

In the **the**
Heart of the Beast
Theatre Company Talks
With Community About
Its Future and "Home"
4 Page SPECIAL

Alley

NEWSPAPER

NEWS & VIEWS OF PHILLIPS SINCE 1976
JULY 2016 • VOLUME 41, NUMBER 7

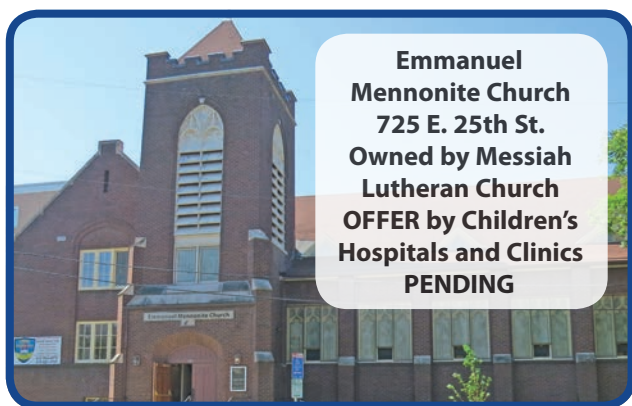
The Alley Online!
www.alleynews.org



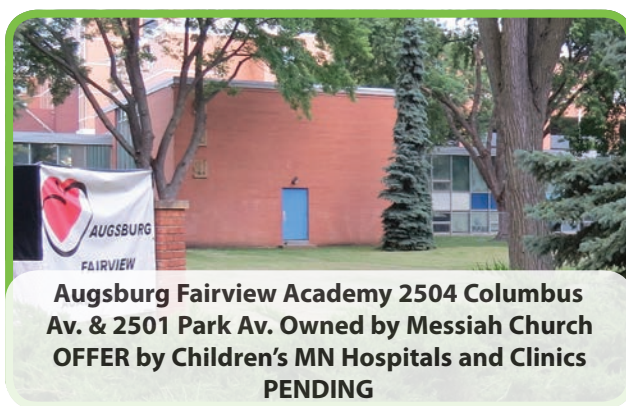
@alleynewspaper



PHILLIPS "BOARD GAME"



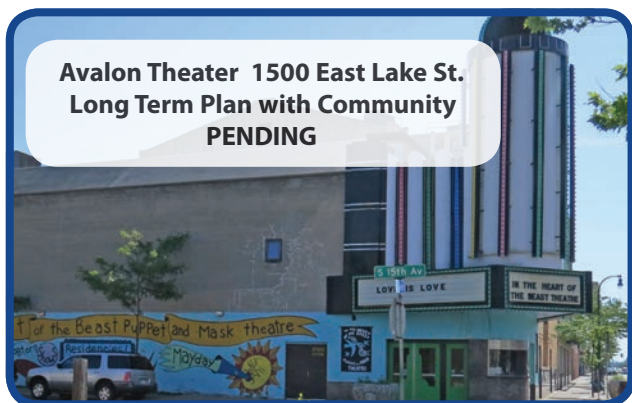
Emmanuel Mennonite Church
725 E. 25th St.
Owned by Messiah Lutheran Church
OFFER by Children's Hospitals and Clinics
PENDING



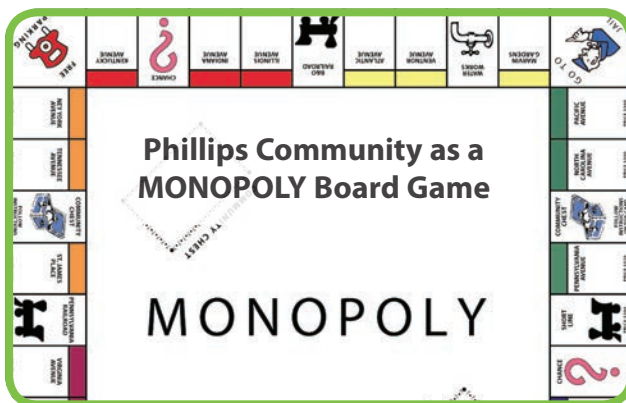
Augsburg Fairview Academy 2504 Columbus Av. & 2501 Park Av. Owned by Messiah Church
OFFER by Children's MN Hospitals and Clinics
PENDING

It's NOT TOO LATE to
^ Messiah Church of
Save Block 5!

GONE! 26 Homes, 1 Auto Station and Trinity Church. so What's TO SAVE? 1 Church & Property to Park Ave. "...expansionist institutions invariably operate in the murkiest and most adamant secrecy. They never level with their neighbors until either the heat from negative publicity becomes unbearable or the community threatens the source of their funds." Wm. Worthy



Avalon Theater 1500 East Lake St.
Long Term Plan with Community
PENDING



Phillips Community as a
MONOPOLY Board Game

MONOPOLY

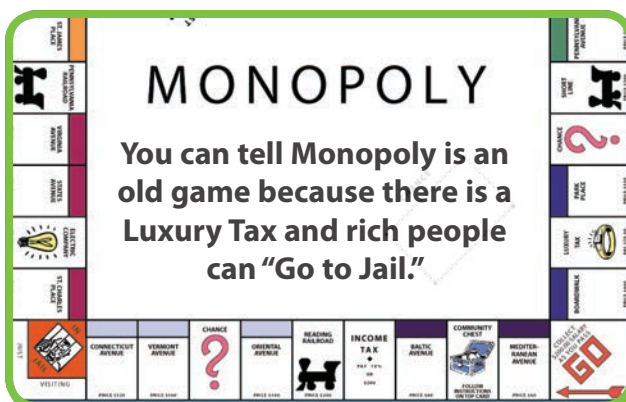


Oliver Church 2647
Bloomington Ave. OFFER
by City View Congregation
PENDING



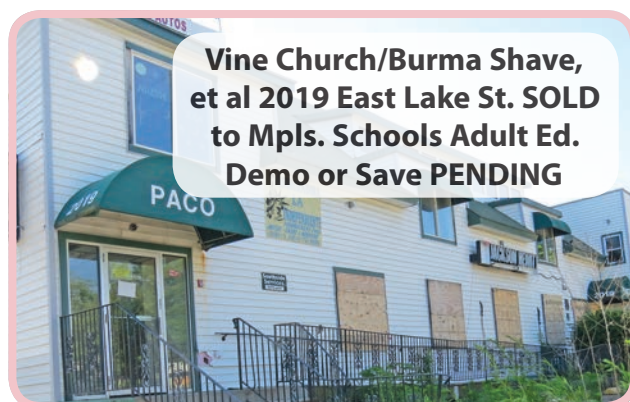
Roof Depot 1860 East 28th St. "GONE" as City makes "Monopoly" move to "WATER WORKS".

Roof DEPOT
is moving to:
2922 W Service Rd.
Eagan, MN 55121
on May 23rd



MONOPOLY

You can tell Monopoly is an old game because there is a Luxury Tax and rich people can "Go to Jail."



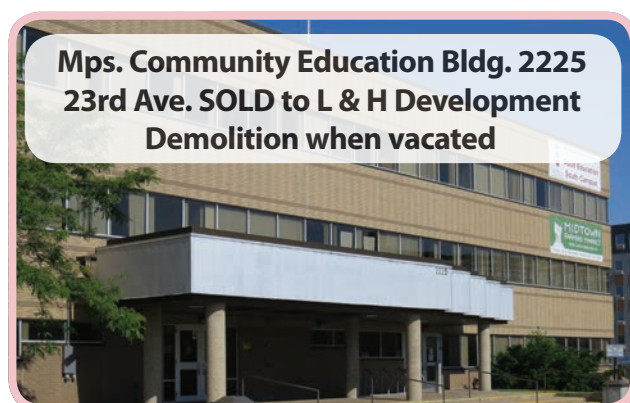
Vine Church/Burma Shave,
et al 2019 East Lake St. SOLD
to Mpls. Schools Adult Ed.
Demo or Save PENDING



Maaco Auto Body 2005
East Lake St. SOLD to
Mpls. Schools Adult Ed.
Demolition Soon



Ambles 2109 Cedar Ave. Business RETIRED,
Resource a GREAT LOSS, Inventory AUCTIONED,
Property SOLD as embellishment to American
Indian Cultural Corridor.



Mpls. Community Education Bldg. 2225
23rd Ave. SOLD to L & H Development
Demolition when vacated

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AT THE MIDTOWN GLOBAL MUSIC FESTIVAL.

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multicultural music and dance to highlight
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Alley Communications, a 501C-3, Not-for-Profit Corp. publishes The Alley Newspaper and other media.

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

Donations are needed, welcome, and Tax Deductible.

Volunteers who had a part in making this issue: Robert Albee, BackYard Initiative CHATS, Burma-Shave, Patrick Cabello Hansel, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Lindsey Fenner, Linnea Hadaway, Ben Heath, Hennepin County Franklin Library and Staff, Sue Hunter Weir, In the Heart of the Beast Theatre, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Tim McCall, Peter Molenaar, Dave Moore, Gloria O'Connel, Our Saviour's Lutheran Community Services ESL, Out in the BackYard, Brad Pass, Carol Pass, Phillips Wellness 50+, Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, Kathleen Roche, Julie Roles, St. Paul's Church on 15th Av, Southside Family Nurturing Center, Sandy Spieler, Sunny Sevigny, Crystal Trautnau Windschitl, Corrie Zoll.

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

Deadline for August issue is July 15

The Alley Newspaper is a Member of



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www.changeisbetter.com
651-647-0440

BY ERIN THOMASSON
Children & Family Programs

Family Storytime

Fridays, 10:30 am

All ages & their parent or caregiver. Talk, sing, read, write & play together. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement.

Súper Kínder: listos para el kínder

Wed, July 6, 13 & 20 and Mondays, July 11, 18 & 25, 10 am-12 pm

Children ages 4-5 & their parents/caregivers will meet at Franklin Library for 5 weeks to learn activities & skills that build early literacy & ensure school success. For families who speak Spanish as their first language. Register directly at Franklin Library or 612-543-8510. Sponsor: Friends of the Hennepin County Library.

La Biblioteca Franklin ofrecerá una clase gratis en español para los niños que van a entrar al kínder en septiembre y sus padres o quien los cuida. Le enseñaremos como preparar a su niño para entrar a la escuela con actividades divertidas que podrán hacer en casa. Este programa es gratis y está diseñado especialmente para familias que hablan español como primer idioma. Inscríbese directamente en la Biblioteca Franklin o llame al 612-543-8510.

