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# the Alley

## NEWSPAPER

OF, BY, AND FOR ITS READERS SINCE 1976  
 NOVEMBER 2017 • VOLUME 42, NUMBER 11

December

13

American  
 Swedish  
 Institute's  
 Phillips  
 Community  
 Neighbors Night



# THANK YOU!

There would be NO Alley Newspaper without our regular \*PAID (full or partial) PAGE CONTRIBUTORS:

- The Backyard Initiative: page 8
- Ventura Village Neighborhood Organization: page 5
- East Phillips Improvement Coalition: page 4
- Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Improvement Association: page 4
- Phillips West Neighborhood Organization: page 2
- Friends of the Cemetery: usually on page 3

AND our regular, monthly advertisers featured below.

Please join in saying Thank YOU to all of them!

\*Contact us if you would like to consider becoming a Paid Page Contributor or Advertiser.

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 6pm Chapel  
 7pm Meal, men's clothes

**Tuesday nights**  
 5pm Set Free (12 Step)  
 7pm Chapel  
 8pm Meal, women's clothes

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

**Thursday afternoons**  
 12pm Quilt & layette sign-ups  
 Christian movie  
 Child care for those in attendance  
 \*1pm Ladies' Day Chapel  
 2pm Meal, women's, infants' & Children's clothing

1112 East Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404  
 612-870-9617 www.MarieSandvikCenter.org

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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, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Susan Gust, Linnea Hadaway, Hennepin County Franklin Library and Staff, Hennepin County Traffic, Sue Hunter Weir, Midtown Greenway, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Minneapolis Swims, Peter Molenaar, Dave Moore, Maggie Moran, Brad Pass, Carol Pass, Phillips 50+ Wellness, Phillips West Neighborhood, Julie Roles, Sunny Sevigny, Crystal Trautnau Windschitl, John Charles Wilson.

**Delivery:** To every Phillips Community residence by Sara Nelson Delivery; to 170 businesses, places of worship, institutions in Phillips and adjacent neighborhoods by Peter Molenaar

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

**Monthly Alley Communication Board Meetings: 6:30 PM 3rd Wed. Call for Location.**

Letters and e-mails to Alley Communications and/or its Editor become the property of Alley Communications dba The Alley Newspaper and may be chosen for publication.

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**Co-Editor & Designer:** Jonathan Miller jmiller@alleynews.org Robert Albee, Ventura Village News Editor; Brad Pass East Phillips Editor, Sunny Sevigny, Midtown Phillips News Editor; Susan Ann Gust, BYI Section

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

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

**Deadline for Dec. issue is November 15**

The Alley Newspaper is a Member of  
  
 Give. And light a fire under inequality.  
 www.changeisbetter.com  
 651-647-0440

*\*Franklin Library will be closed on Saturday, November 11th for Veteran's Day and Thursday, November 23rd for Thanksgiving Day.*

#### Youth and All Ages

#### Read Aloud Book Club

**Mondays, 3:30-4:30 pm**

Grades 4-6. Join other kids to talk about a great book! No pre-reading required! We will share a book and discuss.

#### K-12 Homework Help

**Tues, Wed, & Thurs, 3:30-7:30 pm.**

Free in-person tutoring for K-12 students. No advance sign-up needed. For more information, see [www.hclib.org/homework](http://www.hclib.org/homework).

Sponsor: Friends of the Hennepin County Library.

#### Family Storytime

**Friday, November 3, 17 & 24,**

**10:30-11 am.** For children of all ages and their parent or caregiver.

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

#### Franklin Teen Center Programs

#### Teen Tech Workshop

**Wednesdays, 5-6:30 pm.** Get creative and make music, videos, animation and other projects using both high- and low-tech tools, everything from iPads and 3D printers to synthesizers and sewing machines. Led by the library's Teen Tech Squad.

#### Dhalinta Horumar sare rabta /

#### Young Achievers

**Thursdays, November 2, 9 &**

**16, 4:30-6 pm.** U dabaaldag Dhaqanka Soomalida, sameyso

## 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**

saaxiibo cusub iyo in aad isticmaasho hab nololeed cafimaad leh. Lamaane: WellShare International. Celebrate Somali culture, make new friends and practice healthy lifestyles. Partner: WellShare International.

**Teen Anime Club**  
**Saturday, November 3, 3-4:30 pm.** Discuss manga and share artwork. Something different every time!

**Franklin Learning Center: 612-543-6934**

The Franklin Learning Center offers free, one-to-one tutoring for adults who are learning English and math, preparing for the GED and citizenship exams, and gaining life skills. We are always looking for community volunteers! No experience necessary; we provide training and materials. Contact us at 952-847-2934 or [fllc@hclib.org](mailto:fllc@hclib.org).

## Tai Chi Starts Tuesday, November 7, at Ebenezer Tower

BY JULIE ROLES

Phillips Wellness 50+ invites you to participate in Tai Chi sessions with master trainer, Richard Johnson, starting November 7 at Ebenezer Tower. The sessions are geared to people of all abilities, and everyone is welcome.

Tai Chi, an ancient Chinese tradition, is a form of exercise that uses slow, deliberate movements. Rather than using muscle tension, Tai Chi focuses on coordination, relaxation and deep breathing. With its gentle stretching and low impact, it has become a sought after technique for older people to maintain good health. It can be practiced any time, anywhere and by anyone. No equipment or special space is needed.

