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Somali Independence  
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# the Alley NEWSPAPER

NEWS & VIEWS OF PHILLIPS SINCE 1976  
JUNE 2014 • VOLUME 39, NUMBER 5

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



@alleynewspaper



## OUR CEMETERY IN MAY

### Sue Hunter Weir Honored

*Deserving for Preserving*

BY BRAD PASS

Sue Hunter Weir was awarded the prestigious Steve Murray Award in recognition of her leadership and dedication to heritage preservation in Minneapolis.

Our friend, neighbor and long-time contributor to The Alley Newspaper (including 112 Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery) was honored May 15th in a gala luncheon celebration at International Market Square.

This was the twenty-fourth Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Awards ceremony and was sponsored by co-partners Preserve Minneapolis, The American Institute of Architects Minneapolis and The Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission.

Ms. Weir was among ten honorees being recognized for their significant contributions to preserving the historical treasures of Minneapolis.

Sue Hunter Weir is perhaps best known for her preservation work on the Pioneers & Soldiers

Cemetery at the intersection of Cedar Ave. and Lake St. in South Minneapolis. She was instrumental in forming the non-profit, Friends of the Cemetery, which has raised over \$900,000 for the restoration of the historic iron fence surrounding the site. Her work has helped transform the oldest surviving cemetery in Minneapolis from a dilapidated and forgotten relic of the past to a center of community life in the neighborhood, hosting music events, tours, lectures and Cinema in the Cemetery.

She has served on the Minneapolis Heritage Commission since 2011.

All of Sue's work with the Cemetery is on a volunteer basis. She also volunteers at all levels of educational institutions throughout the area imparting her appreciation of the past and her commitment to preserving it to the next generations. Our congratulations to Sue Hunter Weir for this impressive recognition she so richly deserves.



Brad Pass



Tim McCall

BY SUE HUNTER WEIR

I started doing research in Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery in the 1990s when the Phillips

Neighborhood was having a very tough time of it. We were widely known as "crime-ridden" Phillips," as though that was our

defining characteristic.

I wanted people, not just those who live in Phillips, to be reminded of the fact that we are a com-

### Safeguarding the past to instill identity in the present and inspire the future

munity with an interesting and proud past, as well. Although the people who are buried in the cemetery did not all live here, they are representative of the themes that truly do define our neighborhood: immigration and migration, transportation, jobs and affordable housing. In short, they are us, we are them.

I feel an obligation to safeguard our history. There is evidence that children who are grounded in their families' and communities' pasts have stronger senses of who they are and where they fit in the grand scheme of things. They do better in school.

I have no doubt that it works the same way for adults--it is

good for our mental health which in turn is good for our physical health.

The argument that I have made, what seems like countless times now, is that history is not a thing. It is an argument based on evidence. It is important that we hold on to our evidence (i.e., by passing it on in words, song, or other media), that we celebrate it, and that we share it. We need to protect our housing stock, our churches, our buildings of all kinds. We need to collect pictures and stories to remind ourselves that we are the result of all that went before and the beginning of what is to come. So....that's why I do what I do.

## Grave information in this Souvenir Edition! See page 3 for more Tales

"People are dying to get into this cemetery." This overworked, pithy aphorism doesn't apply at **Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery** because dying isn't enough to get you buried here. There is plenty of space never used and because 7,000 buried bodies were moved from here leaving approximately 20,000 buried remains and lots of lots.

It is necessary to apply for burial to the Minneapolis City Council and be approved.

Learn more about this oddity and many other fascinating facts each month in The Alley Newspaper's column by Sue Hunter Weir called **Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery** and at [www.friendsofthecemetery.org](http://www.friendsofthecemetery.org).



Tim McCall



Tim McCall



# the Alley NEWSPAPER

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*"We came into this world to give truth a little jog onward and to help our neighbors rights"*

**Ann Greene Phillips (18\_\_-1885)**  
**Wendell Phillips (1811-1884)**

**Alley Communications report-ers, columnists, and artists are neighbors and friends who contribute their time and work. This issue includes but is not limited to the following:**

Robert Albee, Tara Beard, Bees in the Village, Lydia Caros, Jim Graham, Susan Gust, Linnea Hadaway, Hennepin County Franklin Library, Sue Hunter Weir, In the Heart of the Beast Theatre, Wizard Marks, Mashkiikii Jana Metge, Midtown Greenway Coalition, Local Food Resource Hubs, Jonathan Miller, Peter Molenaar, Dave Moore, Brad Pass, Carol Pass, PWNO, Sonny Sevigny, Carstens Smith, Erin Thomasson, Crystal Trautnau Winschitl, 24th Street Urban Farm Coalition, Amged Yusef

**Door to Door Delivery:** Youth group from Calvary Church, Donna Neste, Bob, Brad, Brad, Carol, Patrick, Cathy, Dave, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Jacy, Jana, Heidi, Howard, Joyce, Marjorie, Midtown Phillips, Paul, Phillips West N Org., Simmons Family, Raymond, Stephanie, Tara, Ventura Village, Will you deliver a block or two or your apartment? Call Harvey 612-990-4022

**Bulk Delivery:** Lyle James Delivery. 250 Apartments, Businesses, Places of Worship, and Organizations; this issue is having volunteers delivering many blocks of these neighborhoods Ventura Village, Phillips West, Midtown Phillips, East Phillips, Central, Powderhorn Park, and Corcoran; and the usual spots in Longfellow, Cooper, Cedar-Riverside, Elliott Park, Whittier, and Lyndale.

**Board of Directors:** Cathy Strobel, President; Leon Oman, Treasurer; Sue Hunter Weir; Joan Hautman.

**Senior Editor:** Harvey Winje, editor@alleynews.org; 612-990-4022

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**To Advertise:** ads@alleynews.org 612-990-4022  
Alley Communications, a 501c3, Not-for-Profit Corp. publishes The Alley. Donations are needed, welcome, and Tax Deductible  
**Printing:** Page 1 Printers

**Circulation: 8,800 hard copies and online.**

**Member Lake Street Council & Member East Phillips Park Cultural Community Center Partners**

**July Alley  
Deadline:  
June 15**

BY ERIN THOMASSON

## Children & Family Programs

### Game On! Puzzlemania

Wed, June 11, 18 & 25, 2 pm

Enjoy a variety of fun & challenging puzzles & games!

### Reading With Horse Power!

Fri., June 27, 10–11 am

Reg. req. online or 612-543-6925.

All ages. About horses through stories. At the end, pet & interact with a live miniature horse.

### Family Storytime

Every Wed, 10:30 am

All ages & their parent or caregiver. Talk, sing, read, write & play together.

## Teen Programs

### Act Out: Physical Comedy

#### Intro

Tues. June 17, 3:30–5 pm

Reg Online or 612-543-6925.

Entering grades 6–9. Get serious about being funny?

An experienced Guthrie artist will help you explore theater techniques for a wide variety of physical comedy. Let your humor run wild in a safe and creative environment. No exp.nec

### Teen Tech Workshop

Wed, June 25, 4–6 pm

Get creative & make music, videos, animation & other projects using both high- & low-tech tools, everything from iPads to LEGOS® to wooden dowels.

### 4-H Mentoring Club

Tues, 5–7 pm

Franklin Teen Center. We do everything from urban gardening to digital photo/video to theater.

### O.P.E.N. Time

Tues, 3–5 pm; Wed 3–4 pm & 6–7 pm

Options for Play and Enrichment Now. Choose from computers, magazines, board games, video games, brain teasers, conversation.