Kids Tech: Engineering With littleBits

Wed., July 6, 1-2:30 pm.

Entering grades 4-6. Build simple circuits, machines, instruments and more with littleBits. Materials provided.

Puzzlemania!

Thurs, 2-3 pm. Enjoy a variety of educational & fun puzzles & games!

Learn Together: Critter Clothes

Fri. July 8, 10:30-11 am.

Entering grades 1-2 & their caregivers. In this hands-on program, meet some exciting live animals & investigate the different types of coverings they have & how those "clothes" help the animals survive. Sponsor: Friends of the Hennepin County Library. Collaborator: Minnesota Zoo.

Art Out of the Box: Curious Landscapes

Wed, July 13, 2-3 pm. Entering grades 2-5. Join museum-trained teens to look closely at your world through the lens of an artist. Inspired by landscapes from Minneapolis Institute of Art & the work of North Minneapolis artist Keegan Xavi, collage your own landscape, mixing image & word for a contemporary take on this historical art form. Materials provided. Sponsor: Friends of the Hennepin County Library. Partner: Minneapolis Institute of Art.

Library Lab for Kids: Raptors

Fri, July 22, 10:30-11:30 am. Meet an owl, hawk, falcon and a very special guest--a bald eagle! Learn about different types of raptors, their characteristics,

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

identification, diets and habitats, all from the University of Minnesota's Gabbert Raptor Center. Sponsor: MELSA (Metropolitan Library Services Agency).

Franklin Teen Center Programs

Urban 4-H Club

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

Teen Tech Workshop: littleBits

Wed, July 20, 5-6:30 pm.

Entering grades 6-12. Design simple to complex machines using magnetic, modular circuit chips: littleBits. Materials provided. Led by the library's Teen Tech Squad. Sponsor: Friends of the Hennepin County Library.

Young Achievers

Thurs, July 14, 21 & 28,

3-5 pm. Do you want to be involved in your community?

Bring your friends & come for poetry, arts, games and more! Partner: WellShare International.

Adult Programs

Education Alternatives

Discussion Group

Mon, July 11, 1-3 pm.

Join a monthly discussion of persistent problems in education & possible solutions centered around topics raised in Knowles Dougherty's blog: educationspersistentproblems.wordpress.com. Collaborator: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Memoir Writing Group

Mon, July 18, 1-3 pm. Would you like to create a record of your personal history? Bring what you have written & are willing to read to the group for helpful comments and suggestions. Collaborator: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Haweanka Aduunka Women of the World

Mon, July 25, 2-4 pm. Share sisterhood & talk about leadership, jobs, family, health and more. We are women empowering women! Women & their children are welcome to attend.

Franklin Learning Center:
612-543-6934, flc@hclib.org.

Free adult tutoring to learn English & math for GED & citizenship exams; also life skills. Volunteers needed no experience necessary as we give training & materials.

Phillips West Neighborhood Upcoming Events

www.phillipswest.info

July 7th (Thursday) 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. – *Phillips West Monthly Community Meeting (Note No July Meeting due to proximity to 4th of July Holiday)*

August 2nd (Tuesday) 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Phillips West Neighborhood 20th Annual National Night Out Celebration!

Please join hundreds of Community Partners & Residents for the biggest National Night Out Celebration in Minneapolis! EVENT AND EVERYTHING AT IT IS FREE FOR THE PUBLIC!!!!!! Event will be held along 27th Street between Columbus and Portland Avenues! A variety of FREE Picnic Food including Snow Cones, Popcorn,



Hot Dogs, Watermelon, Cookies & Ice Cream! There will also be a variety of Entertainment including a Mariachi Band, Dancing Contest, Open Mic Rap Contest with opportunity to win Grand Prizes, Salsa Dancers, 3 Clowns, 2 Bounce Houses, a Puppet show, Face painters, Fish Pond, Children's Games, McGruff the Crime Dog, twinkle the Mascot, Mickey Mouse, and a Giant Inflated Slide! Information on dozens of Community Resources will be available! If you would like an information table or would like to get involved contact Crystal at 612-879-5383 or email pwno2005@yahoo.com

Abbott Northwestern orthopedists answer hip and knee pain questions

BY GLORIA O'CONNELL

Orthopedic surgeons Drs. Tilok Ghose & Robert Tuttle will talk about managing hip & knee pain as part of the A/N Joint Replacement Center Education Series.

The public is invited: Talk and

Q & A Wed., Aug. 3, 1 to 3 p.m.

Allina Health in The Commons at Midtown Exchange, 2925 Chicago Ave.

Free, but registration necessary at allinacommons.eventbrite.com or 612-775-4609.

Art Pollinators engage neighbors creating art, connecting across barriers, increasing safety, and embellishing beauty



BY PATRICK CABELLO HANSEL

How can we make our community safer and more beautiful? How does art build connections across barriers of language and culture? What are the key issues facing Phillips?

These are some of the questions that young artists with St. Paul's Lutheran's Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts will be asking this summer. They will be interviewing residents and decision-makers in Midtown Phillips about how they see their community and environment, and how they interact with their community and environment.

These youth artists will be serving as "art pollinators", engaging neighbors in creating art for their

neighborhood. From mosaics on planters and garbage cans, to photo exhibits to the 3rd issue of The Phoenix of Phillips.

Are you interested in being a pollinator of the arts? For more information, e-mail stpaulscreate@gmail.com, call 612-724-3862, or come to St. Paul's Block Party (2700 block of 15th Avenue) on July 23 from 10 am to 2pm.

And remember: we are still receiving submissions for the next issue of "The Phoenix of Phillips". We welcome children, youth, adults and seniors of any writing level to submit their poems or essays to stpaulscreate@gmail.com, or mail them to 2742 15th Ave S. Minneapolis, MN, 55407.

Helen L. Peterson, longtime Phillips resident, has died

Peterson, Helen L. of Mpls, Born Feb. 13, 1919 passed away June 18, 2016 at 97 years. Preceded in death by her beloved husband of 74 years, Carl and life in Phillips Community most of their marriage. Celebration of her Life was Sat., July 2 at Crosstown Covenant Church. Memorials preferred to the church. Private interment in Braham.

OPEN STREET on Lake Street
July 24th All Day!

July's Special 4 Pages about HOBT & the Avalon:
If you appreciated the Full Coverage & can Help with Costs, please do. Any amount helps. Send to The Alley at P.O. Box 7006, Mpls, MN 55407

The count of Union and Confederate Civil War Veterans remains challenging

Part I: One Union Veteran Lost but Another Gained Two New Confederate Veterans

BY TIMOTHY MCCALL, GUEST WRITER

All right, so we didn't actually "lose" a Civil War Veteran--as it turns out, he never was one. Let me explain. In the early 1930s -1940s, a concerted effort was

Tales from Pioneers & Soldiers Cemetery

SUE HUNTER WEIR

137th IN A SERIES

made to identify and acquire markers for all of the Veterans buried in the cemetery. The effort was probably led by Albert Nelson, the cemetery's caretaker. Researching the cemetery's occupants' history and genealogy in the early-mid 20th century must have been a herculean task considering that the availability of information was limited to printed material, telephone calls and writing letters to known genealogical sources, i.e., libraries and historical societies.

It was in early 1932, that an application was filed with the War Department to have a headstone made and shipped to Pioneer s and Soldiers Cemetery for one James Parker, who had served in Company A, 1st Minnesota Cavalry. Most likely due to the handwriting of Health Officer Thomas F. Quimby and an inconvenient crease running through the deceased's name on his burial permit, the gentleman's name appears

to be James, but is actually Jonas. Jonas B. Parker was born in Nova Scotia, Canada about 1812. He arrived in the U.S. sometime after 1871 and was living in Gates, Monroe County, New York, with his son and daughter-in-law in 1880. His occupation is listed as "Shoe Maker". Why he came to Minnesota is anybody's guess, but it's most likely that he came with one of his children. Jonas B. Parker died on December 28, 1884 at the age of 73 years, cause of death was "Senile Debility". His grave is located in Lot 37, Block G and is marked by a white marble, Union military marker with the name James Parker.

Our two recently identified Civil War Veterans are; Nathan W. Dutiel, who served in Company F, 8th Illinois Infantry and Isaac Breathed, who is our second confirmed Confederate Veteran. He served in Company A, 43rd Battalion, Virginia Cavalry, also known as Mosby's Rangers.

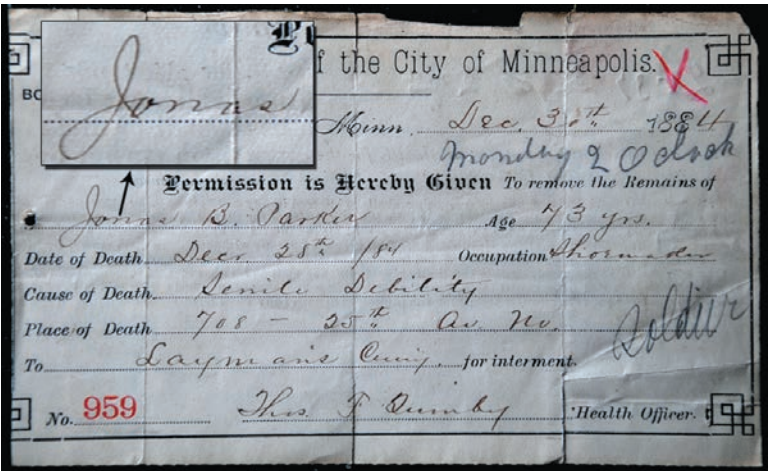
Nathan W. Dutiel was born in Iowa and was a farmer for most of his early life. He moved to Illinois sometime after 1856. When the Civil War began, Nathan, unlike so many his age, decided not to volunteer for service, but to continue his vocation of farming. By 1863, the need for men on both sides of the conflict had become so great, that the governments had no choice but to institute a draft.

Nathan registered for the draft in Brown County, Illinois, during the month of June 1863. He was called up for service and mustered in on October 13, 1864. He served most of his time in Tennessee and Alabama and was mustered out of service on July 14, 1865. After the war, Nathan married Katherine Faning around 1867 in Illinois. Their first daughter was born about 1868 in Illinois; she was followed by three children born in Iowa and the Dutiels' final three in Minnesota, for a total of seven children. The Dutiel family arrived in Minneapolis in 1878. Nathan's time in the South had taken its toll on his health, as stated on the "1890 Special Schedule – Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Widows:" "Has been in feeble health since (the war)." Probably due to his poor health, he was limited to finding employment that was less physical in nature and so held the position of "watchman" for the last 14 years of his life. He filed for and received a military pension in 1890. Upon his death, his wife received a widow's pension. Nathan died from "General Debility" at the age of 54 years, on November 6, 1892, and is buried in Lot 58, Block N.