Benefits of Tai Chi may include:

- Improved heart function
- Increased energy and stamina
- Improved stress management
- Improved muscle strength
- Mental calm and clarity
- Better balance and flexibility to prevent falls

Join us for six Tai Chi sessions: Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 PM from November 7



through December 12 at Ebenezer Tower, 2523 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55404.

These sessions are open to the public but non-Ebenezer residents please contact Donna Nordin at 612-741-5180 or [dnordin2@comcast.net](mailto:dnordin2@comcast.net) to let us know you are coming.

Our leader is Richard Johnson, a Tai Chi master with experience working with people at all levels of fitness. Richard also teaches Tai Chi in churches, health clubs and at Lifetime Fitness.

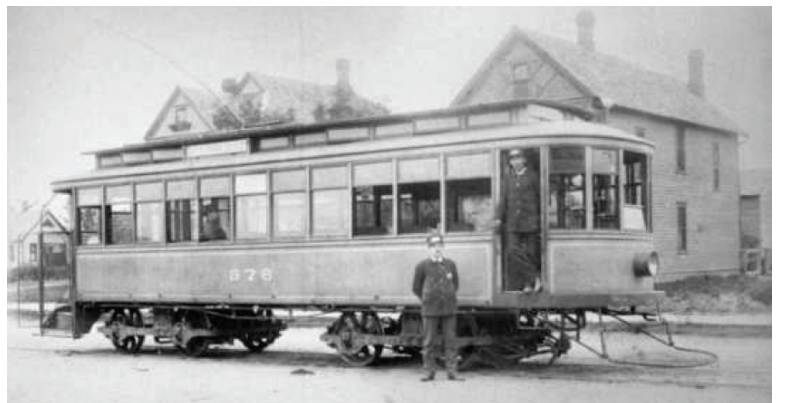
Phillips Wellness 50+ is an initiative to increase health and well-being, by and for people in the Phillips neighborhood.

### THANK YOU!

**The Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Series gives Thanks to its Readers and Supporters as it is Absent with Leave in November but preparing the 152<sup>nd</sup> Tale from Pioneer and Soldiers Cemetery to be in the December 2017 issue of The Alley Newspaper.**

### Transit

## Streetcars, Light Rail



BY JOHN CHARLES WILSON

There is no directly Phillips-related transit news this month, so I'd like to take this opportunity to write about streetcars.

As you may know, the Riverview Corridor Advisory Committee is proposing a modern streetcar line down West 7<sup>th</sup> Street connecting the Green Line in downtown Saint Paul with the Blue Line at Fort Snelling.

Modern streetcars are nothing like the old-fashioned streetcars that plied the Twin Cities until 1954. Essentially a modern streetcar is like a one-car light rail train.

However, streetcars, both modern and ancient, have two major flaws that caused their abolition and should ring warning bells in the minds of those who advocate their return: 1) They run in the street, in the same lanes used for automobiles. 2) They can't be rerouted in an emergency; say, during a parade or when the street is being fixed. And what's the joke about Minnesota having two seasons? Winter and road construction. At least rail beats buses in a snowstorm. During the Blizzard of 2010, buses were pulled off the streets but the light rail ran the rest of the day.

Light rail, on the other hand, usually has its own right-of-way or at least its own lane. Its efficiency derives from its separation from automobile traffic. That is why the Blue Line is significantly faster than the Green Line.

Since the basic difference between light rail and modern



streetcars is the length of the train, it is possible to have "streetcars" that don't run in the street. One such proposal is to run a streetcar in the Midtown Greenway between the future Southwest light rail and the Blue Line stop at Lake Street. Now that would be a good use for a streetcar – a faster alternative to bus route 21.

Most of the other streetcar proposals in the Twin Cities will do little or nothing to relieve traffic congestion, and will probably make it worse by blocking traffic. The only reasons these projects are so popular with transit authorities are: 1) They qualify as "capital improvements" which are eligible for federal funding; and 2) They appeal to tourists and developers. These may be legitimate reasons to favour it, but we should be fully informed before jumping on the bandwagon.

Next month, I will probably write about the December schedule changes and/or the completion of the Nicollet Mall project in time for the Super Bowl. Keep your eyes peeled!

## The Alley Newspaper has...

- **Published 100 "Spirit of Phillips" cartoons by Dave Moore and Linnea Hadaway bringing quotations of Wendell Phillips forward from 1811-1884.**
- **Published 151 Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery by Sue Hunter Weir.**
- **Published "Searching", a Nouvelle by Patrick Cabello Hansel with one Chapter each month for 30 months.**
- **Written Chapter 12, "The Phillips Community of Mpls.: Historical Memory and the Quest for Social Justice" in 2016 book by LSU Press, Wendell Phillips Social Justice and the Power of the Past; the 20th Vol. in Antislavery, Abolition, and the Atlantic World series.**
- **Distributed "Phoenix of Phillips," Literature and Art from Semilla Center for the Arts and Healing for three years.**

## The Alley is for sale...

- **Subscriptions mailed First Class for \$36.00 / year.**
- **Ads for \$7.50 per square inch; \$1200. per page or fractions thereof with discounts for repetition.**
- **Ads Organizational news sent 'camera-ready' for \$3.75 per square inch; \$600. per page or fractions thereof.**



## The Roof Depot Site

## What do we want? A Change for the Better or More of the Same?

*Come to a Community Meeting to express your thoughts and help us seek a positive and healthy future!*

**Thursday, Nov. 30th Mtg. at EPCCC 6:30 PM**



Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30  
PM at the East Phillips Park  
Cultural & Community Center.

