the award honor includes a \$10,000 cash award and recognizes individual Minneapolis artists who have made significant contributions to the quality of our cultural life.

"Sandy Spielor understands the power of art," comments Judge, Walter Wolford, president of The McKnight Foundation. "Even at her workshops and performances transcends place, filling us in realms of fantasy and imagination, she never loses touch with the earth below. An artist of true distinction, Sandy's pieces are an enhanced reflection of the reality around her, and around all of us — our joys and challenges as members and caretakers of our community and the greater world."

Spielor is well known for her leadership of the heart of the Beer Puppet and Mask Theater (HOBBT), a Minneapolis company she has directed since 1976. Originally named the Powderhorn Puppet Company for its neighborhood home in Minneapolis, the theater was renamed in 1979. In 1988 the theater relocated to the old Berlin Theater, a building that started in the 1930s as a family-owned movie house but later became an X-rated theater. (At the time, HOBBT used the restroom in its new hangar with "The Fly Guy, Hello Puppets.") Embracing its inherently diverse surroundings in north Minneapolis, HOBBT continues to draw on local and regional perspectives to inform its work. The theater performs locally, but also travels nationally and internationally, playing to audiences that include schools, community groups, and churches.

Spielor's interest in puppets as an art form dates back to her early studies with Seymour Chwast and Pepper Street. Last year she told Minneapolis Public Radio that was when he first recognized the director's power as "a way of telling stories and images that was visual, that was movement, that was musical, and that brought people together."

Within and beyond the walls of HOBBT, Spielor's extensive artistic résumé includes everything from puppet shows performed in a suitcase to community collaborations, performance installations, public art commissions, and strategic design — all driven to engage and lift up the broader community. Minneapolis' annual May Day Celebration includes a parade and ceremony "inspired" by Spielor, as well as a related festival, and draws an estimated 50,000 people down Bloomington Avenue and into Powderhorn Park. A glorious testament to organized chaos, the parade is an exercise in leading without dictating one singular, prescribed artistic approach or aesthetic. In addition to the procession, the May Day Parade provides workshops and other opportunities for community volunteers of varying skill levels to tell their stories and create elaborate puppets and costumes.

Spielor also teaches regularly at traveling workshops in the Heartland Ethnoscapes, Fargo-Minneapolis, and other cities statewide about how to do puppet theater "correctly." She has been doing it over 70 years. "I focus on water is at the heart of mine, workshops. Her journeyer Sandy Spielor you page 6.



Mpls. 4th of July pg 6

Powderhorn 4th of July pg 6

Midtown Global Market Music Festival pg 8

Midtown Phillips Festival pg 3

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**Does this display of
2014 Front Pages
remind you of hav-
ing enjoyed The Alley
Newspaper last year?
If so, will you please
contribute to this
community-owned
non-profit paper to
help support the 40th
year of making it
available free to you
and your neighbors?**

Library and Franklin Library. This year they will reprint and bind 2008 thru 2011. THANK YOU.



IN THE HEART OF THE BEAST
PUPPET AND MASK THEATRE

1500 East Lake Street • Minneapolis,
MN 55407 • 612-721-2535



Where do you live? Participants of the 2014 Big Puppet Party mark their homes, schools and community centers on a map of the Phillips Community.



Phillips youth have a scavenger hunt from atop the Global Market, identifying neighborhood landmarks from above. In February of 2014, The Phillips Project focused on the history of the neighborhood. Youth worked with local historians and teaching artists to create The Phillips Museum Show, which they performed high in the tower at the Midtown Global Market.



A mild-mannered hand puppet stage transforms into the The Great Yeti of Phillips! Youth artists from Waite House, with teaching artists Seth Eberle and Amy Ballestad, created original hand puppet shows, built their own puppets and stage for The Big Puppet Party at In The Heart of The Beast Theater in December 2014.



A Rainbow Serpent, with a bellyful of masked performers takes the stage at The Big Puppet Party in December 2014. Created by youth from Little Earth, with teaching artists Alison Heimstead and Gustavo Boada, the serpent led a spirited dance and released a menagerie of animal characters.