Isaac Breathed's story will be in Part II of this article. So check back next month and I'll even include Derusha Daffin's story, our first confirmed Confederate



Both photos by Tim McCall



Handwriting idiosyncrasies and paper folds led to misreading of application ordering a tombstone for James Parker as a Civil War Union Veteran when burial was of Jonas Parker who was not a Veteran.

Veteran. Captain of Company E, 4th Alabama Militia Infantry Regiment, clerk of the Circuit Court of Clarke County, Alabama, newspaper publisher, poet, land owner and more. Derusha Daffin, you just can't make these names up.

Honoring Veterans and enjoying Buster Keaton at premiere venue

BY SUE HUNTER WEIR

The weather was a mixed bag for Memorial Day weekend. Rain—more precisely the threat of thunderstorms—meant that we had to reschedule our screening of Buster Keaton's silent film, *The Cameraman*, from May 28th until the following weekend.

Earlier in the day, though, the weather cooperated and Scouts from Troop 1 helped with our annual planting. They did more than help—they did it. There are about two dozen urns that need planting and several small flowerbeds that need to be tidied up and to be filled in with some colorful spring flowers. They did a spectacular job and we celebrated with pizza.

On Sunday Scouts from Troop 82 put flags on the graves of all of our Veterans and along the roadway. The flags are a gift from American Legion Post #1, our Memorial Day partners.

The weather for our 148th Memorial Day observance was glorious which may be why the crowd was somewhat bigger than in other recent years. The observance at Pioneers and Soldiers is special because it is such a community effort. The Scouts, the American Legion Post, students from the Minnesota Transition School, and the Seward Community Concert Band all come together to make this event happen.

Brigadier General Dennis Schulstad, delivered the keynote address. He is a remarkable speaker whose message is always one of gratitude and kindness. He, too, is from the community, a graduate of Roosevelt High School and former City Council Member representing



Large crowd enjoys exploring, visiting, and ceremony at the 148th Memorial Day Ceremony at Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery. Many participants combined to make it a very special occasion.

one of the South Minneapolis wards.

Even though the weather was a little dicey on our rescheduled date, we decided to chance it. It rained lightly on and off up until about 6 o'clock on June 4th but the rain stopped by

the time that the gates opened at 7 o'clock. More than 150 people turned out for a fun movie. The highlight was the original soundtrack provided by local musicians Dreamland Faces. Their piano was towed into



Tim McCall

Sue Hunter Weir visits with a few of the 150 viewers at June 4th Cinema at the Cemetery with Buster Keaton in "The Cameraman." +COMING SOON! "The Curse of Frankenstein" Aug. 20th; "The Mummy" Sept. 3rd; "Horror of Dracula" Sept. 17th.

the cemetery on a bicycle much to the delight of the crowd.

We will be participating in Open Streets on July 24th so stop by and say hello. You'll have three more

chances to see movies this year. The next movie will be at sundown on August 20th. Join us the 1950s horror classic, "The Curse of Frankenstein."



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East Phillips SummerFest What a way to kick off summer!

East Phillips and surrounding neighborhoods are filled with incredibly talented people, young and old. SummerFest's Main Stage Event, once again, was privileged to feature awesome local members of the performing arts in song, dance and rap.

Also featured at East Phillips SummerFest 2016 were:

- Many fascinating resource tables including the Bell Museum's "Incredible Invertebrates" exhibit
- Ethnic arts and crafts from six countries brought to you by East Phillips Park Youth
- Kids Games, piñatas and two giant inflatable fun houses
- Delicious food from the volunteers of Holy Rosary Church and East Phillips Park youth and staff

East Phillips SummerFest 2016 is brought to this community by the collaboration of the East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC), the East Phillips Park Staff and volunteers and the artists, vendors, volunteers and friends.

Thanks to all for a GREAT DAY!!!



Watch for SummerFest 2017 – Sunday June 11th



For Your Calendar:

To get involved in EPIC and East Phillips, Join us on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

EPIC Board of Directors meets on the FIRST Saturday of the month – Next Meetings; Saturday, 7/2/2016 and 8/6/2016 at 10:00 AM.

EPIC Community Meetings are on the SECOND Thursday – Next Meetings; Thursday, 7/14/16 and 8/11/2016 at 6:30 PM
Agenda includes Neighborhood Industrial Pollution, Crime Initiatives, and EPIC project updates.

The East Phillips Park Programming Partnership meets on the LAST Tuesday – Next Meetings; Tuesday 7/26/16 and 8/30/16 at 11:30 AM. Lunch is served.
Updates on Partner Programming, Park Events, SummerFest 2016 & News.

Meeting Location: All the above meetings and events are held at the fully accessible East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center located at 2307 17th Ave. S.

The East Phillips Community 17th Ave. Gardeners meet on the SECOND Saturday – Next Mtng: Saturday, 7/9/2016 and 8/13/2016 at 9:00 AM in the GARDEN located at 2428 17th Ave. S.

*** East Phillips Residents wanting a 2017 Garden Plot, contact Brad Pass at 612-916-8478**

Designed and Paid for by East Phillips Improvement Coalition



MIDTOWN PHILLIPS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INC.

www.midtownphillips.org | 612.232.0018 | midtownphillips@gmail.com



Experience your streets in a whole new way!

Open Streets Minneapolis brings together community groups and local businesses to temporarily close major thoroughfares to car traffic, and open them up for people walking, biking, skating, and playing. This community event is in its sixth year, and is co-sponsored by the City of Minneapolis.

More than a street festival, Open Streets Minneapolis gives residents an opportunity to explore their neighborhood and local businesses in a safe, fun, and family-friendly way. It encourages the use of active transportation and healthy living, and has a goal of giving residents an opportunity to rethink our streets as public space.

Open Streets Minneapolis events take place all over Minneapolis.

OPEN STREETS MPLS

Open Streets East Lake: Sunday, July 24, 2016, 11am to 5pm
East Lake Street, between Elliot & 42nd

Open Streets Franklin: Sunday, August 21, 2016, 11am to 5pm
Franklin Avenue, between Portland & 28th

Visit www.openstreetsmpls.org for more info and a complete list of events.

Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Assn, INC

JULY BOARD MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY JUNE 14

6:30-8pm

Stewart Park (Arts & Crafts Room)

2700 12th Ave S, Minneapolis

- Introductions
- Approve June Board Minutes
- Open Streets:
 - East Lake is July 24, between Elliot and 42nd
 - Franklin is Aug. 21, between Portland and 28th
- Strategic Planning for Midtown Phillips
- Coordinator Report
- Public Comments

NOTE: NO JULY COMMUNITY MEETING

UPCOMING 2016 MEETINGS:

6:30-8pm, Stewart Park, 2700 12th Ave S, Minneapolis

BOARD:

- August 9
- September 13
- October 11
- November 8
- December 13

COMMUNITY:

- August 23
- September 27
- October 25
- November 22
- No December community meeting

Save the Date!

**MIDTOWN PHILLIPS
CLEAN SWEEP**
Saturday October 8, 2016



Correction from June ad: There will be no Midtown Festival this year.



In the Heart of the Beast Theatre Company Talks With Community About Its Future and “Home”

BY LINDSEY FENNER

“This is the place”

The sparkling Kasota stone façade catches the hot summer sun, reflecting back the colorful buildings nearby: mint-green; peach-pink; and the green, red, and yellow traffic lights of this busy and vibrant stretch of South Minneapolis. A mural meets the stone at the round white and black striped marquee, accented with strips of neon color, at the corner of 15th Avenue South and Lake Street. The marquee is a landmark on a bustling street, an Art Deco vision of the future, a tower of human light reaching to the sky.

Inside, the lobby is a cool respite from the heat. The building is quiet, between the busy MayDay build, and the fall and winter stage shows. The green-trimmed doorways are framed with a Pete Seeger quote. A long table along the length of the lobby is bare, except for a paper-mache blue jay head and a pair of hands, each much larger than life. At one end of the lobby is a shrine and thank you for the gift of water: a humble water fountain, set in a niche of swirling blue glass mosaic, and a mural of the connections and the life that come from water. Another mural decorates the north wall of the lobby, rays of life joining at a yellow sphere. The center of the sphere reads, “This is the place.” This is the Avalon Theater, the place where In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre has made its home since 1988.

Difficult Decisions



Recently, HOBt has begun the process of deciding whether it should stay in the Avalon or find another space to continue its work

in the Phillips and Powderhorn neighborhoods. The theater, built in 1924 as a movie theater, is showing both its age and its limitations as a work and teaching space for the theater company. Extensive repairs would be needed to bring the building up to code and to better serve the needs of HOBt.

A building assessment done in 2015 estimated the repairs would cost approximately 2.5 million dollars, according to HOBt Executive Director Corrie Zoll. The improvements needed include making the building more physically accessible; upgrading HVAC systems; replacing aging seating, sound, and lighting equipment;

are no wings for entrances and exits, no true backstage, and limited space for storage. With the seating removed, the performance space doubles as a giant community workshop during preparations for the MayDay celebration. But the seating is cumbersome to move, and the slanted floor makes for less than ideal working conditions. Changes such as installing a catwalk, making the floor level, and getting new, more flexible seating would greatly improve the performance space, according to Sandy Spieler, Director of MayDay and one of the founders of HOBt.

The second and third stories have been converted from their

where HOBt has deep roots. The theater company began in 1973 as the Powderhorn Puppet Theatre, founded by David O’Fallon and Ray St. Louis. First working out of a tiny space in the basement of Walker Church at 31st St. and 16th Avenue South, and later several storefronts along Lake Street (including the demolished Gustavus Adolphus lodge building and above the recently departed Roberts’ Shoes), the puppet and mask troupe performed its first shows in Powderhorn Park and celebrated its first MayDay in 1975. Inspired by the work of Bread and Puppet Theatre in Vermont, HOBt uses simple materials to achieve its mission:

The name “In the Heart of the Beast” came in 1979 from company member and poet Steven Linsner, who, inspired by a Jose Marti quote, wrote “To be puppeteers in the Heart of the Beast...is to find ourselves in the great world Beast made of families, races, ages, sexes, classes, corporations and nations, people, (and creatures!) all different, working out a way to live together.”

and improving office, meeting, storage and classroom spaces. Leaving the Avalon would also require significant capital and work. A new space would have to be found that fit the needs of the company and would most likely need renovation. Moving, after nearly thirty years in one place, would be a costly undertaking. A change this consequential would also probably disrupt HOBt’s performance and education activities. HOBt is trying to weigh which option, staying or leaving, would best allow it to fulfill its mission.