BY CAROL PASS,

“Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.” (The first Core Principle of Community Engagement, endorsed by the Minneapolis City Council in 2007)

Four years ago, the East Phillips Community began again trying to rid ourselves of the major pollution in the industrial sites on the South side of E. 28<sup>th</sup> St. East of Cedar Ave. This led to a look across the street at the 7-acre Roof Depot site. We created a research team, engaged a developer and began inquiries and negotiations with the owners to purchase it. The vision was, and still is, to create an Indoor Urban Farm with a bicycle repair facility, a coffee shop, a small farm produce store to provide year-round organic produce and an outlet for local artisans along with a job training facility to provide quality jobs for the local community.

Then the City of Minneapolis stepped in and informed us that they been planning, for over a decade without informing us, to buy the site and move the City Water Works there with its many diesel trucks and huge additional traffic... intensifying, not reducing, the pollution problem...so much for the call to involve all of us in the decision-making stated in the City's *first Core Principle of Community Engagement!*

Faced with the East Phillips community's strong resolve to move ahead with our positive vision for the future of East

Phillips, the city began talking the language of Eminent Domain to compel their own purchase of the 7-acre site. The Roof Depot owners caved to the threat and the City now owns all 7-acres.

In an after-the-fact attempt to appear fair to the community and not in denial of their own stated principles, the City Council passed a resolution requiring Public Works to involve the community in discussion regarding how to use possible excess land at the site, in the unlikely event that there would be any. The City chose a few community members to serve on the Hiawatha Campus Expansion Project Guidelines Advisory Committee (GAC). They convened four meetings basically explaining why they could not accommodate our needs. This ended with their offering the community a tiny pocket of land, unsustainable for any project, and allowing the GAC members choices in a Survey Monkey and Dot-mocracy exercise of a few cute trimmings for the .8 acre piece of turf.

GAC members appropriately refused to participate and submitted their own well-developed plan for three of the 7-acres, the minimum necessary parcel size for a sustainable East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm Project. Representative Clark, who had been attending, stated again the community's desire to heal the problems the site creates for the neighborhood. At which point the City's frustration with our resolve to carry out the community's long-held wishes broke into the open and the lead of the City's GAC loudly and threateningly told Rep. Clark she could not speak and was not allowed to be there. She

walked out as did most of the rest of the committee. So ended our effort to be involved in the decision-making process after the City's decisions have already been made without us a decade ago.... Not a good recipe for success.

The community has continued its planning process in a collaboration of Tamales y Bicicletas, DJR Architecture, EPIC, Little Earth of United Tribes, Somali Family Chemical Awareness, Precision Green Houses, Women's Environmental Institute and many neighbors. A comprehensive future-oriented plan has been formed. The collaborators on the Indoor Urban Farm project came

together under the name East Phillips Neighborhood Institute (EPNI) and sought and received a planning grant of \$319,000 from the State of Minnesota because of its job creating potential for this challenged area and population.

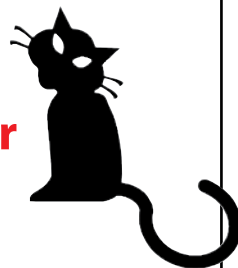
The EPNI presented a position paper to Public Works and the City outlining its request of an “L” shaped three-acre parcel which includes saving a portion of the existing historic building which the City plans to demolish. Three acres is the minimum parcel size necessary to provide sustainability and deliver on the jobs potential supported by the State of Minnesota.

EPNI and Community Members are in communication with City Council members, the Mayor and other City Department heads for their support for this critical Environmental Justice and Jobs project.

**Come to the Community Meeting and see the Community Plan and the City Plan. What do you think? Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center located at 2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55404.**

**Carol Pass, EPIC Board  
President**

# The Alley Newspaper is Bound for the Future



**The Alley Newspaper** is figuratively **Bound for the Future:**

- lifting every voice,
- agitating for change,
- advocating on issues,
- documenting history,
- connecting neighbors,
- facilitating deliberation, promoting art and culture.
- Community owned, volunteer driven,
- 501 C-3 Charitable non-profit,
- FREE!

**The Alley Newspaper** is literally **Bound for the Future** with all 42 years of monthly issues available online (in 2018) and bound into hard-cover volumes at Hennepin County's Franklin and Central Libraries.

**the Alley**  
NEWSPAPER

**The Alley Newspaper is provided  
FREE to our readers through:**

- workplace donations via Community Shares MN,
- GiveMN Nov 17th
- advertising income from occasional ads
- advertising income from our monthly Advertisers
- Paid Page Contributors

All of this support is highly valued. We have no “member drive”. Instead, we are driven by members like **YOU!** Please keep us “**driven**” by contributing in one of these key ways:

- 1. Get involved** in the transition of The Alley's "sole Editor" business model to?????
- 2. GiveMN.org** on November 16.
- 3. Check mailed to:** Alley Communications, P.O. Box 7006, Mpls., MN 55407 (no money is deducted for admin fees---it all stays in the pot!)



## Phillips Clean Sweep

Another HUGE Success!

Over eight hundred neighborhood folks walked all four Phillips' neighborhoods and collected 40,000 pounds of trash and metal, 31 appliances & TVs and 54 tires on the second Saturday of Oct. An amazing achievement!

**So, a Big THANKS to All!**

The reward for this herculean effort was a free breakfast, free cleaning stuff, a free T-Shirt, free Pumpkins at Welna Hardware, free Lunch, entertainment & neighborhood information tables at Stewart Park, AND walking the 'hood with friends and neighbors while making a better and cleaner place for us all.