Youth Exp History, an

Celebrating Four Years of Discovering and Creating guided by Mentor-Artists of In the Heart of the Beast Theatre called Phillips Project
WORDS BY BART BUCH. ALL PHOTOS BY BRUCE SILCOX

HOBOT Out-of-School Program History

When I first came to In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre (HOBOT) in 1998, as an Americorp volunteer, I was inspired by and starting working with the out-of-school programming at HOBOT. Under the direction of Beth Peterson and Paul Robinson, HOBOT had two out-of-school programs, Lake Street Theatre Club and the Artbus. Lake Street Theatre Club worked with elementary school youth afterschool twice a week and Artbus was a seven-week summer youth employment program for youth 14-18. Both of these programs helped youth tell their stories using puppets, masks, poetry and music. They had major impacts on the youth and the communities. The youth in Lake Street Theatre Club, mostly from the neighborhood, were drawn to flexing the muscle of their imagination and fantasy. The Artbus youth drew from stories of their lives exploring topics like teen pregnancy, peer pressure and recent immigration experiences. The Artbus performances shared these youth's stories by touring the shows around the Twin Cities. Both programs gave youth tools of expression, self-confidence and venues to share their voices. Artbus youth also mentored the Lake street Theatre Club's Summer camp following their summer tour. Coming from a past as an elementary teacher, I had not seen this kind of authentic, poetic, funky and fun opening-up and valuing of youth voices. Daily, I see youth wearing appropriate "masks" for their parents, peers and teachers. I also see youth being manipulated and being taught appropriate voices to speak in the world. I was profoundly affected to see youth turning the tables, choosing their masks and manipulating puppets and messages they found important for the world to see and hear.

After Beth Peterson's departure from HOBOT in the early 2000's and many sources of funding for afterschool programs were terminated, HOBOT had

a hiatus from this work. In 2008, I came on board as Education Co-Director at HOBOT and one of my missions was to re-start the out-of-school programming, with a redesign. Part of this work was starting the Puppet Youth Troupe, an out-of-school program during the school year for youth 9-18. Puppet Youth Troupe was extremely active from 2009-2013 as an immersive puppetry arts program where youth could explore puppetry with a long-term commitment. I also wanted to create a program doing this work with youth in our own back yard, in the Heart of the Beast, in the neighborhood, in Phillips. I started the Phillips Project in the Fall of 2010.

The Phillips Project

Many people ask why we call it The Phillips Project when technically the former Phillips neighborhood is now the Phillips community divided into different neighborhoods- East Phillips, Midtown Phillips, Ventura Village and East Phillips. One of the main goals of the program is to work towards uniting the Phillips community, its neighborhoods and individuals.

*Program partners and structure

HOBOT partners with United Tribes of Little Earth and their Youth Development Center, Pillsbury House United Communities' Waite House, and Project for Pride in Living's Collaborative Village Initiative. HOBOT artists work with these partners bringing year-round arts activities to youth at each site almost every week. Programming is planned with a team of artists, partnering youth directors, site staff, youth interns, youth and myself. We have explored a variety of art forms and avenues of expression. Each season has a theme of programming and a culminating event in which all partners come together to celebrate and share. **Winter programming-** We study the cultural history of Phillips and come together for the Phillips History Museum as the culminating event. **Spring programming-** We create a section for the May Day Parade. Stilt-walking is the the most popular focus. **Summer programming-** We have been studying the natural environment and natural history of Phillips



Neighbors gather in the parking lot of In The Heart of The Beast theater to view the world premier Phillips Project "Bike-in Movie Night", featuring original short films created by youth artists of The Phillips Project, 2013.

MAY-DAY



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

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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.

Alley Annual Report
from page 3

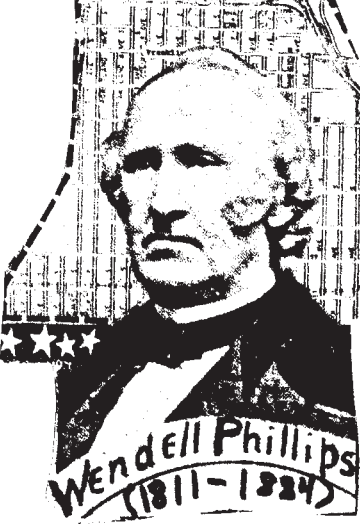
- Harry Ford
- Janet Gillespie
- Collie Graddick
- Jim Graham
- Ross Gregg
- Clarasophia Gust
- Susan Ann Gust 1
- Susan Haas
- Linnea Hadaway
- Dee Henry Williams
- Jacy Hildrith
- Sue Hunter Weir
- Molly Ingebretsen
- Phoebe Iron Necklace
- Tasha Irving
- Andrew Jackson
- Soren Jensen
- Dallas Johnson
- Kte-Oyate Nipi
- Carl Lobley
- Rose Lobley