The Avalon, built as a movie theater, does not have many of the necessities for live performance. There is no catwalk to safely access theater lights, there

movie theater origins to fit the needs of the company. The former movie “crying room,” a space for families to bring crying children while still watching the movie through a glass window, is now a place for transformation and creation. Stacks and shelves of puppet-making supplies: clay, paint, newspapers, cardboard, cover nearly every inch of wallspace in the workshop. The tiny third-floor serves as the fabric room, bursting with colors and textures, with a corner devoted to storing the archival memories of HOBt.

Deep Roots

The Avalon has been at the center of these memories for almost thirty years, fittingly located at the boundary of Powderhorn and Phillips, the two neighborhoods

“to bring people together for the common good through the power of puppet and mask performance.”

The name “In the Heart of the Beast” came in 1979 from company member and poet Steven Linsner, who, inspired by a Jose Marti quote, wrote “To be puppeteers in the Heart of the Beast... is to find ourselves in the great world Beast made of families, races, ages, sexes, classes, corporations and nations, people, (and creatures!) all different, working out a way to live together.”

By the mid-1980s, HOBt used many venues for their shows: public spaces like parks, streets, and rivers; touring shows across the region; the sanctuary of Walker Church; their third-story space above Roberts’ Shoes. The need

for a more permanent, larger space became apparent when a performance in the latter was shut down by the fire marshal.

Spieler described the Lake Street of the 1980s as having the same feeling of “raw vitality” it does today, but with a different variety of languages spoken and more empty storefronts. When HOBt was looking for a new space, there were a few options in the neighborhood besides the Avalon, including an empty building across 15th Avenue where the Kaplan Brothers store would also find a new home in 1988. But the Avalon seemed to be the best fit, since as a theater, it was already zoned for public performances. It also had a name which fit as a metaphor for the transformative creativity HOBt shared with the community.

“An Act of Faith”

Around the time HOBt was moving into the Avalon, Spieler had a dream “in which throngs of wounded people lined up on Lake Street-- standing with crutches, being carried on stretchers, all waiting to go into the Avalon as a sanctuary, a place of healing. I had just researched Avalon’s place in English lore: at the center of the island of Avalon there was a fountain that healed wounded warriors with the Water of Life. This dream spoke to our intent that our new home on Lake Street be a place of vitality for participatory community creativity.”



But the Avalon in the ‘80s was ugly with neglect. Built in 1924, it had been remodeled and expanded in 1937, with the streamlined Art Deco exterior of Kasota stone, and the bold marquee, bringing a modern look to Depression-era Lake Street. The theater continued to show family-friendly movies and later, art film, until the late 1950s. The loss of the streetcar line along Lake Street in the 1950s led to hard times for the theater, and pornographic fare began to take over. By the 1970s and ‘80s, Lake Street struggled with crime and seedy X-rated businesses like the Avalon and a nearby adult bookstore. Through efforts of the neighborhood, the theater closed in 1984 and stood vacant until HOBt came to transform it in 1988.

Acquiring the theater was an “act of faith,” said Spieler, faith that people would stop at that corner on Lake Street, faith that something that had become ugly could be beautiful again. Revitalizing the dilapidated theater took the hard work of the community. Spieler described the then orange interior walls as “dripping with mold.” Led by Partners Three Company (the construction business of Alley Editor Harvey Winje, and partner and community activist Susan Gust), volun-

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the alley



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Heart of the Beast gets Avalon Theatre

From porno to puppets

by Eric Almond

The marquee will flash, the audience will file in, the lights will dim and the show will begin. When the Avalon theatre reopens its doors, however, several significant changes will have been made. Low-profiled, trenchcoated, lonely gentlemen viewing x-rated movies, will be replaced by excited children and their families being entertained by lively puppets, stiltwalkers, dragons and clowns.

In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre (HOBT), a professional theatre company based in the Phillips neighborhood, won financial support and approval from the Minneapolis Community Development Agency (MCDA) Board of Commissioners last month to renovate and reopen the Avalon as their new home. According to HOBT Administrative Director, Lucinda Anderson, workers are expected to begin repairs, including a new roof and re-wiring, this month so that the move can possibly take place before the end of the year.

The MCDA board unanimously approved the recommendation from the MCDA's Redevelopment Advisory Committee (RAC) that Heart of the Beast be given control of the Avalon. Ninth ward City Council member Tony Scallon, in whose ward the Avalon is located, spoke at both the RAC and the MCDA Board meetings urging approval of the proposal. "We have and opportunity here to give Lake St. a chance," suggested Scallon, "and compared to other porn buy-outs, this is a real bargain."

Sixth ward Council member Brian Coyle also voted for the Heart of the Beast proposal but pointed out the recent closing of the Extempore and cautioned that "real estate deals sometimes kill community theatres." The proposal was unanimously approved.

The art deco style Avalon, located at 1500 E. Lake St., was built 50 years ago as a family entertainment center. In 1957, however, the theatre began showing adult films and continued to operate as a pornography movie house for 27 years until closing in 1984. The 656 seat theatre has since been vacant.

The Avalon's present owners Sabra and Ronald Laumbach, who also own the Antiques Minnesota building next door to the Avalon, purchased the building in the hope of ending its use as a porno theatre. The last x-rated movie was shown on April 2, 1985 and the doors were closed after the Laumbachs refused to extend the operator's lease. The MCDA then signed a lease on the building and began soliciting proposals for a new use for the Avalon.

Several theatre companies considered the Avalon but decided not to submit proposals. One company did propose to put in a restaurant/movie theatre complex but couldn't secure enough financing.

This spring the MCDA received the Heart of the Beast proposal and a letter of intent from Disney Table Tennis Center. Heart of the Beast Theatre proposes to create a community theatre to be used by their own company and other community theatre groups, performers, film societies, community groups, and businesses. Heart of the Beast is now located in the building above Roberts Shoe Store at Chicago Ave. and Lake St.

Disney Table Tennis wanted to

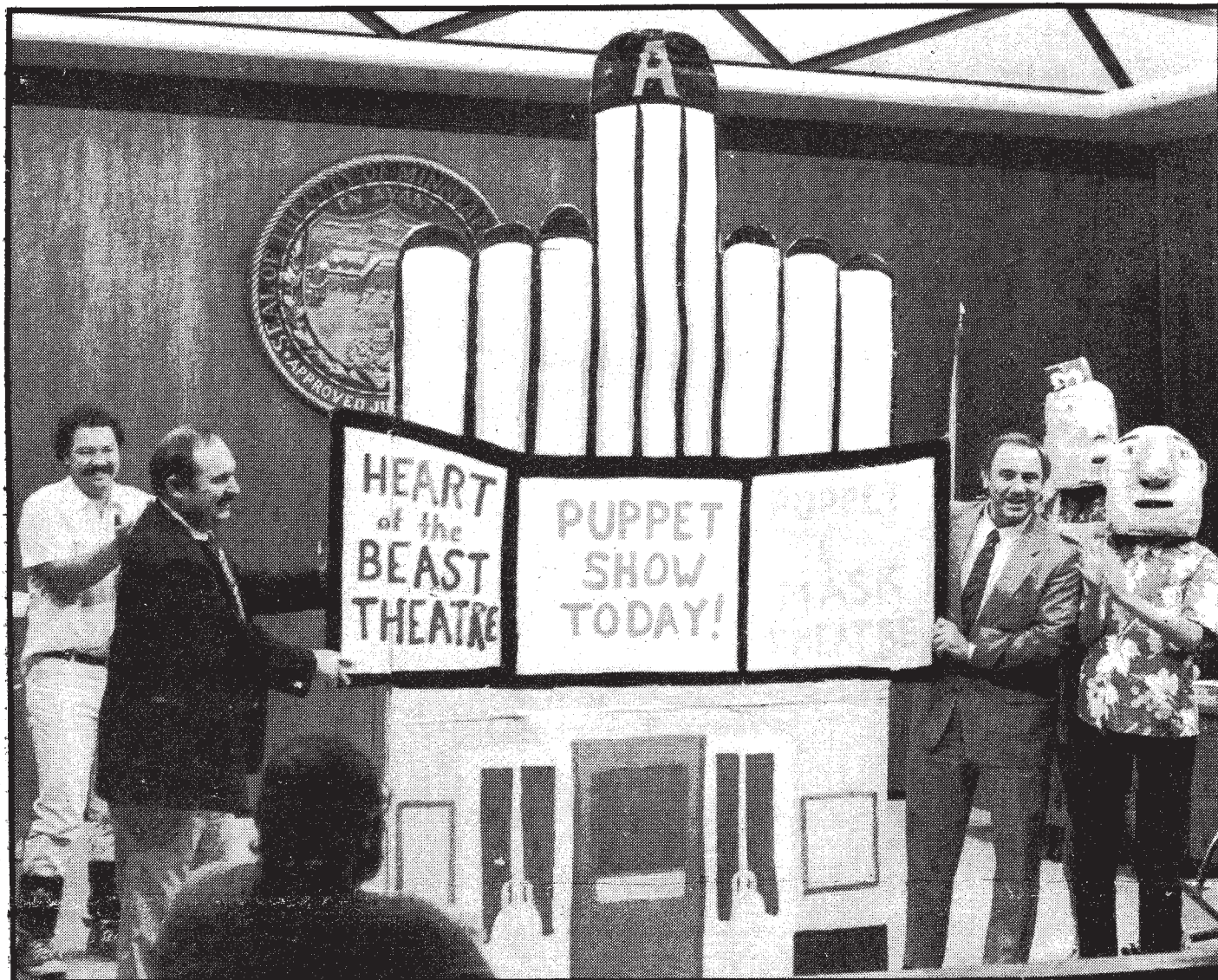


PHOTO BY STEVE COMPTON

City Council members Tony Scallon (left) and Walter Dziedzic held up a prop used in Heart of the Beast Theatre's presentation in the City Council Chambers.

convert the building to house and expand their table tennis business now located across Lake St. above ATKA Karate. Disney, however, never submitted a full proposal.

The Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association which has been holding \$100,000 in Neighborhood Economic Development Fund money to rehab the Avalon approved the Heart of the Beast plan in July, 1987. Many other community and business groups endorsed the Heart of the Beast plans. Disney's plan was supported by the Phillips Neighborhood Improvement Association (PNIA).

The Phillips Community Development Corporation (PCDC) is serving as facilitator and coordinator for the Avalon project. PCDC is a non-profit Phillips community based developer which has previously developed several small businesses in the neighborhood. "The Avalon

is PCDC's first project on Lake St," said PCDC Economic Development Director Ralph Wittcoff. PCDC is also helping reopen Kaplan's Clothing in the former Kawasaki Motorcycle building across the street from the Avalon.

Lake St. has provided the inspiration for the creation of performances that have toured around the nation." She added she would like to thank the people in the community for their many letters of support along with hundreds of names collected in petitions in the effort to obtain the theatre.

The Avalon building owner, Sabra Laumbach, is equally enthused with the recent developments. "I'm ecstatic that Heart of the Beast will be our next door neighbor. We have longed for some proper activity there," she explained,

"and are pleased that it will be a community theatre."

Heart of the Beast began as the Powderhorn Puppet theatre in 1973. They took on their present name in 1978 as the troupe continued to expand. The theatre has nine full-time paid staff members along with over 160 contract workers and 500 community volunteers. They all contribute in staging unique performances which combine sculpture, painting, poetry, dance and music. Although they have toured internationally, their work remains dedicated to creating a sense of community among performers and their audience to reflect and build a healthy culture through art, festivity, and performance.

For Lucinda Anderson, the move down Lake St. to the Avalon seems like a logical step for Heart of the Beast. "Our neighborhood around

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teers put in countless hours of work alongside of paid contractors restoring the space. When a potential deal with the city to purchase the theater fell through, HOBT rented the Avalon for several years. HOBT, supported financially in part by the Minneapolis Community Development Agency, and neighborhood groups from Powderhorn and Phillips, finally purchased the building in 1990. The theater company has raised over one million dollars to purchase and renovate the building.

Committed to Community

The Avalon has served as a home to HOBT and a hub of community creativity, but the work of HOBT has always extended beyond the confines of a street address. The MayDay Parade and Festival joins Phillips and Powderhorn in an annual spring ritual of transformation. Touring shows bring puppet and mask theater into communities around the state and around the world. The Phillips Project, now in its fifth year, engages youth in the Phillips neighborhood through artist residencies at Waite House, Little Earth of United

Tribes, and Project for Pride in Living's Collaborative Village Initiative. This work would not end if HOBT decides to leave the Avalon, according to HOBT Executive Director Zoll.

The community understands the importance of HOBT to the neighborhood. "Personally," Jana Metge, Midtown Phillips Board Member, said "I believe it would be disastrous to lose HOBT at this corner. It brings life and energy to the intersection and to our neighborhood. Many times here in Phillips a child's first experience with Art and/or Theatre are projects through HOBT."

Lake Street Council Executive Director Allison Sharkey said the theater company "is a tremendous asset to the Midtown community. We are prepared to provide any support we can to help keep HOBT here while ensuring the organization's ability to thrive."

If HOBT does leave the Avalon, they wouldn't want the dearly loved theater to become condos or offices, but to remain a social space for people to be together, Spieler said. One possibility might be for multiple

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Bloomington/Lake: Phillips' budding entertainment district

by Eric Almond

O.K. so maybe it's not quite the same as Southtown, Frogtown, Uptown, or the Warehouse district downtown. But the interesting, lively, and changing area surrounding the Lake Street and Bloomington Avenue intersection seems to be begging for an identity of its very own.

Recently there have been a number of renovations and new openings of stores, offices, restaurants, and entertainment clubs that have brightened and rejuvenated an area which as recently as a year ago was known for its vacant commercial properties.

And if that's not enough, there are more projects being planned for the future, including a face-lift for Curley's Cafe, the famous all-night eatery located just off the Bloomington-Lake intersection.

The area is also establishing itself in the arts community. Vicki Vogel, director of the Forecast Public Artspace Productions whose office overlooks the intersection explains, "The arts are really taking over this corner."

As examples she lists the Northern Sign Theatre, which stages productions for the hearing impaired, and also the In The Heart Of The Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, which is in the process of renovating the Avalon Theater as their new home. Another theater in the immediate area is located in the Walker church, and features an active music program open to the public.

"This area is a good place for small arts organizations to work," Vogel goes on to say. "Because of the ethnic diversity of the community a wide variety of people are being brought in and that's the most exciting part."

Also contributing to the entertainment scene are two nightclubs. Fernando's, on the corner of 15th and Lake, and Peppers Danceland, which bills itself as an alternative (meaning non-alcohol) club.



photo by Steve Compton

With live music and radio now and live theatre on the way, the Bloomington and Lake area is becoming Phillips' art and entertainment district.

George Zimmer, who along with his father owns Fernando's, explains that his club is "an entertainment cafe featuring original live music." It has quickly gained the reputation as a good proving ground for new local bands.

Peppers Danceland, located on the third floor of the Antiques Minnesota building, features recorded music on Friday and Saturday evenings along with occasional openings during the week.

Contributing to the revitalization effort are several new restaurants, including Lakers, a sparkling, moderately priced Chinese restaurant also located near the intersection, and Penelope's. Penelope's (formerly Zorka and Ollies) is more of a catering service, however they have just opened a restaurant in the Antiques Minnesota building offering a simple and affordable lunch menu of soups, sandwiches and salads.

Naturally the older, more established dining places still exist, which include Curley's, the Avalon Cafe across the street and down one block, and of course the Pizza Shack. Next door to Fernando's is Ray and Ferns Family Restaurant, an American Indian-owned eatery which often features buffalo burgers and other rare treats.

For the more competitive types, the area also offers Side Pockets Billiards, located on Bloomington just south of Lake Street, Disney's Table Tennis Center, and the Karate Center, former training headquarters of the Guardian Angels, both located on Lake Street near the 15th Street intersection.

With the inspiring developments happening in and around the Bloomington/Lake area, including the opening of Kaplan's Clothing Store, the people closely involved are also quick to realize some of the problems that must be addressed if the area is to continue to

prosper. Mike Samuelson, community organizer for the Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association (which is located near the intersection of Bloomington and Lake), explains that the "perceived lack of parking in the area can hurt business." He is hoping to work with city planners on a parking study, which may include directional signs which would help potential customers find the off-street parking that is already available.

He also realizes the need for more stability in the existing businesses and the need to draw customers from outside the area into the community.

George Zimmer of Fernando's, who also serves on the Lake Street Task Force, points out "misperceptions people have of the area." He adds, "In the past, there's been so much negative stuff from the media. They never come back and do the positive, or other side of the

Continued on page 10

In the Heart of the Beast Theatre Company Talks With Community About Its Future and "Home"

BY CORRIE ZOLL

Over the past winter, HOBT decided that it was time to start a conversation with our community about the future of our organization and

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from facing page

arts organizations to share the Avalon as a performance venue. HOBT might then find a nearby place in the community with sufficient workshop and teaching space, but still be able to use the Avalon for stage shows. HOBT is at the beginning of making this difficult choice, and is open to creative suggestions from the community. No matter what happens, said Spieler, "In the Heart of the Beast is absolutely committed to these neighborhoods."

our home in the Avalon Theater. We appreciate that The Alley is here to help us have that discussion.

The discussion is not new. The Avalon was a distressed building three decades ago when the community worked together to make the building into a home for HOBT. Now the building is 30 years older, and needs a level of care and investment that HOBT has been unable to provide. As the building continues to age, an inability to meet its increasing needs could threaten the ongoing existence of the building, of the organization, or both.

Though the issue is serious, we do not consider it to be a crisis. HOBT estimates that we have two to five years to work toward a long-term solution. We have time to make a decision that best serves the many communities that will be affected by it. More than

a year ago, the HOBT board began to explore various scenarios. The possibilities were divided into two groups: "Stay" scenarios in which HOBT invests in continuing our time in the Avalon Theater, and "Go" scenarios in which we find another home. We learned a lot over that time, and we have more to learn. Many scenarios are possible. The direction we take will affect our organization, our neighborhood, and our beloved Avalon Theater.

And so it is essential that the communities affected by the decision should be included in the decision-making process. Our community feedback process began in May, with an

coin. It's time for something positive."

He goes on to explain that there are "Less people on the street late at night than there used to be," and that the area, "is much safer than people may think."

Tom Ledd, station manager for KFAI 90.3 FM, a public radio station located above the remodeled Butler Drug store, agrees that "It's a fairly safe area. One of the major reasons we've chosen this area is because of our volunteers and the need for their safety." He points out that they have not experienced any problems in that area.

announcement as part of our MayDay Parade and Festival. We held a community meeting to give updates and answer questions. We launched an online survey inviting feedback on the importance of HOBT programming and whether that programming happens in the Avalon Theater and/or in the neighborhoods we currently serve. And more is to come.

This will be a long process. In the coming weeks, you can expect us to share feedback from the survey and community meeting. In the coming months, we plan to decide on a general direction to move forward. By this

Tony Scallon, who represents the Bloomington/Lake area on the Minneapolis city council says, "Of all the places in the Phillips neighborhood, this area seems to have enjoyed a positive comeback."

For those people who have been familiar with the Lake Street and Bloomington Avenue area over the years, the changes seem welcome. The area is more lighted, there is less gang activity, and along with the new look, there appears to be a genuine sense of pride and caring among the people involved. If you haven't been in the area lately, give it a try. You'll be pleasantly surprised.

time next year, we hope to be at work on a detailed plan. The implementation of a final plan could take place over multiple years. The communities we serve can and should expect more information about the process as it progresses, and anyone with questions or concerns should feel welcome to contact us.

Corrie Zoll, Executive Director
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october
1988



the alley

community
newspaper



Community celebrates Heart of the Beast's new home

City gives Avalon back to Lambachs

by Wizard Marks

First, there were hours and hours of elbow grease by countless volunteers to scrub down the mildewed walls resulting from the leaking roof. Then some poor guy, in a spasm of heroism above and beyond the call of duty, cleaned the bathroom; for all the years the Avalon has been a porn home, the men's room had not had a visit from the tidy bowl man or anyone else acquainted with the word "cleanliness."