### Game Time!

Wed, 4–6 pm

Each week; new or retro gaming system for some teen tournament action. See how you compare with peers when you're playing 8-bit style!

### Movies for Teens

Thurs, 4 pm

Movie titles chosen by teens.

### Young Achievers

Thurs, 4–5:30 pm

Want to be involved in your community? Bring your friends & come for poetry, arts, games & more!

## Adult Programs

### Seniors Play-Reading Group

Fri, Jun 13, 11 am–12:30 pm

Join a stimulating morning of reading & discussion of some of the great plays of our heritage.

### 55+ Nonfiction Book Club

Fri, Jun 13, 1–3 pm

Join our discussion of new & interesting nonfiction titles. Bring along your recommendations for

## Programs at the Franklin Library

**1314 E. Franklin Avenue**  
**Complete program list or info**

**612- 543-6925**

**www.hclib.org**

**www.hclib.org/pub/info/newsroom/**

**Mon, Fri & Sat: 9am–5pm**

**Tue, Wed & Thurs:**

**9am –8pm**

**Sun: 12-5pm**

future meetings. Info: 612-543-6925.

### Memoir Writing Group

Thurs, Jun 19, 1–3 pm

Want 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.

### Phillips Technology Center

Register **www.hclib.org** or **612.543.6925**

### Internet Basics

Mon, Jun 9, noon–1:30 pm

Hands on exploration of the Google Chrome web browser. Learn how to enter web addresses & use search engines to find information online. Mouse & keyboard use req.

### Email: Intermediate

Wed, Jun 11, 10–11:30 am

Learn how to use folders, view & attach files to an email & set up an email address book using a Yahoo! account.

### Computer Skills Workshop

Wed, Jun 11, 12–1:30 pm

Work on projects & practice skills from using the mouse & keyboarding to using email & Microsoft Office .

### Microsoft Word: Basics

Thurs, Jun 12, 10–11:30 am

Learn how to use the ribbon, enter & delete text, basic formatting, cut, copy & paste; & when to use 'save' & 'save as.'

### Microsoft Excel: Charts and Graphs

Thur, Jun 12, 12–1:30 pm

Learn to create & integrate graphs and charts into your Excel spreadsheets.

**Franklin Learning Center:**  
**952-847-2934**

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

## Phillips West Neighborhood Upcoming Events

**www.phillipswest.info**

**June 5<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.** – *Phillips West Annual Community Meeting!*

Join your neighbors and other Community Partners for updates from Local City Government, Minneapolis Police, & State Representative Karen Clark! This meeting will take place at the Center for Changing Lives in



the Centrum Room (2400 Park Avenue). Free parking is available in the rear of building off Oakland Avenue. Free Catered Dinner & Beverages will be provided! If you would like more information or would like to get involved with the neighborhood please contact Crystal at 612-879-5383 or email her at pwno2005@yahoo.com

## Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Events.

Hennepin County is offering residents options to safely dispose of unwanted garden and household hazardous wastes this spring and summer. All sites will be open to the public from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday through Saturday. The events closest to the second ward will be **May 29-31**, at the Minneapolis Public Works Department-Snellings Avenue building at 3607 E. 44th St.; August 7-9 at South High School, 1313 19th Ave. S.; and on **September 18-20** at the University of Minnesota – Parking Lot C66 at 2904 Fairmount St. SE.. For more information, including directions and a complete list of acceptable and non-acceptable items, call Hennepin County Environmental Services at 612-348-3777 or visit [www.hennepin.us/collectionevents](http://www.hennepin.us/collectionevents).



JUNE Midtown Phillips Board Meeting

**June 10, 6:30-8pm.** Stewart Park (Arts & Crafts Room), 2700 12<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Minneapolis

Motion: The Executive Committee authorizes Jana to pay a bookkeeper to complete non filed 2011 and 2012 Annual Reports to the Attorney General Charities Division and to complete Midtown Phillips Secretary of State registration. (5 min.)

Motion: The Midtown Phillips Board to move \$20,000 of remaining NRP Phase 1 dollars into Phase II Goal 6 Administrative Contract (supply plan oversight/midtown administration). (5 min.)

Discuss creating new neighborhood map per our new bylaw change and number of districts. Set date for completion. (10 min.)

Events committee recommends MPNAI should have a table and solicit comments from folks on the neighborhood issues, needs, what folks love and kind up volunteers for 2 hour shifts. (10 min.)

Discuss feasibility for translation of board manuals, conflict of interest statements, and other important documents into Spanish and as many other primary languages represented by Midtown as possible. Also discuss how to present need for legal review of housing agreements, NRP plan, etc to City. Each board member needs to sign a conflict of interest form. Set date for completion. (30 min.)

Make community aware of Paint the pavement projects, utility boxes and other creative ideas for art on City property. The City's website (<http://www.minneapolis-mn.gov/dca/WCMS1P-083277>) posts instructions, guidelines and

deadlines for these permits. This year, with input from the Arts Commission and the goal of making the process more user-friendly, the website was redesigned and separate materials were created for intersection paintings and utility box projects. Note that there are also now two opportunities for utility boxes: 1) Requesting permission to wrap or paint boxes with custom designs, and 2) Minneapolis Arts Wraps—preapproved designs and a quick process for use by groups who don't have the time or resources to commission artists to do custom projects. There are also sample proposals from previous years on the website for reference, as well as a list of good questions to consider in planning these types of projects. Minneapolis Public Arts Director, Mary Altman will give overview of program. (30 min.)

JUNE Midtown Phillips Community Meeting:

**June 24, 6:30-8pm.** Stewart Park (Multi-purpose Room), 2700 12<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Minneapolis

Discuss traffic calming on 26th and 28th. Alondra Cano, Ninth Ward Minneapolis City Council Member, to come and discuss. (90 min.)

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**@alleynews**



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

## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN

**“Creativity Camp for Children Ages 3-11”**  
**June 16-20, 10 am to 2 pm**

**2742 15th Ave South**  
**Call 612-724-3862 for more info**





# Buster Keaton, “The General” and Dreamland Faces combine for exquisite night at Cinema in the Cemetery

Saturday, May 24th, was a night to remember at Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery. Over 300 adults and an undetermined number of children under the age of 12 were on hand at the cemetery to watch Buster Keaton’s 1926 classic silent film, “The General.” If you’ve never seen the movie, The General is not a person but a locomotive. The locomotive, the great love of Johnny Gray’s (Keaton) life, runs away with his sweetheart Annabelle, the second greatest love of his life. The film, set during the Civil War, is generally regarded as the greatest train movie ever made

and is often listed among the top 100 American-made films. It is one hour and twenty minutes of chases, intrigue, stunts and slapstick comedy. Keaton never used a stuntman and took enormous risks while making what he considered his masterpiece. If something that is perfect can be made even “more perfect,” Dreamland Faces, local musicians, made that happen. For the full hour and twenty minutes they played a live soundtrack using a variety of instruments—piano, horn, drums, musical saw and accordion among them. If you missed “The General,” you’ll have

*Tales from Pioneers & Soldiers Cemetery*

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SUE HUNTER WEIR

112<sup>TH</sup> IN A SERIES

plenty of other opportunities to see and hear them perform around town. Check out their website [www.dreamlandfaces.com](http://www.dreamlandfaces.com) to find out when and where they’ll be playing. We’ll do our best to bring them back to the cemetery for an encore performance. They are not to be missed. If you’ve never had the chance to go to a drive-in movie, or if you

have and want to relive that experience, this is as close as you will get inside the city limits. Think of it as a drive-in movie without the need to own a car. It’s a chance to watch great films (and more than a cult classic or two) under the stars surrounded by like-minded folks. No popcorn but plenty of tacos available, and it’s all in a good cause.