JANUARY BOARD Meeting:
Tuesday January 13, 6:30-8pm. Stewart Park (Arts & Crafts Room), 2700 12th Ave S, Minneapolis
– HOTB/St.Pauls to present proposal for 2015 funding for community outreach program (15 min.)
– Review/discuss/vote on motion to dedicate up to \$50,000 of Community Engagement funding to saving and renovating the Phillips Community Center indoor Swimming Pool located at 24th St & 11th Ave So. And create a Neighborhood Priority Plan to promote (30 min.)
– Review/discuss/vote on motion to dedicate up to \$5000 to the operation of the Midtown Safety Center, 2949 Chicago Ave (10 min.)
– Housing committee update (5 min.)
– Discuss/Appoint Mary Matze to District 4 Rep. for remainder of 2014-2016 term (5 min.)
– Safety meeting follow up/next actions (10 min)
– Discuss and approve 2015 operating budget (10 min.)
– Public comments (5 min.)

JANUARY COMMUNITY Meeting:
Tuesday January 27, 6:30-8pm. Stewart Park (Multi-purpose Room), 2700 12th Ave S, Minneapolis
– Troy Baguhn, Community Manager to present on Greenway Heights Apartments (15 min)
– Civil Rights Dept presentation by Luna Allen Backerian (20 min)
– Phillips prostitution trafficking discussion. Kris Arneson, Deputy Chief of Investigations Bureau to present (40 min.)
– Update on status of 2548 12th Ave South property (15 min.)

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



Wendell Phillips
(1811-1884)

“THE PEOPLE MUST BE WAKED!”

By Dave Moore & Linnea Hadaway

SPIRIT & PHILLIPS



Recycle your paint!



Recycling paint just got more convenient

There are now more than 140 stores in Minnesota that take back old paint, stain and varnish from residents and businesses year round, during regular store hours.

Find a PaintCare store

Visit our website or give us a call to find a store, then please call before bringing paint to ask if they can accept the type and amount of paint you would like to recycle and check store hours. All PaintCare stores accept 5 gallons of paint per visit. Leaking, unlabeled, and empty containers are not accepted.

Who is PaintCare?

We are a non-profit organization and the operator of the Paint Stewardship Program in Minnesota (and five other states). The program is funded by a fee on the sale of new paint that began on November 1, 2014.

The fee is 35 cents for pints or quarts, 75 cents for paint in 1 gallon cans, and \$1.60 for paint in 5 gallon buckets. Even if your old paint is from before November, there is no charge when you drop off your old paint.

Commentary continued from page 1 **Ripple to Tidal Wave**

that a tidal wave shaped the destiny of the Pool and Gym.

“We each have within ourselves the ability to shape our own destinies. That much we understand. But, more important, each of us has an equal ability to shape the destiny of the universe. Ah, that you find more difficult to believe. But I tell you it is so. You do not have to be the leader of the Council. You do not have to be king or monarch or the head of a clan to have a significant impact on the world around you. In the vastness of the ocean, is any drop of water greater than another?

No, you answer, and neither has a single drop the ability to cause a tidal wave. But, I argue, if a single drop falls into the ocean, it creates ripples. And these ripples spread. And perhaps - who knows - these ripples may grow and swell and eventually break foaming upon the shore. Like a drop in the vast ocean, each of us causes ripples as we move through our lives. The effects of whatever we do - insignificant as it may seem - spread out beyond us. We may never know what far-reaching impact even the simplest action might have

on our fellow mortals. Thus we need to be conscious, all of the time, of our place in the ocean, of our place in the world, of our place among our fellow creatures. For if enough of us join forces, we can swell the tide of events - for good or for evil.”

— Margaret Weis, *The Seventh Gate*

In spite of having joined forces time and again and in spite of drops, ripples, and waves, the building was closed again for major repairs in 2007. Unannounced plans were covertly laid to remove the entire pool and

use the space for activities not as cumbersome with maintenance and insurance costs.

The Community rose to the challenge once this plan by the building’s owner, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, was “leaked”.

This which began as ripples have broadened to bigger swells which in turn leveraged even more support. If there were water in the pool now—which there is not—it would have waves on its surface.

The sophistication and resilience of the Community has long endured in the face of many

obstacles for over 40 years as subsequent generations of neighbors and activists have taken up the charge of providing for the Community’s children, teenagers and adults.

One ripple begun by a neighbor caused more surge until we foresee a tidal wave about to happen again as the 1972 Pool becomes the Phillips Aquatic Center.