Phillips Clean Sweep is an annual all volunteer effort of all four Phillips Neighborhoods and Little Earth. The budget is close to \$10,000 and is raised by small & large contributions from donors like you, all of whom are recognized on the back of the 400 Clean Sweep T-shirts given away each year.

*Save October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for next year's Phillips Clean Sweep Watch for the upcoming youth T-shirt Design Competition*



**Largest Breakfast Crowd Ever at Welna Hardware!**

## Roof Depot Site Something Better

See the Community plan for an Indoor Urban Farm

**Help Make This HAPPEN**

Come to the  
**Community Meeting**  
**Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM**  
**East Phillips Park –**  
**2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave S.**

**More trucks? Or something Organic & Green? Choose!**



## For your Calendar: \*

*To get involved in EPIC and East Phillips, Join us at any or all of the meetings below.*

**ROOF DEPOT Community Meeting** Wednesday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM  
At the East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center. 2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Mpls., 55404

**EPIC Board of Directors** - FIRST Saturday of the month – 11/4/17 & 12/2/17 at 10:00 AM  
Board Meetings are at 2433 Bloomington Ave. S.

**EPIC General Membership** - SECOND Thursday - 11/9/17 & 12/14/17 at 6:30 PM – Com. Cntr.  
Agenda includes Neighborhood Industrial Pollution, Crime Initiatives, and EPIC project updates.

**East Phillips Park Programming Partnership** - LAST Tuesday – 11/28/17 & 1/30/18 at 11:30 AM  
Lunch is served. There is no December meeting. Meetings are at the Community Center.

**Meeting Location:** All the above meetings and events are held at the  
East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center located at 2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. Except EPIC Board

**East Phillips Community 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. Gardeners** - SECOND Saturday during the gardening season, normally from April through September. Next meetings are Next Year Saturday, 4/14/2018 & 5/12/2018 at 9:00 AM in the Community Center at 2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. Subsequent meetings will be held in the Garden.

\* *East Phillips Residents wanting a 2018 Garden Plot, contact Brad Pass at 612-916-8478*

*Designed and Paid for by East Phillips Improvement Coalition*



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

## BOARD MEETING AGENDA:

Held every second Tuesday in Stewart Park

**Tuesday November 14, 6:30-8pm**

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

- I. Introductions
- II. Review and Approve October Minutes
- III. Financial Report  
—Review the 2016 IRS 990 and Attorney General Charities Division Annual Report
- IV. Discuss Community Partnerships
- V. Community Announcements and Public Comment

**Next board meeting: December 12, 2017**

## COMMUNITY MEETING AGENDA:

Held every fourth Tuesday at different location each month.

Check our website for locations: [www.midtownphillips.org](http://www.midtownphillips.org)

**Tuesday November 28, 6:30-8pm**

@ St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2742 15th Ave S., Minneapolis

- I. Introductions
- II. Review and Approve October Minutes
- III. Call for 2017 Partnership Proposals
- IV. 2016 Community Partner Presentations
- V. Community Announcements and Public Comment

**Please note there is no community meeting in December**

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

# VOTE 2017

## Next City-Wide Election: NOVEMBER 7, 2017

On Election Day, you must vote at your assigned polling place based on the precinct where you live.

All polling places are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. for regularly scheduled elections.

**To find polling locations:**  
<http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us>

**To register to vote:**  
<https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us>

**Learn about ranked choice voting:**  
<http://vote.minneapolismn.gov>

**Midtown Phillips residents may vote at:**

Andersen School  
2700 12<sup>th</sup> Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55407





## MASHKIIKII GITIGAN (24th Street Farm) Continues To Play A Significant Role in Phillips Community Wellness Efforts

Created in 2013 to help address community wellness and food justice issues, Mashkiikii Gitigan (*Ojibwe for “medicine garden”*) transformed a contaminated vacant lot owned by the Indian Health Board, into a robust community garden and gathering space. Residents and members of several community organizations created the “24th Street Urban Farm Coalition, to “create and nurture the culture and practice of local organic food production, healthy eating, healthy living and related activities along Phillips 24th Street Wellness Corridor and throughout the Phillips Community.”

Mashkiikii Gitigan’s role is to incorporate Native American values and cultural practices in their “farming, land stewardship and seed-keeping.” Four years later, classes and training sessions continue and new partnerships were established. Funding from Ventura Village, Pillsbury United Communities, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Lakewood, Wedge and Seward Food Co-ops, have allowed staff and volunteers to produce and sell food for low-income families through the *Four Sisters Market* (and grant) and continue to address food justice issues through its classes and hands-on trainings.

Waite House recently hosted the *Annual Harvest Feast* in its upstairs dining room with Chef Austin Bartold leading the volunteer culinary crew. More than thirty residents attended.

Hoop houses located off 14th Avenue and 24th Street afforded the opportunity to start growing earlier in the season. Staff and residents were

especially appreciative of White Earth’s Michael Norcross, an Anishinabe drum-maker from *Natives Against Heroin* who led efforts to prevent drug uses from using the hoop houses and garden land as injection sites, a problem the previous year. Addressing this issue also lends credibility that these wellness efforts also help reduce crime and mitigate livability issues.

Additional available land along Chicago Avenue across from Hope Academy has allowed the staff and volunteers to balance both efforts to produce and sell food for low-income families *and* continue providing food justice educational class sessions and community awareness gatherings.