*Wrought Iron Picket Restoration nears Completion!*

*Limestone Pillars Restoration Becomes Phase II*

The last of the steel-picket sections of the cemetery’s fence have

been restored will be reinstalled in the next few weeks. After that, it’s on to restoring the limestone pillars. Every movie ticket that you buy gets us that much closer to a completely restored fence. So mark your calendars for this fall’s coming attractions:

**COMING SOON!**

**To YOUR CEMETERY**

**Near you at Cedar and Lake**

“The Blob” on Wednesday, September 10th

“Plan 9 from Outer Space” on Wednesday, September 24th

“The Thing from Another World,” on October 8th.

# 146<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day at Cemetery celebrated and mourned veterans



Colonel Hetherington spoke those words at the 146th Memorial Day gathering at Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery. It was, as Memorial Day, is intended to be a day of both celebration and mourning. The achievements of the many who have served in the military were acknowledged against the backdrop of those who did not return to their family and friends. From the American Revolution to the present time over one million young men and women did not return. There are about 200 veterans buried in Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery. They did not die in combat but many of them died young, often from diseases or wounds that they contracted while in service.

Five new military markers acknowledge service of Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans. Last week four Civil War veterans and one Spanish-American War veteran received new military markers. Of those five markers, only one was a replacement, the rest other graves were marked for the first time. The five soldiers are: Corporal Benajah Benton (8th Regiment New York Heavy Artillery), 2nd Lieutenant C. Leander Irwin (Company F 79th Illinois Infantry), Private John Robischon (Company B 34th US Volunteer Infantry), Private Alfred Tolberg (Company D 3rd



Minnesota Volunteer Infantry) and Private James Towner (Company K 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry). **The 146th Ceremony** Colonel Hetherington is the Senior Army Instructor at the Charter Transitions School. His students are members of the Junior ROTC program at the Colin Powell Leadership Academy, the only Junior ROTC program in Hennepin County. Students from the program posted the colors at the beginning of the service and read General Logan’s Orders and the Gettysburg Address. The Seward Community Concert Band, under the direction of David Berberick, provided the music for the program.

*Tales from Pioneers & Soldiers Cemetery*

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SUE HUNTER WEIR

113<sup>TH</sup> IN A SERIES

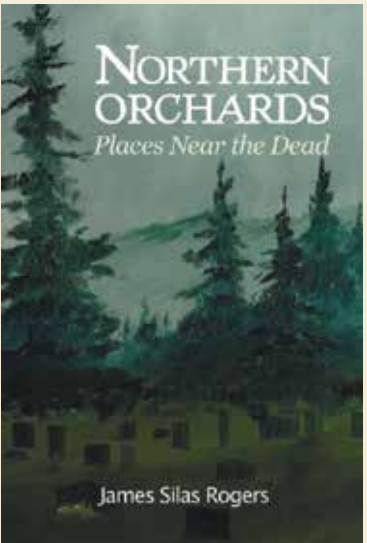
Nancy Anderson led the singing. Special thanks to Emcee Robert Mayer, Reverend Becky Sechrist, members of several local veterans’ organizations, especially to Commander John Nelson and the members of American Legion Post #1. Members of Scout Troop #82 placed flags on the graves of the veterans and distributed pop-

pies and programs. This year the cemetery received special attention from Marshall Kadlec and the friends and family members of Scout Troop 1. Marshall organized a community service program where volunteers raked and cleaned the cemetery grounds and planted perennials in several of the cemetery’s flowerbeds. Most importantly, they cleaned the markers of many of our military veterans which will help to preserve them for years to come.

**Northern Orchards**

*Places Near the Dead with author James Silas Rogers*

Book reading and signing  
Sunday June 15th 2:00 PM  
FREE Admission at Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Cedar Ave & Lake Street  
James Silas Rogers will read from his latest collection of poems and essays. Journey with James to meet the living among the homes of the dead. You may recognize Rogers’ work from Garrison Keillor’s “Writers Almanac”, and his creative nonfiction has been



widely published. He also edits the New Hibernia Review, an Irish Studies quarterly published by the University of St. Thomas.





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## VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD

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

**THIS NOTICE WENT TO  
NEIGHBORS BEFORE THIS MEETING**

**VENTURA VILLAGE GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

### ATTENTION NEIGHBORS:

Owners of the 24th Street VILLAGE MARKET have requested that the City of Minneapolis approve their proposed changes to the property that would allow an 8-12,000 sq. foot building expansions and a number of improvements that they believe will smooth the flow of traffic around the mall area, address crime & safety issues and add parking spaces within the boundaries of the market itself. Some neighbors are supportive and others are opposed to these proposed changes. Ventura Village and Midtown Phillips' elected leaders and affected residents are requesting your presence and participation in discussions related to these expansion proposals. **JOIN US!**



Does this permit parking really work correctly?

This building would be replaced by a 12,000 sq. ft. building, eliminating parking in this little lot that causes so much congestion right now.



GULET GROCERY BUILDING



Double parking here to let passengers off could be improved with no parking in front of the main doorways.



Should a Stop Sign be put here to enable pedestrians to cross more safely?



On-site parking would be added up to the green house in the background and all the way to the alley at the left of the photo.



This area would be fenced in and paid parking would be implemented on-site.

**COME LEND US YOUR GOOD THOUGHTS ON HOW TO MAKE THIS MALL AREA SAFE, CONVENIENT AND PRODUCTIVE FOR RESIDENTS, SHOPKEEPERS & WORSHIPPERS!**

## Immigration, Growth, Change and Community Maturity

BY HARVEY WINJE

The large old bakery building on 24th Street between Elliot and 10th Avenues has been converted into a "Mall" for retailing of about 100 small businesses. The need for such space apparently outweighs the availability and so too the need for parking to accommodate customers.

The Mall owners have proposed expansion and some parking changes.

It has become a very controversial issue as it affects the lives of residents and visitors to other community places.

Ours is a community of immigration, innovation and change.

Coincidentally two old buildings in Phillips were bakeries owned eventually by the same company, Emrich Bakery, that grew including the buying of other family owned businesses, like Egekvis (founded by two Danish brothers) and McGlynn (founded by an Irish immigrant). One is at 2603 through 2619 Bloomington Avenue—owned by Basim Sabri. The other is at 920 East 24th Street—owned by brother to Basim, Omar Sabri.

Today those two buildings have been converted from bakeries to

retail and service centers with one having had a newspaper office and press, beehive company, casket storage, housing contractor, county satellite probation office, and cabinet shop in intervening years.

The business office of one of the bakeries was in the house with its livery stable in the building behind for the horses that pulled the wagons of BAMBY Bakery on house delivery of the Best American Made Bread Yet.

That office in a house became a home again 60 years ago of Carl and Helen Peterson.

Both properties went through decades of change as they responded to growth and the economy.

Growth, expansion, and the inherent characteristics continue today as the 80,000 square foot 24th street building's owners and vendors contemplate their needs and encounter the regulations of the City of Minneapolis and their impact on surrounding neighbors and their livability issues.

The issues of livability affect

neighbor's more closer by than blocks away. Some neighbors are closer to the site who live in a different Neighborhood than that in which the Mall is located. East 24th is the boundary between Ventura Village and Midtown Phillips. Impact of traffic does differentiate between arbitrary political borders.