In the auditorium, the scuzzy carpet was pulled off the floor and tossed. The seats were removed, half of them sent across the street to be refurbished and returned. Hundreds of gallons of grey paint were applied to the 35-foot walls and, Voila! Bye-bye porn, hello puppets.

On Sunday, Sept. 11, In Heart of the Beast Theatre held its open house and a cleansing ceremony to chase away any remaining ghosts of porn left after the refurbishment.

The idea for Heart of the Beast was born in a communal living situation called Cristos House in 1973. Alive and Trucking Theater's David O'Fallon, Model Cities and neighborhood people from Powderhorn and Phillips and Central put in the energy to create a theater which would somehow represent south Minneapolis, its dreams, its aspirations, its humor, its ethos.

Alive and Trucking became the Powderhorn Puppet Theatre and moved to Walker Church for a while. The May Day Parade was started, which each spring marches from Little Earth Housing Project to Powderhorn Park, stepped off with jugglers and stilt walkers, a tinny little band, neighborhood adults and dozens and dozens of children so excited they positively vibrated.

Sandy Spieler, the first person hired by Model Cities to work for the theater, says "It's a bunch of cardboard dancing in the streets, but it's empowered." Later it became In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre from a Che Guevara quote.

In 1985 the city of Minneapolis, in an effort to get rid of the porn theater occupying the Avalon, signed a 3-year lease at \$2,500 per month with Ron Laumbach, the present owner of Antiques Minnesota. The city then put an additional \$121,000 into repairing the roof and otherwise bringing the building up to code.

The city's lease included an option-to-buy clause which ran out on Sept. 30, 1988. Had they chosen to, the city could have bought the building, with a new roof and a good scrub and painting, for \$150,000.

Heart of the Beast wanted the city to exercise the option-to-buy clause because, according to Jim McCreary of the board of directors, it would never be this cheap again and because their funders advised them that they would be in a better position to get the \$250,000 needed for further renovation if they owned the building.

Heart of the Beast planned to get a mortgage for as much of the cost as they could and fundraise for the remainder. Working with and accepting advice from Councilman Tony Scallon and the MCDA, Heart of the Beast tried to get a mortgage



JOHN ACRE/THE HORN

Puppeteers and community members celebrated the re-opening of the Avalon Theater as the new home of In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater.

for \$150,000 to buy the building, but could only succeed in getting \$75,000 from Riverside Bank.

Joe Selvaggio of Project for Pride in Living tried to get his board to carry \$50,000 more, but the board thought that supporting a theater was too far from PPL's main mission of providing housing, he said.

By Tuesday, the night before the special meeting of the MCDA commissioners, both Tony Scallon and MCDA assured Heart of the Beast that the vote was in the bag, they would be owners of the theater.

At the special meeting on Wednesday Heart of the Beast presented their case. They asked the city match the \$75,000 mortgage from Riverside Bank to buy the building and allow Heart of the Beast to pay them back within two years. Heart of the Beast was confident they could do that, they had a capital fund drive in place and working.

Ron Laumbach also spoke at the meeting, first revealing himself as a vice president of Cargill, explaining that his ownership of the Avalon was not connected to Cargill, and then expressing his extreme displeasure that the city had changed its mind after having sent him a letter on Aug. 25 saying they would not exercise the option-to-buy clause.

"We want to retain ownership," Laumbach says. "About 22 hours before the hearing on Wednesday we got notice that action was afoot. We are willing to extend the lease. We believe we have acquiesced to everything Heart of the Beast wanted, but we have always said we are not willing to sell the building."

According to Tony Scallon, the MCDA chose not to exercise its option because the commissioners felt unprepared to understand the ramifications of the issue. Also, the city had gotten stung in buying other theaters for groups like the

Cafe Extempore which had gone belly up, leaving the city holding the bag.

The result is that Heart of the Beast has a 10-year lease with no option-to-buy clause. The lease includes the stipulation that Heart of the Beast will invest some \$250,000 to \$300,000 in capital improvements in the building in exchange for a rent rebate of \$175,000 over the first five years of the lease, according to McCreary.

Laumbach maintains that Heart of the Beast got a good deal because "the interest on the debt burden would greatly exceed the rent of \$650 a month" had Heart of the Beast bought the building. (At 10.5%, a \$150,000, 30-year mortgage has a \$995 debt service/month.) If the rent and renovations are averaged over the 10 years of the lease, Heart of the Beast will have to pay Laumbach the equivalent of \$2,500 per month.

Laumbach says, "If you look at buildings all over the country, you'll see that people make repairs on buildings they don't own." He insists he provided the city and the neighborhood with a service by buying the building and then paying a \$35,000 judgment to the porn operators who were not happy to have their lease canceled. "We have lost a lot of money and got a lot of undesirable publicity in getting rid of the porn," Laumbach says.

"The fact remains," says Ralph Wittcoff of PCDC, "that Laumbach got major repairs and refurbishment with city funds and neighborhood hard work."

To be puppeteers in the Heart of the Beast...

BY STEVEN LINSNER

Poet, writer, performer, painter, musician and videographer; 1952-2005

To be puppeteers in the Heart of the Beast...

...is to find ourselves in the great world Beast made 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.

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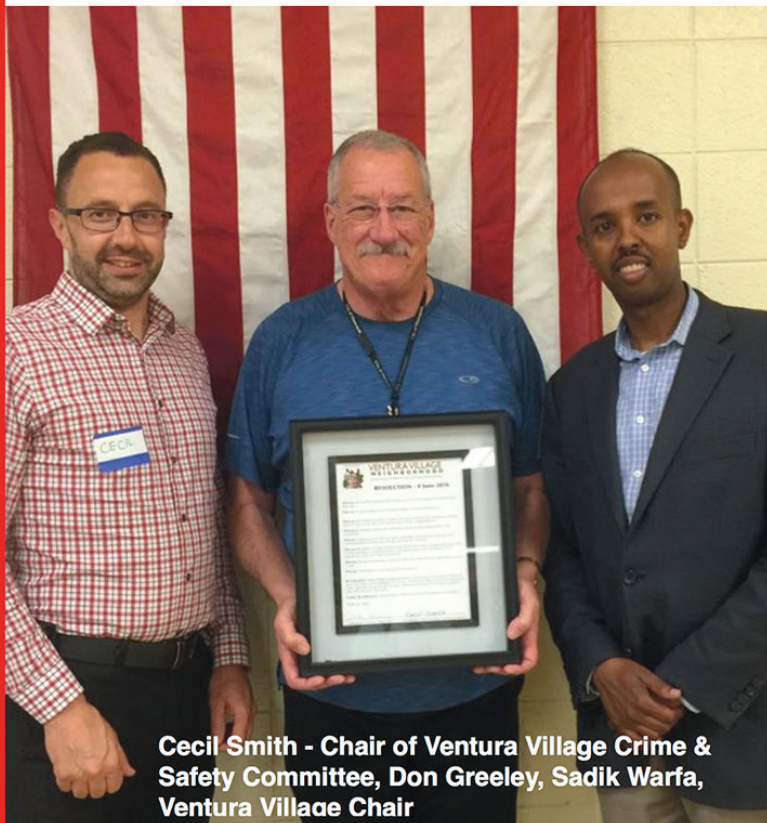
VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

JULY 2016
VOLUME 5 • NUMBER 7

NO MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN JULY



DON GREELEY IS HONORED AT HIS RETIREMENT FROM SAFETY WORK



Cecil Smith - Chair of Ventura Village Crime & Safety Committee, Don Greeley, Sadik Warfa, Ventura Village Chair

Don Greeley's previous work as a community organizer has paid off for the Phillips neighborhoods that were assisted through many years by his efforts to bring the police officers and residents together at the table. This "love affair" that has blossomed between the two shows results in monthly and annual data showing a trend of crime reduction for Ventura Village. Don helped Cecil Smith and Mary Watson develop a deeper rapport with police that started with Jim & Jan Graham in previous years. The entire Phillips Community has benefitted greatly from the steady, long-lasting work Don provided us on behalf of the Third Precinct! We know that he was appreciated just as much by the police officers and commanders as us residents!



VENTURA VILLAGE
NEIGHBORHOOD
VENTURA MEANS HAPPINESS & GOOD LUCK TO YOU! BUENA VENTURA!

RESOLUTION - 8 June 2016

Whereas Don Greeley has served for 29 years as a City of Minneapolis Crime Prevention Specialist;

Whereas 20 years of that service has been in Sector 1 of the Third Precinct;

Whereas Don Greeley has been a faithful and tireless servant of the community, working unwaveringly for the safety and livability of the Phillips' neighborhoods;

Whereas his cheerful, professional, and patient demeanor has endeared him to the community;

Whereas numerous block clubs have been established, supported and educated, and community built in the process through Don Greeley's initiative;

Whereas the leaders and personalities of the Third Precinct have changed many times, Don Greeley has been a consistent presence and representative of the Minneapolis Police Department, while also being our advocate;

Whereas during his long tenure, crime and safety have improved very significantly in Sector 1; and

Whereas, Don Greeley is now retiring from his position;

Be It Resolved, Ventura Village is deeply grateful to Don Greeley for being such a force for good and justice in our community, for being so faithful and diligent in his work through the years, especially sitting through countless community meetings and listening to people in pain with care and compassion.

Further, Be It Resolved, Ventura Village wishes him health and happiness in retirement.

Thank you, Don!

Sadik Warfa

Sadik Warfa, Ventura Village Chair

Cecil Smith

Cecil Smith, Crime & Safety Chair/Board Member

Instead of July meetings, let's have great celebrations!

The worst policy collisions in our neighborhoods result from agendas the City of Minneapolis must follow for select state funding. This leaves neighborhoods much less able to effectively bring people together at gatherings such as the *Pan-African Arts & Cultures Fair* to be held on Saturday July 23rd at Peavey Park.. Those organizing an event such as this, must scramble to find funds to provide the food and entertainment that will draw in resident audiences.