The “tide” is still out. It isn’t done. Have you added your “drop” to make a ripple? If not, will you add one “drop” soon?

Phillips Pool
from page 1

In the end, we re-worked Option B, keeping all of the green, highly energy-efficient & environmentally friendly components that are expensive on the front end, but will save the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) tens of thousands of dollars over the life of the pool. We trimmed out any “fluff” or inefficiencies, accounted for inflation in terms of construction cost, and came up with an estimated cost of \$5,712,450. This number includes everything: site work to be done by MPRB, contingencies, etc.

This will give us an 8-lane competition pool with spectator seating, plus a 4-lane, warm water shallow pool that will be wheelchair accessible and Medicare compliant for therapy. With a total of 12 swimmable lanes, and a facility open 18 hours per day, this is the recommended design of Minneapolis Swims. Financially, this gives the MPRB a model that will generate enough revenue to

sustain itself, and not be a burden on the taxpayers. Practically, this gives Minneapolis a community pool that will always have lots of time for lap swimming, family time, swim lessons, water aerobics, water therapy, etc. for all ages!

We are 59% of the way there! Of the \$5,712,450, we have \$3,342,950 pledged or accounted for, and \$2,369,500 to go. At this point, the MPRB has given us until the end of February to raise as much money as we can, and, at that point, their plan is to build the best pool possible with the funds in hand. Given some exciting larger grants that we are pursuing, we will likely be asking the MPRB for an extension of that deadline. Either way, time is of the essence!

Our role is simply to raise the money, and turn it over to the Park Board. It is their facility, and in the end, their decision to make. Look for a community meeting seeking input to be organized by them sometime in January!

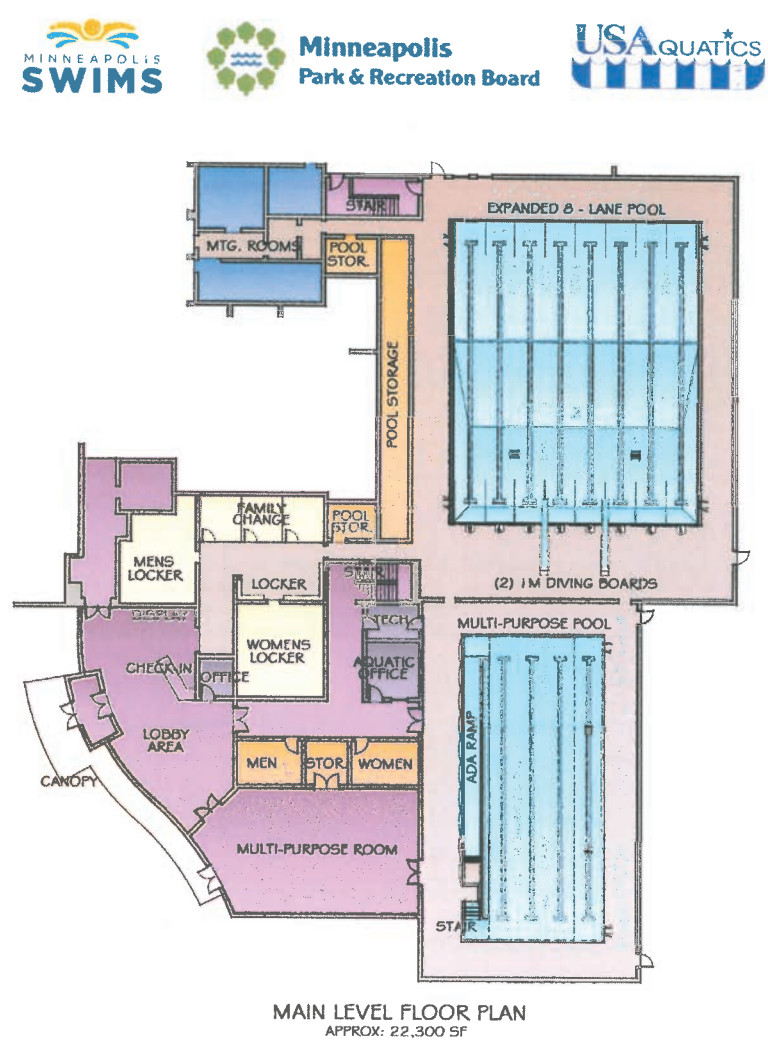
Once the Capital Campaign for the Phillips Aquatics Center

comes to a close, Minneapolis Swims will continue to raise money for swimming scholarships. Already, we have started the “Sha-kym Adams Learn-to-Swim Scholarship Fund,” which will help make sure that the cost of swimming lessons is not a barrier to our children learning how to swim. We have also secured pledges for funding to support swimmers who desire assistance with the cost of participating on a competitive swim team. And someday, we hope to help send swimmers to college.