Neither does the StarTribune whose recent local coverage only referred once to a Neighborhood organization and that was Midtown—across the street from the Mall. The nuances of those differences are too sophisticated for some media but they are important to political protocols. Nonetheless the neighbors work at working together on some issues that have an effect on all regardless if they live in Ventura Village, Phillips West, Midtown Phillips, or East Phillips—all of which are within Phillips Community which is a Planning District.

Midtown Phillips voted as an organization to oppose the expansion.

Ventura Village voted to "support the expansion of the 24th Street mall contingent on solving the parking and traffic problems on surrounding residential streets and that approval also be contingent on continued elimination of parking and traffic problems that are subject to ongoing review."

Individuals may differ in their viewpoints from their respective organizations' positions. This is expected, acknowledged and welcomed. Some such background is provided below by two residents from different neighborhoods.

Phillips resident Jim Graham who recalls some of the early process of reuse of this empty building.

The Mall owners proposal to the City was denied by the Planning Commission on Monday May 19th with a recommendation for owners to further study neighborhood impact and they did approve a rezoning plan that would allow extra parking spaces and restricted use of an alley. City Planning Staff had supported the project.

Phillips resident Tara Beard provides below the clue to how neighbors can interact with agreeing and disagreeing while maintaining a great deal of noble confidence and personal and communal self-esteem.



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Historical Commentary Livability Issues Related to Village Market & Proposed Expansion

BY JIM GRAHAM, VENTURA VILLAGE RESIDENT

And the farce goes on... Well, I might as well put in what are my opinions of the present proposal for the Village Market; and what my opinions are of the history of the Village Market. Just to bare my soul and for disclosure purposes I have to admit that initially I actually worked to get a “Farmers Market” for 30 Somali businesses at the present Village Market site—even watched over the building and kept it from burning a couple of times in the early days when the developers seemed genuinely interested in the welfare of the small business people and the community. So I must freely admit that I was, through well meaning gullibility, partly at fault for the victimization of a community and many recent immigrants whose only wish was to have a better life for their community and their families.

When the Village Market was first brought to the Ventura Village Neighborhood organization it was to be a “Farmer’s Market” and have a maximum of 30 businesses. A parking variance was needed for that many businesses at that location. I urged the Neighborhood organization to support it; and they did.

Unfortunately, the people supporting the “Market” were hoodwinked. Instead of 30 businesses it quickly became evident that the developer’s intent was to have almost a hundred businesses operating at the facility without ever applying for additional variances. It may well have been the initial intent but the avarice that came when they saw the overwhelming desire of the Somali community people for businesses may have been too tempting to resist. With over a hundred business where just 30 needed a variance and conditional use permit the parking and traffic around the Market became a nightmare.

Somali people especially Somali women were so eager to have their own business, and not knowing the laws, became in my opinion, easy victims of the Market owners. The owners of what had now become an illegal shopping mall began to subject the people to such bad treatment that a large group of those business

women who were renting shops at the Market came to me and asked for help. I arranged a meeting for about thirty of them to ask for relief from then Hennepin County Attorney Amy Klobuchar. They were seeking her assistance.

Klobuchar advised them to sue for relief in the civil courts and that her office would look into the discrimination against the women shop owners. Of course then Klobuchar moved on to



become our United States Senator and that investigation feel by the wayside. Due to threats to many of the shop owners, and the use of a sitting Minneapolis City Council Member as a club over their heads to emphasis the support of Minneapolis politicians for the illegal activities of the property owners, most of the threatened people backed away.

Then the sitting Council Member came to the Neighborhood organization and asked for support of a plan to add additional parking adjacent to the “Market.”

Since ANY additional parking would be a relief, the people attending the meeting voted to support that plan. Of course what happened was that the then Council Member slid through a retroactive approval to make legal the 100 or so small businesses that had been rented illegally to unknowing victims for the last two years. And supposedly with “Neighborhood support.” Thus depriving the victim tenants of the legal foundation when suing to have the courts redress that illegal activity.

So now we had even greater parking problems. In a space that needed a “Parking Variance” to have 30 businesses you had an illegal shopping mall instead of a “Farmer’s Market” with over a hundred businesses plus a “church” or Mosque masquerad-



More than 140 Ventura Village and Midtown Phillips residents and stakeholders met to discuss the 24th Street Village Market expansion plans. Most of the concerns expressed addressed parking and traffic problems surrounding the mall that need to be addressed by the City of Minneapolis and the mall owners. The City of Minneapolis’ Planning Committee recommendation was to not support the expansion plans without those issues being addressed.

ing as a prayer room. And the farce goes on...

And now we have this new request. And the Market owners now admit that it is a “Shopping Mall” that needs expansion without addressing ANY of the parking requirements that are legally required for such a “Mall” with the existing number of businesses as well as a “church.”

Since the Village Market owners have “Opened the Door” and admitted that Village Market is now, and has been operated all along, as a “Shopping Mall” I think the Council and Minneapolis Inspections Department should take the opportunity to require that the Village Market operate legally as one within the legal requirements of being such a “Mall”. And especially with parking requirements enforced per business and per square foot as are required by any other “Shopping Mall.” To not do so simply adds to the discrimination against both the small business people working hard to make a living and the neighborhood residents around the Market who are working hard to have a quality life for their families.

Clearly, if this was not an “Impacted Neighborhood” and the shop owners were not a recent immigrant population, the City would never have allowed them to be victimized to the extent that

has already existed. It is blatant discrimination at its worst.

For the City of Minneapolis to even consider these further Variances and “Conditional Uses” without addressing the past history of the Village Market is to have the City of Minneapolis further aid and abet the victimization of the homeowners and renters forced to live there as well as the present shop owners who are not being provided the same business protection that would be required if it were any other population and in any other community.

We had the Council Member who engineered this “Market” go to Federal Prison for corruption around this same situation and neighborhood. Do we really need the present sitting politicians to continue the injustice of it? Would they ever think of allowing such

discrimination and ignoring of City ordinances and codes to go on next door to their houses? I think not. My community has been victimized by the lies, deceit, and discrimination of the owners of the Market for over ten years; will the present politicians allow this to continue? Or will they require the same consideration for our people that they would for their own?

Sorry for the long post, but I assure you it is a brief synopsis of the history of this injustice. Several other people here can attest to the facts I have offered as opinions.

I am sure Senator Klobuchar remembers meeting. I hope the present Minneapolis Council Members will finally address the past wrongs done to this community by the developers of the Ventura Market.

Commentary “...with Integrity, Sensitivity and Eloquence...is where I want to live!”

BY TARA BEARD

I just had a chance to watch the video of the planning commission hearing on Monday, and I just want to say how proud I am of my neighbors who spoke out against the proposal with such integrity, eloquence and sensitivity toward our immigrant neighbors. I did not support the expansion but my appreciation and good will toward my Somali neighbors was

so beautifully articulated by all of you who spoke. I was heartened and affirmed that I live exactly

where I want to live. Tara Beard Midtown Phillips resident

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Once a year or once a month—contribute to Alley Communications.