In previous years, Ventura Village was able to draw between 500 and 750 participants for its Peavey Park festivals, which culminated in gaining the park back from drug dealers and thugs. Undaunted, we are challenged to find new sources of funding to bring us to a great gathering. At the behest of Girma Hassen, who is chair of Oromo Cultural Institute of Minnesota, Ventura Village will join forces for a arts and culture fair

to gather people from many African nations represented in Minnesota by its immigrants, refugees and students drawn to higher educational offerings. Girma hopes Minnesotans from the African countries will join together to share much of their cultural and artistic sides to participants. It is hoped that there will be enough engagement and participation in the activities to warrant a larger event each year in the future. Two years ago, a local Somali Independence

Day activity attracted more than 500 people and a similar event was held by the Ecuadorian community at the same location in Peavey Park. Both events started with a very nominal amount of funding and planning, but turned out to hit the spot for those who participated. The overall goal of events such as the Pan-African fair is to increase deeper interactions for the attendees so they can relate to other people more successfully.

— Robert Albee

OROMO CULTURE INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA & VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD PRESENTS



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Your Hosts: Girma Hassen - 952.297.4254 • Robert Albee - 612.812.2429



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

“The Lobster”



Fantasy/Sci-Fi/Comedy
Rated: R
**** of Five Stars

“The Lobster” casts modern love relationships in dystopian form and also casts, somewhat in a cynical way, how society constantly insists on couples. David (Colin Farrell) finds out how cruel the world is when his wife leaves him and he’s all alone. He seeks out a surreal compound where he has to find a mate in 45 days or be transformed into an animal, of course, of his choice. He chooses to be a lobster even though he has a dog with him.

Everybody is only known on a first name basis and the rules at the resort are rigorous. Violations of the rules can meet with punishment during the trial time. Men and women are required to attend seminars on relationships.

While David’s at the resort he meets two other singles “Lisping Man” (John C. Reilly) and “Limping Man” (Ben Whishaw) trying to find a mate. But David tries to settle with a woman which doesn’t work. When he escapes the resort he finds rebels in the woods led by “Loner Leader” (Lea Seydoux) who has her own authoritarian methods on her clan by discouraging any sexual attractions (at least openly). However, when David meets eyes with “Short-Sighted Woman” (Rachel Weisz) that changes for them both. Both devise a way of communications without being detected by “Loner Woman” or by the other rebels.

Director Yorgos Lanthimos (“Dogtooth” (2009)) in subtle



HOWARD MCQUITTER II
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tints of how stale, stilted and warped many 21th century “love” relationships have become.

One can see the grinding rituals at the hotel in formalities with outcomes in many cases of couples for the sake of being couples. Single life is simply forbidden after 45 days. If there’s a horse or a cow or a dog, that means the person didn’t find a partner in that time period.

Colin Farrell’s performance is solid (the last truly solid performance by him is back “In Burges”, in 2008) and Rachel Weisz is very good as “Short-Sighted Woman”. “The Lobster” is quite off beat, a quirky film, unique though. It will not be everybody’s liking.

Cast: Colin Farrell (David), Rachel Weisz (Short-Sighted Woman), John C. Reilly (Lisping Man), Ben Whishaw (Limping Man), Jaro (The Dog).

Running time: 118 minutes.
Director: Yorgos Lanthimos.

“Game Room”

Crime/Drama/Thriller
***1/2 of Five Stars

A punk-rock band called “Ain’t Rights” are desperate for money, gas and gigs. Running out of luck the band members Pat (Anton Yelchin), Sam (Alia Shawhat), Tiger (Callum Turner), Reece (Joe Cole) and Amber (Imogen Poots) reluctantly accept a gig at white supremacist compound in backwoods near Portland, Oregon. The band gets on stage begin to play the 1981 Dead Kennedys’ song “Nazi Punks Fuck Off!” to an audience of pro-white-pro-Nazi sympathies.

What happens next sparks the adrenaline to go through the roof. After the band retreats to the green room (dressing room) they a woman who’s been murdered on the floor. The neo-Nazis and the ringleader Darcy (Patrick Stewart) go after the kids, but the punkers lock themselves into the green room. Now the matter of

wits among the band members is try to escape, but their nemesis won’t let that happen. Darcy has already given his men to kill them all. Patrick Stewart as Darcy is an outstanding performance as the methodical mind of the compound. He states: “Now, whatever you saw or did is no longer my concern. But let’s be clear, this won’t end well”.

Director Jeremy Saulnier’s (“Blue Ruin”) savvy film in the Hitchcockian mold where the psychotic twists are not always obvious or expected.

This claustrophobic thriller is the most in entiring film of its kind this year. (R)

Cast: Anton Yelchin (Pat), Alia Shawhat (Sam), Imogen Poots (Amber), Joe Cole (Reece), Patrick Stewart (Darcy) and Callum Turner (Tiger).

Director: Jeremy Saulnier.
Running time: 94 minutes.

Tales, Traditions and Toast OSL English Second Language Gathering on World Refugee Day OSL English Second Language

BY KATHLEEN ROCHE

June 18th, in commemoration of World Refugee Day, the English Learning Center hosted a community event: *Tales, Traditions and Toast*. Community members, volunteer teachers and students, family members and friends came together to build relationships and share with one another. The event began with outdoor games, interactive activities to learn about refugees, and opportunities to visually share attendees’ own immigrant journeys.

The highlight of the evening was storytelling: students shared recently published stories about best friends, first winter experiences in Minnesota, the tragedy of war, and first flights to the United States. These stories were touching and educational, and they humanized the experience of coming to this country as a refugee. The event ended with attendees sharing freshly-baked bread, made in an outdoor wood-fired oven. The English Learning Center aims to not only offer English, math, computer and citizenship classes, but also seeks to provide a welcoming community space for people new to this country.

Kathleen Roche is the PM Volunteer Coordinator at The English Learning Center -- a program of Our Saviour’s Community Services. 2315 Chicago Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55404

Million Step Challenge well on the way to success +



BY JULIE ROLES

After only one week we are already approaching a half million steps. Roy and Amy, a Hispanic couple in their seventies, are enthusiastic participants. He walks with the “strollers” and she with the “striders”. She says, “I want to walk with some vigor!” Fred was diagnosed with diabetes and has lowered his glucose levels by walking 2 miles a day. He inspires others to do the same. Bruce and Cookie, an African American couple in their early 50s, both use scooters. Cookie says, “I’ll walk for as many steps as I can and then will continue on with the scooter to be a part of the group.” Social connection is essential to creating a culture of wellness. The Phillips Million Step Challenge strives to build a strong sense of community in the Phillips neighborhood.

Everyone is invited to walk with us! at Ebenezer Tower Apartments Lobby, 2523 Portland Ave S, on Tues. 6:30 PM. Info: Donna Nordin 612-741-5180 or dnordin2@comcast.net.



Tales, Traditions, and Toast sums up English Learning Center event on World Refugee Day where highlights of the evening were tales told, traditions honored and the toast of fresh wood-fired oven baked bread and other good food was shared.

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My Talk With June Bug Regarding Non-Violence

Hah! June Bug, you have come to rest your long forelegs across a rumple of my jeans...evidently not to bite me. Alright then, it seems we shall enter a state of mutual contemplation. Are you aware of the violence in this world?

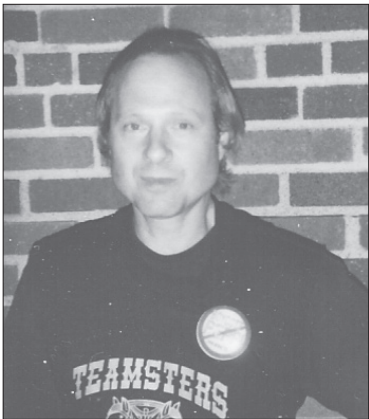
Note:

“The LGBT community has stood side by side with the American-Muslim community during challenging and difficult times. We stand together against hatred, violence and demonization of entire communities.” – Jalani Hussein, Executive Director of the Minnesota Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (as found in Alondra Cano’s NOTICIAS).

Do you wonder if I, a proponent of socialism, am also an advocate for violent revolution? No, marvelous creation of the evolution of matter, God’s gift to me, I am not. But neither am I a pacifist, nor do I consider the philosophical concept of “a just war” to be entirely passé. Yet in the context of our mutual homeland, I must be committed to non-violence.

Why?

We all of us live beneath a massively armed state which serves a profit driven oligarchy. Yet,



PETER MOLENAAR
Raise Your Voice

for the sake of the whole living planet, we cannot shirk our duty to “wrest by degrees all capital from the bourgeoisie” by “winning the battle of democracy.”

So, it is then a matter of necessity that we proceed in stages by non-violent means. For now, we will cast the vote against Trump, even as we consolidate the Sanders forces within the Democratic Party, with the door left open to a Labor- led third party. Naturally, there will be all manner of street demonstrations as well.

Oh, you ask me now: What if the capitalist class turns to violence? John Bachtell, current chairman of the Communist Party USA says: “It should be met

Frank Reflections White Supremacy spans generations

BY FRANK ERICKSON

Some Whites in Minnesota are now doing the exact same thing they did after the “Dakota War” when they hanged 38 Dakota men in Mankato, Minnesota conveniently disregarding their role in causing the “War.”

154 years later, some Whites in Minnesota are conveniently disregarding the crimes committed by the U.S. in attacking Iraq in 2003 and starting the “Iraq War,” and holding local Somali-Americans accountable for trying to go to Iraq and Syria to fight for ISIL.

These are examples of White Supremacy.

with greater non-violence, mobilization and involvement, unity, political consciousness, defense of democracy and moral authority.” I will add that we must learn to put flowers in the barrels of their guns.

Little June Bug, you appear to agree. Well okay, I love you too.

Historical Note: “Largest mass hanging in U.S. history” 303 were to be hanged

The cause of hanging 38 Dakota Indians in Minnesota December 26, 1862 was the failure of the U.S. Government to honor it’s treaties with Indian Nations. Indians were not given the money or food promised for signing a treaty to give a million + acres of their land and be forced to live on a reservations.

Indian agents kept the treaty money, food was sold to White settlers while food given to Indians was spoiled. Indian hunting parties went off the reservation land looking for food to feed their families. One hunting group took eggs from a White settler’s land and the rest is history.

Authorities in Minnesota asked President Lincoln to order

the immediate execution of all 303 Indians found guilty. Lincoln was concerned with European reaction who he feared were about to enter the Civil War on the side of the South. He offered the following compromise to the politicians of Minnesota: They would pare the list of those to be hung down to 39. In return, Lincoln promised to kill or remove every Indian from the state and provide Minnesota with 2 million dollars in federal funds. U.S. owed only 1.4 million for the land to Indians.

The Great Emancipator ordered the largest mass execution in American History, where the guilt of those to be executed was entirely in doubt.