Watch our Facebook page for the latest updates, and please contact me if you know of any individuals, foundations, or corporations that might have an interest in helping with this project

Thanks!

Denny Bennett is President of Minneapolis Swims Board of Directors. He may be contacted at **612-804-0488**
denny@dennybennett.com
[facebook.com/mplswwims](https://www.facebook.com/mplswwims)
www.minneapoliswims.org
Scholarship info on pg 11.



Floor plan showing the improvements and addition that would be made for “Modified Option B” Note the mid-drawing horizontal line that is the south wall location of the existing building. The features below and south of that line are new addition to the building and use of land.

New Phillips Literary Magazine to Be Unveiled January 29

“The Phoenix of Phillips”, a new literary magazine sponsored by the Semilla Community Arts program of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church will make its debut at the Midtown Global Market on Thursday, January 29, with a program at 6 pm. The annual youth photography show of St. Paul’s “We Are Midtown Phillips” will also have its opening that evening.

For the past eight years, St. Paul’s Semilla program has taught mosaics, mural arts, photography, puppetry and creative writing to over 1900 people and installed 21 murals and over 50 other artistic place holders throughout the neighborhood of Phillips. Semilla means “seed” in Spanish, and it is our passion to plant seeds of



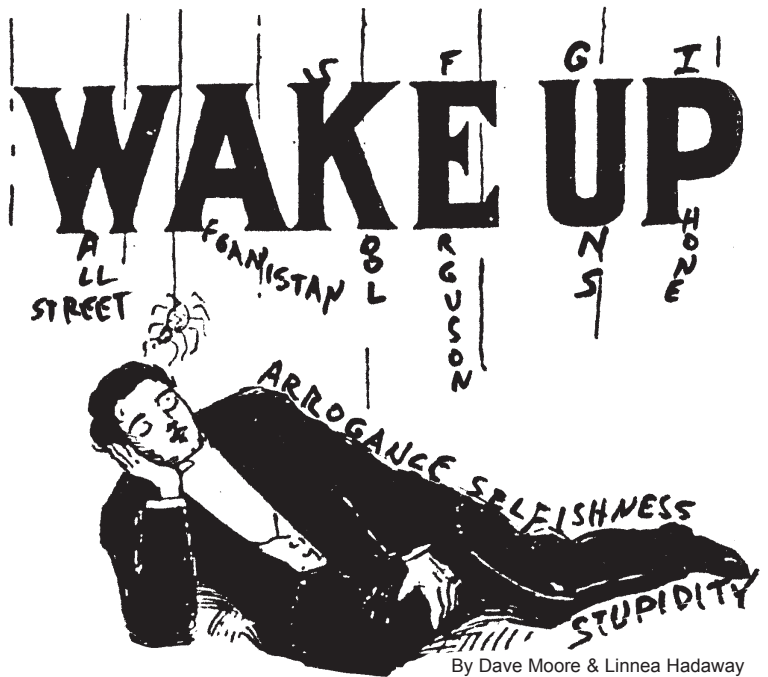
hope, justice and beauty in our community.

“The Phoenix of Phillips” includes the winners of the youth poetry contest, and writing by children, teens and adults, some of whom are established writers, some of whom are publishing their first work. Writers will read from their work at the January 29 event.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a

grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. Special thanks to Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Assn. Inc.

For more information, contact: Pr. Patrick Cabello Hansel at St. Paul’s Lutheran, 2742 15th Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55407. 612-724-2862, or e-mail: stpaulscreate@gmail.com.



By Dave Moore & Linnea Hadaway

Alley Annual Report
from page 9

Andrew McGill
Sheldon Mains
Wizard Marks
Brasheen Martin
Tim McCall
Gregory Mc Moore
Howard Mc Quitter II
Jana Metge
Jonathan Miller
Peter Molenaar
Dave Moore

Loren Niemi
Jan Nye
Laney Ohmans
Brad Pass
Carol Pass
Roma Patel
Bobbie Dickering
Donna Pususta Neste
Jim and Roni Robischon
Jason Rodney
Dale Rott
Denisse Sanchez
Michael Sandin
Leila Sarene

Eric Schlitz
Pete Seeger
Sunny Sevigny
Ashley Sibri
Cassandra Skoog
Carstens Smith
Michael Sommers
Sandy Spieler
Michel Strachan Semen
Melissa Thomas
Erin Thomasson
Nancy Thornberry
Catherine Tong
Cassie Warholm-Wohlenhaus

Laura Waterman Wittstock
Roland Wells
Crystal Trautau Winschitl
Tomas Young
Amged Yusef

There are also these 40 organizations and events that contribute announcements, articles, and requests to be printed.