In 2018, up to five community members will be invited to start their own personal 10’ x 10’ personal garden plots. With support from Seward Co-op, resident “medicine-makers” will use their herbalism experience and skills to develop and market *hydrosols* (flower waters produced by distilling fresh leaves, fruits, flowers and plant materials similar to essential oils). With guidance from Michele Manske, the Farm Manager and Waite House’s Emily Lund, Mashkiikii’s Meil Dragun, intern Natalia Stimac received Cottage-Industry-certification. Now they can collaborate with the City of Minneapolis to teach classes such as canning and food preservation, yet maintain current efforts to produce value-added products on available land sites.

One exciting project last summer brought the City’s lead-testing mobile van (Leaddy Eddy) to provide walk-up services to resident parents seeking to have children tested on-the-spot for lead poisoning. Participating parents whose homes were being tested for lead also received food boxes with vegetables that help mitigate lead poisoning. This program was coordinated by the City’s *Lead abatement* coordinator, Lisa Smeastad, and Jim Doten who conducts soil research related to lead contaminated land. — *Meil Dragun & Robert Albee*

## UPCOMING VENTURA VILLAGE MONTHLY MEETINGS:

WEDNESDAY, OCT 11TH: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, OCT 11TH: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 7:00 PM

TO BE ANNOUNCED: WELLNESS, GARDENING & GREENING: 6:30 PM

TUESDAY, OCT 24TH: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE: 6:00 PM

THURSDAY, OCT 26TH: HOUSING & LAND COMMITTEE: 5:30 PM

THURSDAY, OCT 26TH: CRIME & SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6:30 PM

All Residents Are Welcome to Participate: Visitors Welcome to Attend!



Mashkiikii Gitigan



**ABOUT MASHKIIKII GITIGAN:** The Medicine Garden is a project of the 24<sup>th</sup> Street Urban Farm Coalition. Coalition members include staff from Dream of Wild Health, Indigenous Peoples’ Task Force, Indian Health Board, Native American Community Clinic, Waite House, Women’s Environmental Institute, and Ventura Village Board members. All people are welcome and encouraged to participate in activities at Mashkiikii Gitigan. They are located across from the Indian Health Board at 1316 E. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Minneapolis. This is a project of the 24<sup>th</sup> Street Urban Farm Coalition. Coalition members include staff from Dream of Wild Health, Indigenous Peoples’ Task Force, Indian Health Board, Native American Community Clinic, Ventura Village, Waite House and Women’s Environmental Institute.



Ventura Village’s Bee Hives produced more than 10 gallons of honey for 2017! That translates into 130 jars containing 8 to 12 oz. each! Remember last year: our honey was contaminated by pesticides, so we’re overjoyed at this fantastic comeback! — *Mary Watson*

## UPCOMING VENTURA VILLAGE ELECTIONS

As 2017 ends, Ventura Village’s elected board members must decide to run again if their terms are completed, or help recruit new faces and new blood to our beloved neighborhood. Others whose strong minds and spirit are needed as more of us move on in our lives as we age. Being part of Ventura Village’s Board of Directors does not take extraordinary time commitments, but turning ideas into actions does take a greater commitment. *Four seats are elected/re-elected for 2018.*

Ventura Village’s Board of Directors Elections will be held in December with selection of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary & Treasurer in January, 2018. Reach out and recruit new friends and neighbors to Ventura Village and bring ‘em aboard to make more exciting change happen! Nominations must be made at least two weeks prior to the December 13th General Membership Meeting, so you must submit your name or nomination by leaving a voice message at 612.874.9070. Make sure to include the date and time of your call.



## "American Made"



### "American Made" (2017)

Action/ Biography/ Crime / Thriller/Comedy by Universal Pictures

★★★★☆

The key to the action/biography film "American Made" is no other than Tom Cruise, the same actor this director Doug Liman also uses in "Edge of Tomorrow" (2014). Cruise of course is the face of Mission Impossible films from 1996 to 2015, "The Mummy" (2017), "Jack Reacher: Never Go Back" (2016) and the late Stanley Kubrick's dreamy-eyed, mystery "Eyes Wide Shut" (1999); furthermore, Cruise's best work (may be behind him?) "Top Gun" (1986), "The Color of Money" (1986), "Risky Business" (1983), "Taps" (1981), "Born on the Fourth of July" (1989), "A Few Good Men" (1992) and "The Firm" (1993).

In "American Made" Mr. Cruise, plays Barry Seal, a real-life TWA pilot who is "bored" with his career and goes completely in the other direction by becoming a cocaine smuggler for the C.I.A. Seal's drastic career change seems unreal for several reasons what the movie generally ignores. Almost immediately Seal is known as "El Gordo" (the "Fat Man"), a name he may have acquired while taking loads of cocaine into Nicaragua, Panama, Guatemala or Columbia, or combination of these countries. But before I go on, Seal gets the "bright idea" of becoming a cocaine dealer from a shady C.I.A. runner for cocaine to support then - President Reagan's clandestine war against the Sandinistas in Nicaragua who overthrow U.S. backed ruthless dictator Anastasio Somoza. To drive the Sandinistas out of power, Reagan supports the Contras by smuggling cocaine for weapons for the Contras. The shady man I've been referring to is Monty Schafer (Domhnail Gleeson). And as far as Reagan is concerned, he creates one of the most sinister plots in American international affairs. And what the

movie never alludes to is the devastating effects the cocaine has on



### HOWARD MCQUITTER II Movie Corner

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black communities—in particular—back in the U.S.