Avalon an oasis on Lake Street

The Avalon was built on the site of the 1909 Royal Theatre later named Seventh Ward Theatre, Rosebud Theatre and Reno Theatre. In 1924 was made over: Architect Ekman & Holm, renamed Avalon, and increased seating to 300. In 1937 it was enlarged again; Architect Perry E. Crosier to Streamline Moderne style using steel fabricated by Minneapolis Moline, 13 blocks away. It features a corner marquee tower with neon and incandescent colored lights restored twice since 1988.

The change to “Fine Arts” in 1955, starting with Welles’ “Othello” and to an art/foreign policy which soon gave away to sex pictures and

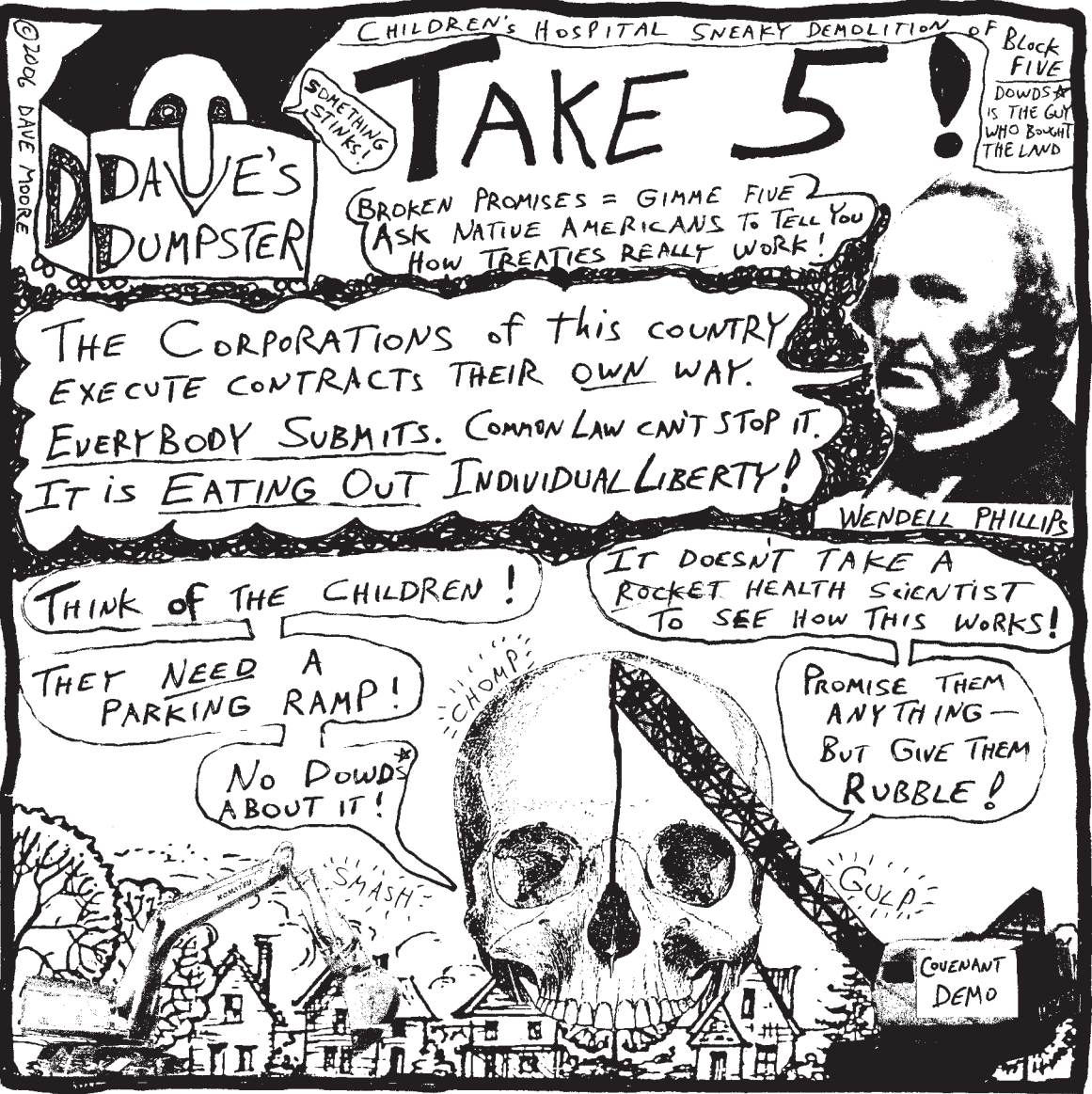
porn. Then it was called the “Avalon Fine Arts” until Avalon name fell off marquee.

The theatre had an artesian well supplying a water fountain (on 2nd floor above the circular staircase and next to the “Crying Room”) and water sprayed into a metal chamber, stage right, to cool air blown through tunnels and ductwork as an early type of “air conditioning.”

In 1987 HOBT “re-purposed” this theater, renewed the intersection, and embellished the neighborhoods’ reputations just as it turns clay, water, paste, cardboard and talent into an ancient art form via participatory, community involvement and ownership.

Cartoon still fits, ex-CEO never did, as Children’s seeks all Block 5 & Half a block between Columbus and Park Ave.

This Cartoon is reprinted from The Alley, July 2006. It was also a decade ago when Dr. Alan Goldberg, then CEO of Children’s MN Hospitals and Clinics, addressed a City Council Committee hearing testimony from Phillips residents in support of saving the Trinity Presbyterian Church building (on the south end of “Block 5” down the alley from the Messiah Lutheran Church building), said, “Phillips is an unliveable neighborhood!” He neglected to admit that the threat to livability is untrustworthy institutions like Children’s MN that continue to put Phillips Community under siege and a challenge to maintain constant vigilance and defend.



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*7pm Chapel
8pm Meal, women's clothes

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3pm Christian movies
5pm Bible study
*7pm Chapel
8pm Meal, men's clothes

Thursday afternoons
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Christian movie
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*1pm Ladies' Day Chapel
2pm Meal, women's, infants' & Children's clothing
(* Guests must arrive by time noted)

1112 East Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404
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BACKYARD INITIATIVE BACK PAGE



BYI AREA

COMMUNITIES OF LIGHT OPENS

AMEN CORNER

Thrones Plaza-

Corner of Chicago and Franklin Avenues

JULY 9, 2016 ~ SATURDAY ~

Noon-3:00 P.M.



We are pleased to announce that we have added new volunteers from the Communities of Light Co-op to support the Amen Corner 2016 session. Please come and support us. The Amen Corner opens officially, **SATURDAY, JULY 9, Noon to 3:00 p.m.** Stop by **Peavey Park, Thrones Plaza, on the corner of Chicago & Franklin Avenues.** Communities of Light (COL) will support the Amen Corner's focus through the end

of October and into November as weather permits.

Open Mic is provided for all of us to listen to the community throughout the afternoon and relate to the thoughts, concerns, stories, and testimonies. And, of course, we'll be grillin'! The Amen Corner's focus—to use the Open Mic concept to provide a safe space for adults, youth and children to **“Speak Your Truth”** in hopes of making positive changes within our community.

Communities of Light, via the Amen Corner, will recruit new families to COL's solar lantern workshops and expose our guests to the idea of self-sufficiency through conversation and understanding of ourselves and our community—being a COL Co-op member is a bonus.

We look forward to seeing you as a volunteer and welcome you as a participant each Saturday. **Amen Corner, a time to enjoy community.**



ReTHINK Your Drink — Every Sip Counts!

A partnership between the Backyard Initiative and the City of Minneapolis

The BYI youth's interest in reducing sugary drink consumption was ignited by the Teens Entering Existing Networking Systems (TEENS) Project's (BYI's youth-oriented Community Health Action Team's) participation in the City of Minneapolis' ReThink Your Drink, Every Sip Counts! campaign. The goals of this participation were: (1) expanding the reach of the campaign; (2) strengthening the relationship between the BYI and the Minneapolis Health Department (MHD); (3) increasing the presence of the BYI in the Midtown Global Market (MGM); and (4) continuing to bolster MGM as a community-owned marketplace and gathering space that fosters community health. In support of these goals, five members of the TEENS Project completed a 2-hour training with a MHD staff member and subsequently facilitated 3 health promotion activities in the community. At the project's end, a member of the TEENS Project spoke to the

Minneapolis City Council about the BYI's experience with the campaign.

This work led to a contract with MHD to conduct a small pilot project (March – June, 2016) in the Midtown Global Market (MGM) to assess a model for working with small business-owners from diverse backgrounds to improve their facility's beverage environment. Despite the potential negative impact of removing sugary drink products on their bottom line, MGM vendors-Safari Express, Manny's Torta and Produce

Exchange-are participating in the project. Related to but uncompensated by this contract, the BYI is also developing a BYI Healthy Beverage Policy to reduce sugary drinks and promote water in all BYI activities. This work supports the BYI's broader work in recognizing MGM as a Community Health Zone – i.e. a community-owned space that cultivates health in addition to being a retail space. **For more info: Contact the BYI Resource Center in the MGM: 612-353-6211.**

High consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages among youth is a challenge for communities across the United States and contributes to chronic conditions such as obesity, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol among children and adolescents. Further, sugary drinks are the largest source of added sugars in the American diet and, among adolescents, 67% of all sugary drink calories come from soda. The American Heart Association recommends that pre-teens and teens limit their consumption of added sugar to 20 – 32 grams of sugar a day, but teens are consuming up to 136 grams of added sugar daily. A recent study found that people who consume 17% - 21% of their calories from added sugar have a 38% higher risk of dying from cardiovascular disease than those who consume 8% of their calories from added sugar. This risk was more than double for those who consumed 21% or more of their calories from added sugar. Given these statistics, curbing sugary drink consumption among adolescents is imperative to supporting community health. It is not surprising that sugary drinks saturate the American food supply; they are inexpensive, highly profitable and appeal to consumers whose palates have been highly conditioned by commercial use of added sugars.

When in doubt, always refer to the drink's nutrition label and ingredients list. The ingredients list will help you determine if or what type of sweeteners are in the drink. We don't need any added sugars, but the American Heart Association's recommended limits help outline what is manageable for our bodies in a day.

	Recommended Limits
Children	12- 16 grams
Pre-teens and teens	20- 32 grams
Adult women	24 grams
Adult men	36 grams

These limits include *all* added sugars, not just those consumed from drinks. When choosing a drink, check the label for sugar content because it can be easy to surpass the limit.