T-SHIRT Design Competition Invitation  
Deadline for Design Submittal: Sunday, Aug. 17th, 2014  
To Phillips YOUTH for 2014 Phillips Community Clean Sweep Event  
Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> 2014  
DESIGN DETAILS:  
• Eye catching front design  
• One color is preferred; two colors acceptable.  
• Must include:  
o 2014  
o Phillips Community Clean Sweep  
o Green Sweep  
o East Phillips, Midtown Phillips, Phillips West, Ventura Village and Little Earth  
• T-Shirt color and contrasting ink colors suggestion  
ALL SUBMISSIONS become the property of the Selection Committee  
THE WINNING DESIGN will be edited and finalized for printing  
THE WINNER will receive \$55.00, two T-Shirts, Set of 26 “Spirit of Phillips” greeting cards by Dave Moore and Linnea Hadaway (\$45. Value) and recognition as the Winning Designer and Featured in The Alley Newspaper.  
SUBMIT DESIGNS TO:  
Brad Pass, [bpas@usinternet.com](mailto:bpas@usinternet.com) or 2536 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Mpls., MN 55404 – Phone 612-916-8478 – Fax 612-722-5509





# VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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

## Flowers on Franklin is an annual ritual to brighten and beautify our Main Street!



Every year Ventura Village sponsors the planting and tending of the flower pots along Franklin Avenue. In 2014 a record 18 volunteers helped plant the flowers. Maintenance throughout the summer is provided by His Master's Groundworks, a small business that takes care of many properties in Ventura Village.

### Committee announces 2014 Projects

With our mission in mind and our going on our third year of successful projects, Bill Kingsbury announced that the WG&G Committee would support the following:

- Community & Public Garden Support
- Flowers on Franklin
- Local Food Resource Hub
- Bees in the Village!
- Winter Safety
- 24<sup>th</sup> Street Urban Farm Coalition / Mashkiikii Gitigan
- Growing Power Weekend

### Ventura Village Community & Public Garden Mini-Grant Program

The Ventura Village Wellness, Gardening & Greening Committee encourages residents of Ventura Village to work with neighbors to create community gardens and to beautify public spaces. This new project is designed to help with these efforts. The Committee is giving grants of up to \$100 to members of a community garden or simply groups of residents who wish to beautify public spaces within the boundaries of Ventura Village. For details, contact Bill Kingsbury, the VV Wellness & Gardening Committee Chairperson at [VVGardening@gmail.com](mailto:VVGardening@gmail.com).

### Bees in the Village!

You may have read about the plight of honeybees worldwide and Colony Collapse Disorder. A world expert on honeybees Dr. Marla Spivak, of the University of Minnesota and attributes the decline to 4 major factors: *Pesticides, Pathogens, Parasites and Poor Nutrition*. Just recently, the University's "Bee Squad" placed hives on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Committee Chair Bill Kingsbury's porch! The bees are being checked by the Bee Squad almost weekly at this point in the season. Harvestable honey is not expected until the second year, but that will be shared with Ventura Village members.

### Our committee efforts help maintain a great livability to our neighborhood

The Mission of the Ventura Village Wellness, Gardening & Greening Committee is to enhance the wellness of Ventura Village residents through optimized physical activities, social networking, support for home and community gardens, urban farming and healthy eating initiatives. We designed these activities and infrastructures with sustainability, community involvement, and environmental justice as core values.



"It looks cleaner and lively over there! I'm supposed to pick up the garbage and now I rarely have to go over to the garden to clean. People are respecting the area!"  
— Terry Brings Them



### 24<sup>th</sup> Street Urban Farm Coalition / Mashkiikii Gitigan

Mashkiikii Gitigan ("Medicine Garden" in the Ojibwe language) is the flagship project of the 24<sup>th</sup> Street Urban Farm Coalition, of which Ventura Village is a charter member. The Mission of the Coalition is to create and nurture the culture and practice of local food production, healthy eating, healthy living and related activities along the 24<sup>th</sup> Street Wellness Corridor and throughout the Phillips Community. Our vision is to create an urban farm where people in the area will have access to healthy food and will be able to learn techniques related to growing, preparing, preserving and marketing it.

In 2013 the Coalition won a grant from Prevention Minnesota, to hire a farmer, Christina Elias, to staff the site full-time. Her presence and hard work made a huge difference in the farm's food production. Whereas for the first two years we had been a coalition of people who had day jobs doing other things, a full-time farmer's presence brought consistency, energy and beauty to the project which we did not have before. Community members are important too and have helped with every major project since the garden's beginning.

In 2013, the project had 836 total visits with 66% being first time visitors and 34% being repeat visitors. We grew approximately 1,022 pounds of produce, with over 50 varieties and was included in over 11,895 meals at Waite House next door.

### Local Food Resource Hubs

The Hubs are an outgrowth of *Minneapolis Homegrown*, the City's effort to improve the health of citizens by supporting access to fresh and healthy food. The primary project has been the annual seed and plant distributions to members, hosted in 2014 at the Minneapolis American Indian Center. For a very reasonable membership dues, members receive (mostly) organic seeds and plants in packages sized to suit their needs. The Hub is also intended as a place for social networking and education. More information at <http://www.gardeningmatters.org/hubs>

### Growing Power Opportunity!

For the last 3 years Ventura Village has sponsored two residents each year to the Growing Power [educational] Weekend, held at the Women's Environmental Institute near North Branch, MN. Will Allen and his team from Growing Power (<http://www.growingpower.org/>) in Milwaukee provided a full weekend of training in urban agriculture basics such as hoop house building, mushroom growing, aquagreens and microgreens, aquaponics system construction, composting and vermiculture. If you wish to participate, contact the Committee at [VVGardening@gmail.com](mailto:VVGardening@gmail.com)



# Flowering of Franklin Avenue



All photos by Robert Albee



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

**MONTHLY BOARD & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**  
**6:00 PM & 7:00 PM • 2ND WEDNESDAYS**

- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS - 5:30 PM FIRST TUESDAY EACH MONTH
- WELLNESS, GREENING & GARDENING COMMITTEE - 5:30 PM FIRST TUESDAY EACH MONTH
- HOUSING & LAND USE COMMITTEE - 5:30 PM LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
- CRIME & SAFETY COMMITTEE - 6:30 PM LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
- PARKS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES MEET IRREGULARLY; CALL FOR TIMES