Amen Corner
American Swedish Institute
BackYard Initiative

BackYard Initiative CHAT members
Bees in the Village
Cemetery Cinema
City of Mpls.
Earth Day Cleanup
East Phillips Improvement Coalition
Friends of the Franklin Library

Alley Annual Report
see page 11

Fresh Springs And Flowing Streams

It was August 30, 2010 when John T. Williams, a 50-year-old Native American woodcarver, was shot four times by a Seattle police officer. He was simply crossing the street while holding a block of wood and a pocket knife.

What year was it when Julani, a Somali neighbor, was gunned down here? True, he brandished a machete, but he was warding off demons, not attacking people. They surrounded him and then...

Yes, the long list of victims dates back to slave cargo ships, the genocide, and the inception of "free-enterprise." No, we will not "get over it."

But now fresh springs burst free from a saturated soil. Small streams combine to form rivers. "The revolution begins now!" And yes, there are countless meetings and public forums.

4200 Cedar Ave., December 15...

Communities United Against Police Brutality captioned their forum "Getting Away with Murder..." Currently the CUAPB is petitioning a change in the Minneapolis Charter which would require officers to purchase liability insurance. "Think before you act" is the intent, along with eliminating the city's exposure to brutality lawsuits.



PETER MOLENAAR
Raise Your Voice

Some additional proposals include: 1.) more "cops of color" 2.) jail time for filing a false report 3.) body-cams. The image of police officers as heroic workers and public servants might one day be restored.

As for "the revolution begins now," this slogan has merit. But the rivers of outrage are not at flood stage. No, not yet.

"Sha-kym Adams 'Learn-to-Swim' Scholarship Fund"

Phillips Community residents Kimberly Adams and Sharrod Rowe, parents of Sha-kym Adams, Mpls. South HS sophomore football player who drowned August 6th in Lake Nokomis, have started this scholarship fund to increase opportunities for youth swimming instruction in the Community. Contributions are encouraged and welcomed to the Fund in care of

Mpls. Swims 2323 11th Ave. So., Mpls. MN 55404.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar: "The Police Aren't Under Attack. Institutionalized Racism Is."

"In a Dec. 21, 2014 article about the shooting, the Los Angeles Times referred to the New York City protests as "anti-police marches," which is grossly inaccurate and illustrates the problem of perception the protestors are battling. The marches are meant to raise awareness of double standards, lack of adequate police candidate screening, and insufficient training that have resulted in unnecessary killings. Police are not under attack, institutionalized racism is. Trying to remove sexually abusive priests is not an attack on Catholicism, nor is removing ineffective teachers an attack on education. Bad apples, bad training, and bad officials who blindly protect them, are the enemy. And any institution worth saving should want to eliminate them, too.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose." This is the season and time when we should be resolved to continue seeking justice together and not let those with blind biases distract, diminish, or divide us. The way to honor those who defend our liberties with their lives—as did my father and grandfather—is not to curtail liberty, but to exercise it fully in pursuit of a just and peaceful society."

Abdul-Jabbar is a six-time NBA champion and league Most Valuable Player. He is also a celebrated author, filmmaker and education ambassador. Abdul-Jabbar is a six-time NBA champion and league Most Valuable Player. He is also a celebrated author, filmmaker and education ambassador.



See full article here @ ow.ly/GIOtP

Alley Annual Report from page 10

- Friends of Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery
- Great Plains Region of Puppeteers of America
- Green Tomato Cook-Off

- Hennepin Count Franklin Library
- Hennepin County Library—Special Collections
- Hope Academy
- In the Heart of the Beast Theatre
- In the Heart of the Beast Phillips Project 1
- International Institute of Minnesota
- Local Food Resource Hubs
- La Natividad
- Maskilkii
- MayDay Community Meetings
- Workshops, Parade, and Pageant
- Midtown Global Market
- Midtown Greenway Coalition
- Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Improvement Association

- McKnight Foundation
- Minneapolis Swims
- Open Eye Theatre
- Phillips Clean Sweep
- Phillips Neighborhood Clinic
- Phillips West Neighborhood Association
- Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery
- Memorial Day Celebration
- Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association
- South Minneapolis Housing Fair
- Spokes
- St. Paul's Church on Portland Ave.
- St. Paul's Church on 15th Ave.
- Somali Artifact and Cultural Museum
- Waite House Healthy Living Initiative

Financial Support of The Alley Newspaper

Donations that are Tax Deductible because we are a 501 C3 non-profit corporation via:

Direct by individuals to P.O. Box 7006, Mpls., MN 55407

Indirectly from Community Shares MN workplace giving program because we are one of 40member groups.