Seal's job is to fly a small aircraft carrying cocaine to Nicaragua, Guatemala, Panama, Venezuela or Columbia. He has some near misses on takeoff as he barely misses the trees. Barry Seal's not only acts like a rogue he rather enjoys it. Even after being jailed briefly he never learns his lesson putting his wife Lucy Seal (Sarah Wright) and kid in jeopardy.

Moving to Mena, Arkansas, with his family where he thinks he'll be less likely to be detected by law authorities. Just the fact Seal has relocated to Mena has implications in real-life, a bundle of rumors that cocaine in the 1980s (which is the period the film is covering) went through Mena while Bill Clinton is governor.

But like so many other films about criminals—how can one criminal be trusted by another, even by a stupid move by greedy amateurs that doom the sordid endeavors altogether?

Cast: Tom Cruise (Barry Seal), Domhnail Gleeson (Monty Schafer), Sarah Wright (Lucy Seal), Caleb Landry Jones (J.B.). Running time: 115 minutes. Languages: Spanish and English. Director: Doug Liman.

## The Alley Newspaper has...

- **PUBLISHED SPECIAL FEATURES INCLUDING:**
- **American Indian Movement Interpretive Center's foray into international cultural expose' and marketing of White Earth Wild Rice in France: May & June 2017. page Special Sections.**
- **Tributes in the last two years to Martin Sabo, Jim Northrup, Helen Peterson, Corrine Zala and others.**
- **Thunder Before the Storm front page to announce the release of Clyde Bellecourt's Autobiography in 2016.**
- **Tribute of Vernon Bellecourt in Dec 2007 by Laura Waterman Wittstock**
- **Two months of Front Page covering the dilemma of offensive paintings at the State Capitol in 2016.**

## A Jones Sanctuary Masterpeice – Messiah's Church – Boarded and Unheated?

BY HARVEY WINJE

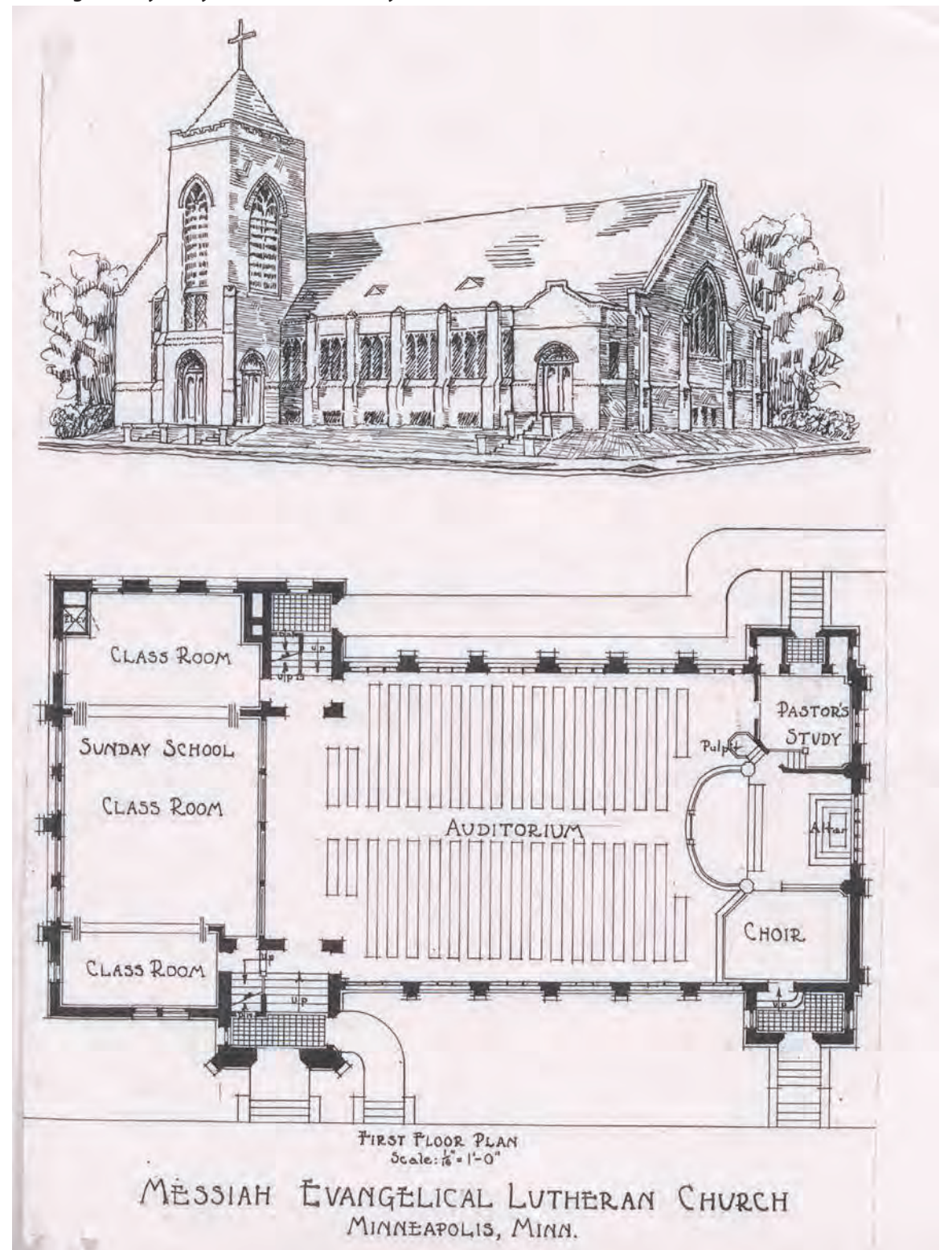
On October 10, Minneapolis' Heritage Preservation Commission voted unanimously to designate Messiah Lutheran Church. Their findings indicate that the church met at least three of the six criteria designated for landmark status. Those criteria are: 1). its association with distinctive elements of the city and neighborhood's identity (i.e., immigration), 2). its distinctive architecture and 3). its association with Harry Wild Jones, a master architect.