**2323 Eleventh Avenue South • Minneapolis, MN 55404**  
**P.O. Box 580757 Phone: 612.874.9070**

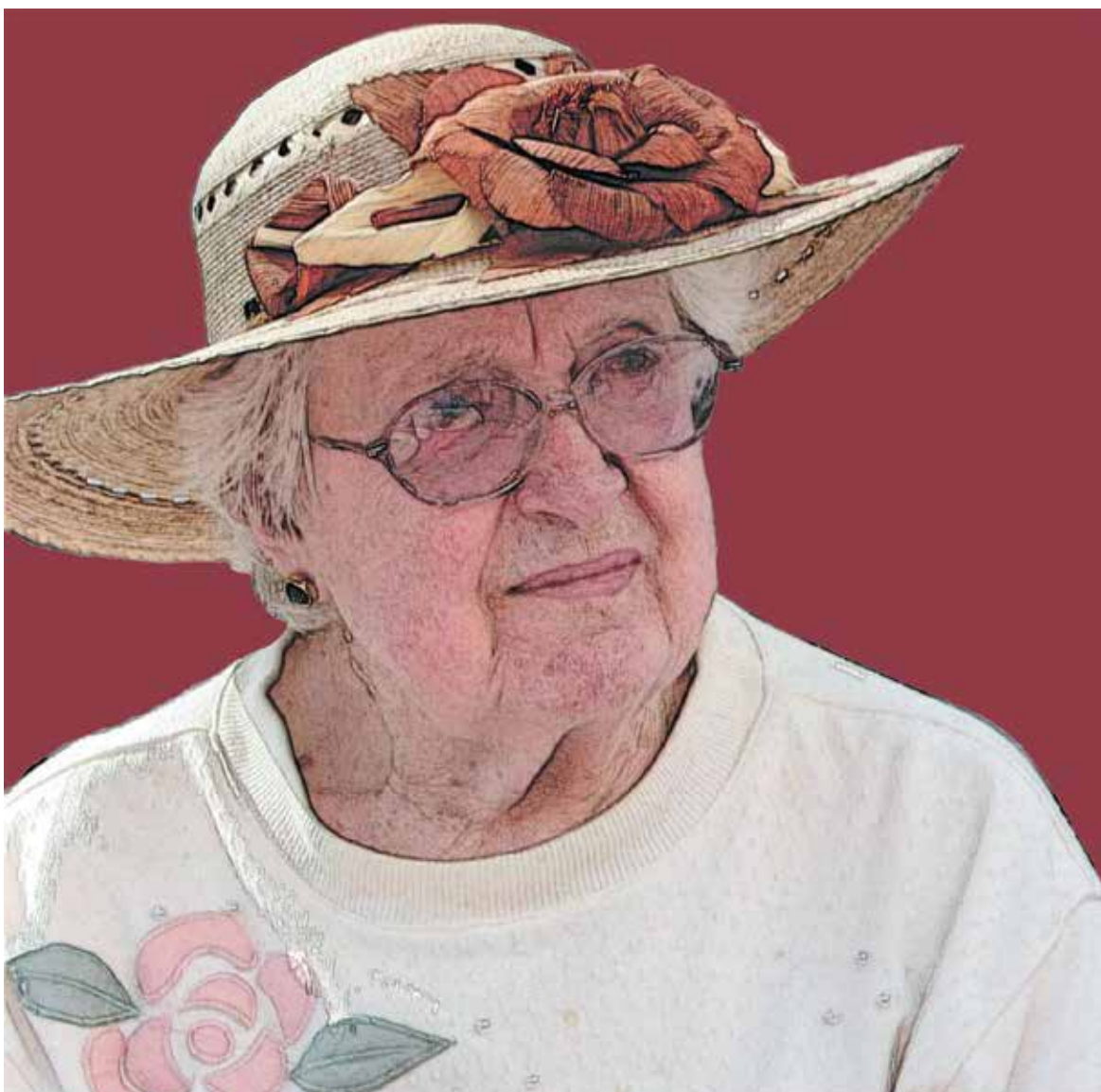
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2438 Bloomington 612-729-3526





BY CRYSTAL TRAUTNAU WINSCHITL AND HARVEY WINJE

Viola (Vi) Mary DeMars passed away at the age of 91 years on April 29th, 2014. This is a huge loss for the Phillips West Neighborhood. Vi was a 20+ year resident of 2615 Park Avenue Building and a very active

member of the Greater Phillips Neighborhood for decades. Vi and her family lived north of Franklin Avenue for decades in the portion of the Community now called Ventura Village during which time she was an very active member of Phillips Neighborhood Improvement Association. Vi has

been active in Phillips West since its inception up until February 2011 when a stroke prompted her to move to the MN Masonic Nursing Home in Bloomington for special care.

Vi was a 'fixture' at Phillips West Neighborhood Community Meetings. Many neighbors know

## Vi DeMars , one of many exceptional Phillips matriarchal leaders of her generation has died

her because she staffed the sign in table at all neighborhood meetings. She was very active in the mid 1980's effort to save the Phillips Community Center swimming pool and supported similar efforts starting in 2005. She also held campaign fundraisers and worked to get a lot of our current and former officials elected. Vi will be greatly missed by the Phillips West Neighborhood Organization Board and by many members of the entire Community.

For over five decades there has been a large ensemble of exceptional elders in the Phillips Community. Many of the most staunch and persevering have passed away. Many of them were men; but Phillips seemed to have an unusual amount of matriarchal elders each of whom had unique characteristics and practiced their community commitment in as unique ways whether phone calling, cooking, running meetings, lobbying, caring for their own children and the children of others and on the list could go. Vi was one of those who was always there helping to do what needed to be done. At some risk of exclusion, these names come readily to mind Signe Anderson, Mabel

Batcher, Juanita Christenson, Helen Gattton, Rafala Green, Ruby Ingenhutt, Muriel Simmons, Margaret Spangler, Elayne Stately, Maxine Tykwinski, Elvera Wetternach, Winona Wilson and there are many more. Each had inherent, individual characteristics and ways in which they served, but similar in all was their dedication and perseverance to make life better for those around them within family, next door neighbors or across the neighborhood.

Here is a new cadre' of women who have taken up the work of those now gone and they are the stronger and better for having had these mentors.

Vi was amongst them for decades and we truly thank her for her selfless contributions to make the neighborhood a better place! Funeral arrangements were directly across the street from 2615 Park at Thomson-Dougherty Historic Funeral Home. Vi's funeral was held on Monday May 5th at the Church of Saint Albert the Great at 11 a.m. Many neighbors came to honor Vi and it was a beautiful service. Interment was at St. Mary's Cemetery, Mpls.

## Nålbinding – An ancient needlework technique thriving at Ingebretsen's

BY CARSTENS SMITH

"Nålbinding is one of the oldest needlework techniques known," explains Renata Fossett. "It's a technique for creating fabric from a strand of yarn, using a single needle, with which you weave the yarn back on itself. The simplest nålbinding stitch is similar in construction to chain maille." This technique is ancient – the earliest example was found in an Israeli cave and dates from 6500 B.C. – and is found all over the world. People in areas as disparate as Taiwan, northern Mexico, and Greenland used nålbinding to create durable fabric. But the part of the world where nålbinding took hold and is still used to make cozy hats, mittens, and slippers is in the Scandinavian countries.

Renata learned to nålbinding nine years ago when she was in California. A member of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Renata was researching Viking age customs around 900 A.D. Shortly after learning, she began to demonstrate the craft at Viking re-enactments. "It's an unusual craft and people were interested in watching and learning about it. It's also a craft better suited to an area where it's cool enough to wear what you make," says Renata. Now a resident of Minnesota, she

got to test out her nålbinding garments thoroughly this past winter. They passed the test.

Renata is sharing her skills in upcoming classes at Ingebretsen's. She is teaching a single-session class on the Korgen stitch on Saturday, June 14 and a 3-session class starting on June 21 where students learn to make a tomte hat (Some may call it a stocking hat, but teachers have naming rights and Renata says this is a tomte hat.) For complete information, visit [www.ingebretsens.com](http://www.ingebretsens.com) or call 612.729.9333.

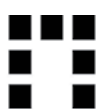


### Looking for Affordable Health Care Coverage?

#### Portico Healthnet Can Help!

**Thanks to support from the Allina Backyard Initiative, Portico Healthnet can:**

- Help you apply for Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare
- Enroll you in Portico's Primary and Preventive Health Care Program if eligible



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“Get-Togethers”  
Enliven  
Community

Many Minnesotans romanticize and await the Great “Get Together” Minnesota State Fair as a signal of end to summer and of “back to school” and Fall.

Many residents of South Minneapolis begin “get togethers” much earlier beginning at MayDay and happening every week somewhere throughout the neighborhoods. The “get-togethers” range from family bar-b-ques to block parties, park festivals, independence day events, National Night Out and, of course, watching sporting events at local parks and stadiums.

Some “get togethers” happen spontaneously, others are planned months ahead and some are annual repeats replete with traditional games and foods.

The photos here are of the 17th Avenue ‘Tween 27th and 28th Streets Block Club that began their 3 or 4 for this summer on May 10th. Their block club “get to together” depends on the hosting leadership of Rose Gbadamassi with dependable back-up help from Claudia Sagos who also took these photos.