Indirectly pledged through Give MN.

Advertising Income. Monthly: Ingebretsen's, Maria's Café, May Day Café, Midtown Global Market, Seward Co-op Grocery and Deli, Welna Hardware – Bloomington and II. **Quarterly:** Portico Healthnet. **Once in 2014:** Susan Allen/Karen Clark Campaign ad, MGM Music Festival, Mpls. Park and Rec. Board, 3 Neighborhood Park Festivals. 4 times: Captain Jack Sparrow campaign ad.

Paid for articles by Organizations to promote their work of engagement exceeding what The Alley will report upon as news. Examples this year: BackYard Initiative , East Phillips Improvement Coalition , Friends of the Cemetery , Hope Academy, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Improvement Ass'n. , St. Paul's Church on Portland Av., Ventura Village .

You're EITHER PART of the SOLUTION... OR PART of A BAD DREAM

WAKE UP

ALL STREET FANISTAN B L RUSON NS HON

ARROGANCE SELFISHNESS STUPIDITY

WAKE UP

Wendell Phillips (1811-1884)

"THE PEOPLE MUST BE WAKED!"

SPIRIT & PHILLIPS



BACKYARD INITIATIVE BACK PAGE



BYI AREA

DO THE BYI *CHATS HAVE THE CAPACITY TO BUILD HEALTH?

HIGHLIGHTS: Backyard Initiative Evaluation Report

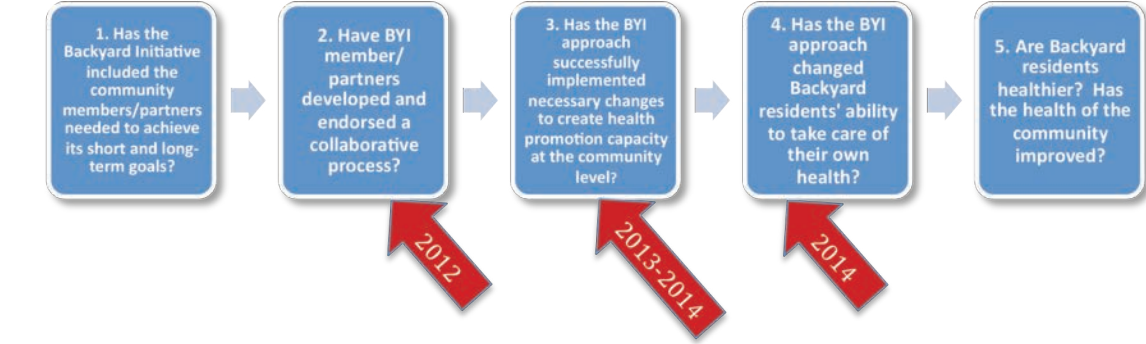
NOTE: "Evaluation" is often considered to be something that is done AFTER a project or program has been completed. The BYI is evaluating as the work unfolds. This allows the teams doing the work of the BYI to tweak and improve in order to increase the impact of the health improvement efforts on residents of the BYI area.

Program Evaluation and the Backyard Initiative

From the field of program evaluation, the Backyard Initiative (BYI) is seen as a community-building enterprise in which resi-

Health (Commission), Citizen Health Action Teams (CHATS), and the Community Resource Body (CRB).

By organizing residents into Citizen Health Action Teams (CHATS), each with a focus on a component affecting health, the Initiative expects to build a community that activates every resident's concern about his or her own health, as well as the health of his or her family, and the well-being of other people. Because community building is a consensual, long-term effort, one of the keys to the Initiative's suc-



Initiative's success with translating its concepts and principles into action with the promise of showing the community's potential to contribute to the health of the residents in the Backyard.

achieving these outcomes in Phase 4 will result in involved residents beginning an upward trajectory toward improved health, as shown in Phase 5.