During the hearing Pastor Louise Britts announced that the congregation has served notice to their two, current congregational tenants that they will have to vacate by the beginning of November, that the church will be deconsecrated, and boarded on November 5th, and that the church will not maintain the property going forward.

The designation study for the church is online at: [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-204184.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-204184.pdf)



Drawing done by Harry Wild Jones nationally famous, church Architect





## Ready for Some Football?

I trust that no Vikings fan from this neighborhood has given up their seat or TV time to boycott the NFL. However, in D. Trump's words, those who "dishonor our flag" are "sons of bitches."

The historical "bitch" was, of course, the enslaved woman the master would rape...only to have her mixed-race children torn from her breast and sold "down river." These were the Black mothers who cradled the men who built the house D. Trump lives in now.

Charlottesville...

We witnessed the Nazis rally their friends, with an eye towards the "final solution."

To the consternation of "traditional conservatives," D. Trump did not fully condemn these forces. Yet, push come to shove, such conservatives will combine with the Fascists... democracy be damned. This too, we know from history.

Children ask: What happened to that nice [Black] man who was our president? Yet, some "leftists" denounce even a degree of unity with the Democratic Party. From an anti-fascist standpoint, they are dead wrong. From the standpoint of revolutionary socialist transfor-



PETER MOLENAAR  
*Raise Your Voice*

mation, such leftists are...wrong again!

Imagine, if you will, some few decades down the road, the collapse of the world capitalist order...so too, the "two parties of capitalism" will implode. Social-democratic forces, presently resigned to operating within the Democratic Party, will then of necessity join the effort to transform and rebuild society. It cannot be otherwise.

"Socialism or barbarism?"

What nation might evolve should white-supremacy reign supreme? None! Who are the patriots? We are the patriots.

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?



### Phillips Neighborhood Clinic NOVEMBER Highlights!

**Nov 6th:** The PNC and the **National Kidney Foundation** are teaming up to provide kidney health screenings and information about the importance of kidney health

**Nov 1st and 15th:** We will be hosting our '**MOVE**' night workout classes- **5 to 7 pm**

**Nov 20th:** Get your **EYES** checked and get some glasses at our ophthalmology specialty night

**Nov 27th:** We will be hosting our '**EAT**' night cooking class - **5 to 7 pm**

**Nov 30th:** PNC will host their monthly **FOOT** care night, including diabetic foot tests

**Monday Nights:** Students from the **University of Minnesota's College of LAW** to answer any legal questions you may have

**Monday's and Thursday's:** Walk-in **FLU SHOT** Clinic  
**Location:**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
**2742 15th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407**

**Hours:**

**Monday and Thursday from 6 - 9pm**

## The Alley Newspaper has...

- PROMOTED THE ART AND CULTURE OF:
- All My Relations Gallery
- Two Rivers Gallery
- Semilla Arts and Healing Center productions and creations
- In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre's productions and Venue Future
- Open Eye Figure Theatre
- Norway House
- Somali Museum
- American Swedish Institute

## The Alley Newspaper is also...

- "Bound for the Future,"
- Literally, reprinted by Hennepin County Library on quality paper, bound in hard cover volumes, and available at the Franklin Avenue Community Library and Downtown Main Library.
- figuratively, committed to continuing 42 successful years by reshaping itself meeting needs of the future.

- Online every month.
- Archived online by Hennepin County Library with all issues of 42 years archived and available to neighbors and researchers.
- Pleased to make community history easily available that is written by those who made it.
- Financially Supported by Reader donations, Organization News Partnerships, Business Advertising, and Community Shares Minnesota federated workplace giving.
- In its 42nd year of publication.
- Is a "Cat with 9 Lives"!