Larger festivals this summer are:  
East Phillips Fest June 22nd  
Midtown Phillips Festival  
National Night Out August 5th  
Mad Dads Senior Pride Day August 15th

Summer Park Highlights

Cedar Avenue Fields, East Phillips,  
Peavey, Phillips, Stewart PARKS

fast facts  
about the Five Parks  
in YOUR Community

4  
Recreation Centers  
(East Phillips, Peavey, Phillips, Stewart)

4  
Playgrounds

3  
Wading Pools

8  
Multipurpose sports fields, including  
two artificial turf fields

\$7.1 million  
invested in park improvements  
since 2009

\$2.5 million  
slated for improvements between  
2014-2019

\$650,000  
invested annually for maintenance,  
operations and recreation programs  
and services



Minneapolis  
Park & Recreation Board

Summer Events

- Many celebrations featuring music, food, art and fun family activities
- [www.minneapolisparks.org/events](http://www.minneapolisparks.org/events)

Youth Day Camps

- New sports, arts, nature and culture camps
- [www.minneapolisparks.org/daycamps](http://www.minneapolisparks.org/daycamps)

Water Fun and Safety

- Swim lessons for ages 1-18; fee assistance available
- FREE Water Safety Clinics for ages 5-14
- [www.minneapolisparks.org/aquatics](http://www.minneapolisparks.org/aquatics)

Outdoor Movies (15 minutes after sunset)

- FREE movies in the parks, including Stewart
- [www.mplsmusicandmovies.com](http://www.mplsmusicandmovies.com)

Recreation Centers

- Gyms, craft rooms, kitchens, room rentals
- 60+ summer programs for youth, teens and adults: sports, arts, fitness, nature
- FREE summer lunch program and soccer clinics
- [www.minneapolisparks.org/reccenters](http://www.minneapolisparks.org/reccenters)





# Running Wolf Fitness Center and Connie Norman

BY LYDIA CAROS

Connie Norman was the face of Running Wolf Fitness Center (RW) for 4 years. She was a tireless worker who believed in the program and in promoting health in the local Native American community. She was a teacher/trainer for the Living In Balance classes at NACC and offered the classes to other Native organizations for years, as well as training community members to teach the class. Managing the Running Wolf program was a natural extension of those efforts. When NACC and IHB started to co-manage the Running Wolf program, it was clear that funding was going to be the most difficult issue. The clinics tried very hard to provide funding for the program; but neither clinic was able to fund the entire program out of their operational funds. Both clinics spent a significant amount of staff time and funding, but their financial support was meant to be temporary. It was made clear at the onset that outside funding was going to be necessary.

Connie worked valiantly to keep RW going. Funding continued to be a challenge, and we think that foundations may have been wary of funding a project

that had TWO non-profits managing it, since RW was not an independent entity. Despite the constant stress of funding worries, Connie reached out to the community and encouraged people to exercise. Many in the community have benefitted, and there have been several articles in the past attesting to wonderful life-changing results from individuals starting a regular exercise program at Running Wolf. Connie was there to cheer them on and advise them. She also reached out to all the local Native organizations encouraging participation. Her networking abilities were stunning.

When it was clear that stable and adequate funding was not going to come in (after two years of trying), the clinics had to close the program- the clinics had actually extended the ending time in the hopes that some significant funding could come from the tribes. Although there was a lot of effort, and some help with funding, particularly from Mille Lacs, there wasn't enough to save the program. The decision to close RW was painful and very difficult for all involved. The Phillips Center Park Board offered to keep the space open in the interim while MAIC works on



MAIC is able to open RW again. The clinics are no longer involved in any of the management at the Phillips Center Park Board space. We appreciate that the space is available for the community to use, but we do continue to hope that RW can be reborn at MAIC someday soon.

It's a challenging time for those of us who work in health care, with many changes and costly technological adjustments required by the state and federal funders. In the midst of that, we don't want to lose sight of the contributions of individuals like Connie Norman, who worked for many years in the Native American community to promote wellness. We appreciate all the energy and focus she provided and the opportunities she gave to so many to improve their health. We wish her the very best.

THANK YOU, CONNIE NORMAN!

From all the staff at Native American Community Clinic and Indian Health Board

Dr. Lydia Caros is a pediatrician and CEO of Native American Community Clinic



## JOIN THE GREENWAY GLOW RIDE During Northern Spark on the Greenway, June 14th: 9:01pm

This year, when you ride the Glow, you'll receive a Wild Earth Wood Fired pizza; a decadent ice cream social sponsored by Whole Foods; and a free ticket to an exclusive after-party, sponsored by New Belgium Brewing and the Great Room Restaurant at the Sheraton Midtown! Get together a team and Early-bird registration ends June 1st.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

The Greenway needs volunteers and captains to help make the night a success. Volunteers will work in 3-hr shifts to support artists and provide direction for



festival attendees. You'll receive a glow necklace and a spiffy glow-in-the-dark Greenway t-shirt as a special thanks. Keep your eye out for our wonderful volunteer captains - they'll be wearing Dr. Seuss hats for vertical visibility!

## St. Paul's Lutheran Church & In The Heart Of The Beast Puppet And Mask Theater to Expand Phillips Avenue of The Arts This Summer



Our goal is to "re-brand" Midtown Phillips as an arts destination through engaging neighbors to create powerful works of public art that connect the community. Connected neighbors creating beautiful arts pathways will help build a safer, more united community. Our plans include:

- Build the May Day Parade route along Bloomington Avenue into a year round visual showcase for murals, banners, gatherings and performances.
- Integrate native plantings and urban agriculture with mosaics, photography and poetry, along the "Green Arts Pathway" (First leg: 15th Avenue, Lake to 27th Sts.)
- Implement quality workshops in murals, puppets, projection, theater, mosaics, poetry, stilt walking, photography and other arts at Heart of the Beast and St. Paul's, as well as in community gardens, residents' yards and other groups.
- Organize one-on-one conversations and actions with the Avenue of the Arts area, energizing the remarkable talents of Midtown Phillips people.
- Train adults and youth artists in Midtown to be "Arts Pollinators" developing their artistic talents and building strong connections with other residents.
- Develop formal and spontaneous celebrations along the Avenue of the Arts, to celebrate the neighborhood and invite others to join.

Watch for more details!

# East Phillips SummerFest

It's time to **CELEBRATE** in **East Phillips Park** **Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>** from **1:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

Minneapolis Park and Recreation in Partnership with **The East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC)** and

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

Food	Entertainment	Fun & Games
Holy Rosary Kitchens	Holy Rosary's Youth	Inflated Bouncers & Slides
Sandi's Grill & Italian Ice	Willie Murphy	Kids Games & Competitions
Taco Taxi	Inti Samay	Soccer Clinic
Fantastic Resource Tables	Chinelos	Gunny-sac-races
Police Robots & Horses	The Little Thunderbirds	Tug-of-War

Don't miss this! **Bring your family and Invite your friends**

**PARTY in the PARK** **Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>** **1:00 PM to 8:00**

East Phillips Improvement Coalition Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board



The Great Bdote

To the near southeast of this part of the world lies the vista of the Minnesota and Mississippi river valleys. The span of this bdote (a place where two waters come together) is central to our indigenous spirituality. Presently, the Mendota (bdote) Bridge is a convenient way to cross over.

It is also known that Franklin Avenue rests upon an ancient path from the Mississippi to lakes west of here. One may follow this path beyond its ending (and back through time some 35,000 years) to the foothills of the Altai Mountains of Central Asia. You will find there a place where the Sapien people encountered the Neanderthal.