Potential of these Results for Health Care

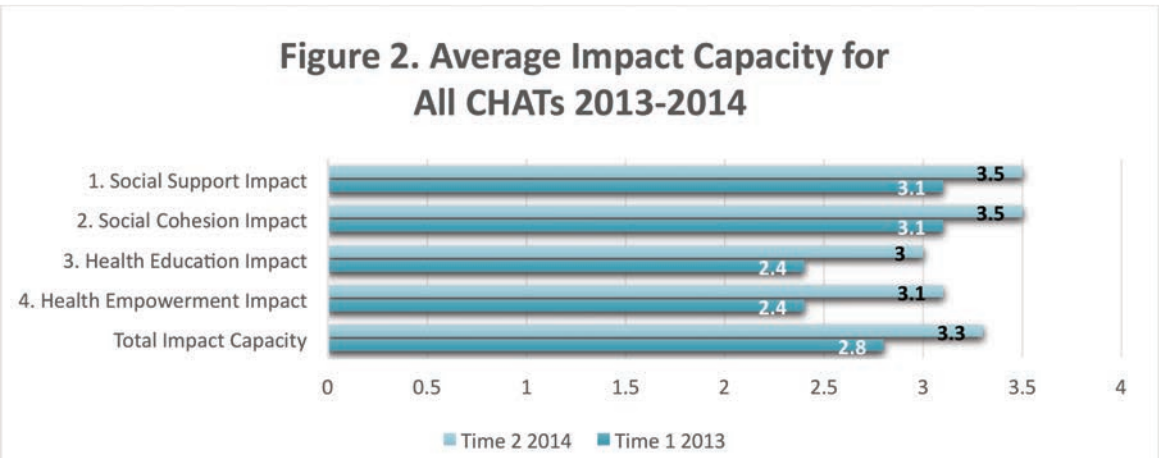
The implications of these community-building results for improvement of health, health care, and care costs are significant. For instance, health improvement goals requiring modification of social determinants of health and of lifestyle and behavioral change may be more easily accomplished when interventions arise from within the person's own social networks. These same social networks informed by community-based teams could be the health care provider's most valuable ally when care quality is hampered by lack of patient engagement. A favorable cost-to-benefit index of community-based interventions offers the prospect of generating

BYI Definition of Health

- Health is a state of physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being. It is not only the absence of infirmity and disease.
- Health is a state of balance, harmony, and connectedness within and between many systems – the body, the family, the community, the environment, and culture. It cannot be seen only in an individual context.
- Health is an active state of being; people must be active participants to be healthy. It cannot be achieved by being passive.

a net savings from investment in health improvement, a needed but yet unattained feature of health care reform. These results show the first steps toward realizing the potential of community-building for health improvement.

Example of One of the Findings From the Report



dents who live in proximity to each other have come together as a collective to act in their shared self-interest. The Initiative sees

strengthening community as the means that will lead to better resident health. The Definition

of Health created by residents defines health broadly, to include social, emotional, economic, spiritual, and physical conditions.

The lead agency for the Backyard Initiative is the Cultural Wellness Center (CWC), located in the heart of the seven Minneapolis neighborhoods defining the geographical region of the Backyard. From the beginning of the BYI, the Cultural Wellness Center created and supported an infrastructure, which consists of the Community Commission on

having their intended impacts on community conditions to improve resident health.

The purpose of the report was to document the growth in CHAT capacity over a one-year period of time, from 2013 to 2014. However, this work is based upon earlier, foundational work conducted by the Backyard Initiative, captured in earlier phases of the evaluation..

BYI Evaluation Design

The Evaluation Team's mission has been to determine the

Following is a description of the evaluation process.

Next Steps for the Evaluation

Phases 1 – 3: reflect the

Initiative's progress with developing the infrastructure necessary to alter four conditions known to affect the health of residents: having the social support of those who care about them, feeling socially connected to a community that respects their beliefs and values, improving health literacy/education, and acquiring a sense of empowerment about personal and family health improvement.

The next phase: of the evaluation will involve interviews with community residents that are participants in CHAT activities, to ascertain the impact of the CHATS on their health and the health of their families and members of their social networks. It is believed that

Acknowledgements:

The BYI Evaluation is commissioned by Allina Health and guided by the 35-member BYI Community Commission on Health. The report is produced in collaboration with the Cultural Wellness Center; Allina Staff, BYI members and Assessment Team and written by consultants Anu Sharma, Janice Barbee and Jerry Evans.

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.

A selection of BYI pages from 2014