## The Alley is frugal...

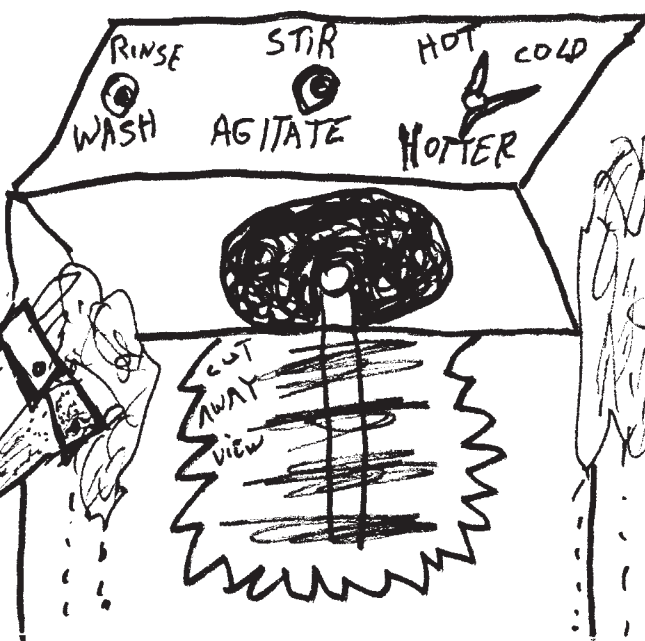
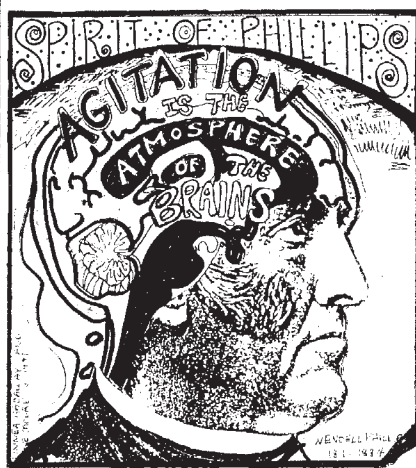
- \$ Judiciously prints less copies to impress but enough to be read.
- \$ Pays fairly when volunteer service is unavailable.



## "Agitation stirs

**all the Atmosphere into movement."**

(Wendell Phillips 1811-1884)



**"I chose to be an agitator.**

**The next time you put your underwear in the washing machine, take the Agitator out, and all you're going to end up with are some dirty wet drawers."**

(Dick Gregory 1933-2017)

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**





# BACKYARD INITIATIVE BACK PAGE



BYI AREA



SOMALI WOMEN, come and learn **Buraanbur** -- the lively, traditional Somali folk-dance. Join us at Brian Coyle Center, 420 15th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN, every **Tuesday and Thursday from 1-3 pm.**



## Somali Women Dance the Buraanbur For Health and Cultural Wellness!

Somali women involved in the Backyard Initiative Community Health Action Team (CHAT), Project S.E.L.F., come together each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon at the Brian Coyle Center from 1 to 3 pm to dance the Buraanbur. The Buraanbur is a traditional dance done by women at Somali weddings and other ceremonies. Miski Abdulle, one of the CHAT leaders of Project S.E.L.F., thought it would be a great way for Somali women to exercise, laugh together and preserve a cultural tradition. One of the younger leaders of this Backyard Initiative CHAT, Rahma Salah, helps to lead and teach this traditional dance. A drum provides the beat, played by any of the women choosing to do so. The drum rhythm is an organic element of the dancing.

Somali women's great, great grandmothers have danced the Buraanbur and the steps have been handed down through the generations. Now, at the Brian Coyle Center, this traditional dance is taught and enjoyed by a multi-generational group of women 18 years of age and older. The cultural tradition continues along with laughter and some good exercise .

## More About The Activities of Project S.E.L.F.

**Project S.E.L.F.** (SAVE, EDUCATE LIBERATE, FREE) is primarily a Somali-focused, immigrant health Community Health Action Team (CHAT), one of the original CHAT's of the Backyard Initiative. It was established around a program called "Nomadic Expressions", begun by CHAT leader, Amged Yusuf, aimed to assist youth, elders and families in healthy living and artistic expressions through poetry, open microphone performances, information workshops and community dialogue. While continuing its original activities, efforts have increased to reach out specifically to Somali women engaged through this Backyard Initiative CHAT through the efforts of Amged's mother, Miski Abdulle. The women come together to address specific women's health issues and now to dance the Buraanbur! (see flyer this page).

The face of immigrant youth in our society is often unfavorable as there is more emphasis on those engaged in negative behaviors. Immigrant youth in our community are misguided and confused by conflicting messages between mainstream society and their original cultural ways. Communication across generations is strained and challenging. Youth are not responsive to guidance from the elders and are conflicted by peer pressure.

This BYI CHAT works to solve this problem by improving the health of all people living in the area of the Backyard Initiative with a focus on Somali people, especially elders, women and youth. These activities help to bridge the gap between the older and younger community members to encourage healthy relationships through various artistic mediums. Project S.E.L.F.



hosts community engagement and dialogue activities, cultural celebrations and creative workshops where youth and elders can share their stories and learn more about their cultural traditions These activities include: Buraanbur Dance, Open Mic Shop and traditional Under the Tree storytelling events.

A Somali Elder and Hope Community resident wanted to meet more of her neighbors so eagerly helped to support Project S.E.L.F.'s idea of Shaah iyo Sheeko (Tea and Story Time) events. Now, every Thursday, Shaah iyo Sheeko occur from **3 to 4:30 pm at Hope Community** in the Jourdain Building, 511 East Franklin Avenue. Shaah iyo Sheeko sessions are attended by Hope Community and other community residents from many cultures. Topics are proposed and conducted by members of the Shaah iyo Sheeko group and co-hosted by Project S.E.L.F. CHAT leaders and Hope Community staff members, Khusaba Seka and Malyun Yayhe.



### Backyard Initiative DEFINITION OF HEALTH

Health is a state of physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being. It is not only the absence of infirmity and disease.

Health is the state of balance, harmony, and connectedness within and between many systems--the body, the family, the community, the environment, and culture. It cannot be seen only in an individual context.

Health is an active state of being; people must be active participants to be healthy. It cannot be achieved by being passive.

### VISIT the BYI Resource Center

at the Midtown Global Market to learn more about the Backyard Initiative or

**call 612-353-6211**

The BYI Resource Center hours are

**10 am to 6 pm, Monday through Saturday**