The Sapiens, late arrivals that they were, wisely chose to offer gifts. As it happened, a young woman named Tanya was brought forward. Indeed, she did embrace her destiny.

The dwelling of initial procreation was entered through an archway of Mammoth tusks. The domed framework of skeletal remains glowed magically in the light of flickering fire.

Come the morning time, Tanya gladly joined a women's foraging group which focused on the gathering of dry dung heaps. The fat white grubs found beneath were plucked as a treat for the children who followed. Her own hunger was satisfied by tender morsels of sprouted



PETER MOLENAAR  
Raise Your Voice

seed. Later, Tanya imagined, she would demonstrate the use of bitter herbs in the preparation of meat.

It was inevitable that Tanya would, in due time, be drawn to the man called Baba. He was fit and exceptionally well adorned in his full attire. He was also a skilled hunter who shared with all the people.

As was the local custom, they were to ascend together the most prominent of the neighboring hills. Baba then attempted to convey that the birthplace of all life lay beneath them. Tanya was simply content with his caress of the developing roundness of her own form. The disagreement went unnoticed amidst their shared contemplation of the stars.

They would never speak of what they saw there...the melting of all ice...THE GREAT BDOTE...nor even the rebirth. More than anything else, they were in love.

Frank Reflections  
“Land of the Free” and “Freedom of Speech” predates white settlers arrival’ Who Knew?

BY FRANK ERICKSON

I find Dakota Nation history, since the arrival of the white Europeans, to be still so raw, current and painful, while others will see it as the distant past.

A quick hit 90 second “Minnesota History Moment” on PBS radio, had a man from Fong du Lac, talk about being put in an Indian boarding school in the 1960’s as a little boy. At night before going to sleep, he said one boy would start crying, and then the boy in the next bed would start crying, until the whole room was crying; Broken-hearted from being separated from their families. As a white man, who grew up in Minnesota having everything I needed and being very wealthy, it is so hard to hear such accounts. Dominate cultures, without even realizing it, can break and crush the outsiders.

The white man calls it the “land of the free,” and has taken credit for that freedom, but everything was free around here before Whites arrived, and Natives never called it “land of the free,” I just was.

The whites gave North America ‘freedom of speech,’ but everyone was free to speak and express themselves before whites arrived.

What the Europeans brought over from the Old World was not freedom, that was already here, what they brought was the sickness of control.

Natives had no concept of “freedom of speech,” which is rooted in the sickness of control. Whether you suppress or protect freedom of speech, you are taking possession of it. The fact the Natives had no knowledge of what freedom of speech was, is proof that Natives were spiritually and intellectually more advanced than whites.

Natives had never thought of taking anyone’s right to speak, that was the white man’s wonderful gift he gave to North America.

You are experiencing an enormous amount of arrogance, when you inform people that you are protecting their freedom to speak...you are taking control of them, and it is dangerous to assume they want your protection. Your arrogance and need to control, has you blinded to the fact that you are the problem.

Imagine how things would have gone down, if Natives had approached whites with a plan to protect the white man’s “freedom of speech”---whites would have felt threatened.

Reminiscing on 40 MayDays in South Minneapolis

BY WIZARD MARKS

Before May is no more than a dream, the 40th annual Mayday Parade on May 4th. Still as fresh and surprising as the first one. There is nothing which displays the ethos of South Minneapolis as Mayday. It was an interesting take on the situation to see the kids and grandkids of the original paraders marching down Bloomington Av. Kinda dates me, but so what. A shout-out has to go to Sandy Spieler and her merry pranksters for keeping such a production together for 40 years. Way to go!

Wizard Marks is a Central,Neighborhood resident Mpls



Sinsinawa Dominican Convent  
2448 18th Avenue  
Christus Community,  
An Almond Tree House and Southside Family Nurturing Center

This proud building at 25th and 18th has been the home of many community projects, and ideas including the first office and dark room of The Alley Newspaper over the last 123 years.

On Friday May 30th the 40th Anniversary of Southside Family Nurturing Center will be celebrated there. SFNC started at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church and moved t this corner in the mid 80’s.

Originally built by the Dominican Sisters the building continues to serve its neighbors well.

**DAVE MOORE AND LINDA HADWAY © 1991 + 2014**

**1991 Alley Cartoon**

**WHAT'S GANG ON?**

**SINCE 1991**

Appalled by stinking toxin-contaminated poisoned air, gangs of concerned citizens built Green Institute, Greenway, Sabo bridge, power station and Smiley's Clinic.

**NOW:** Native & Somali gangs conduct shooting drug wars -- all for something you can inhale which will change your life forever.

**Auto-bus-truck-biker gangs rip up & through the streets farting rumbling monoxide exhaust.**

**Take a puff \*\* CHIC**

**\*\* it's Springtime \*\* just don't inhale ! ;**

**THEN: 1991**

**Bizness gangs rule our air:**

**Smith Foundry, appropriately next to the cemetery, grand-fathered as industrial when the rail yards were scrapped,**

**spews sharp (benzene burn?) odor saturating the air.**

**MORE 1991**

**Bituminous Roadways—belching ass-fault stacks and big trucks fill the air with cloudy ominous rumbling. Like a slow volcano. its reeking black lava creeps burning blob-like over everything.**

**TRAFFIC CITY ASPHALT RECYCLING PLANT**

**SMITH FOUNDRY**

**BITUMINOUS ROADWAYS**

**SOOT-LIVE-DUP**

**OLD AND NEW TRANSFER STATION**

**LONGFELLOW AVE**

**RESIDENTS MODEL CHIL**

**DESERT STORM SURPLUS GAS MASKS**

**SURELY the government gang would stop this if it was bad for us. Right ?**





# BACKYARD INITIATIVE BACK PAGE



BYI AREA



**Please Join Us & Celebrate  
June 21<sup>st</sup> 2014**  
Time: 1:00PM-8:00PM  
Contact Information  
612-255-3524  
info@kajoog.org

**1<sup>st</sup> July**  
**SOMALI**  
INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVAL  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 2014

**W Lake Street Between Blaisdell Ave. & Grand Ave.**

Join in on the BYI's "Stepping" classes-**EVERY Tuesday evening, 6:30 pm at the Midtown Global Market! FREE!**  
Classes taught by "Stepping" instructor, Kevin Johnson. For more information, call the Cultural Wellness Center, 612-721-5745.  
Exercise with us and have fun!



Harvey Wine

**MISSION**  
Project S.E.L.F. (Save, Educate, Liberate, Free)  
cooperative community dream in motion anchored by conscious voices made of youth, elders, and families within the east African diaspora communities. Our focus is to address conditions and create awareness for sustainable better outcomes through assessment dialogues, cultural approaches and artistic expression platforms.

Project SELF is a Community Health Action Team CHAT, anchored by THE BACKYARD INITIATIVE

Project S.E.L.F.  
presents  
A Nomadic Expression Workshop Series

*Stories Of My Abstract Life Interrupted*  
**S. O. M. A. L. I**

Poetry Recording | Documentary | Art Gallery | Forum | Essays

A multimedia presentation narratives from the Somali community within the "Backyard" and beyond the diaspora communities. Project SELF's Citizen Health Action Team CHAT present 'SOMALI' (*Stories Of My Abstract Life Interrupted*). A creative five part series utilizing various platforms to retell the Somali experience through the lens, voices and opinions of such abstract society, despaired dreams and interrupted nomadic culture.

#SOMALI #SUMMER2014 #PROJECTSELF #NOMADICEXPRESSION

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