



## RAISING THEIR VOICES TO SUPPORT AN URBAN FARM



PHOTO BY TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

Kids in Phillips neighborhood come together to ask for healthy, clean air and food for all people, and that the city respect community members views during a meeting on June, 17, 2019.

# Holmes asks: Will you make a phone call?

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

At 14, Trinidad Flores was diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy, a condition in which an enlarged heart struggles to pump blood. His mom, Little Earth's Cassandra Holmes, watched him endure three surgeries and a failed heart transplant before he died in

2013 at age 16.

Now she's leading a charge to decrease the pollution in South Minneapolis.

She doesn't want to see any more neighborhood babies born in need of breathing tubes, or young people who've succumbed to asthma and diabetes.

During a community meet-

ing about the Roof Depot site off Hiawatha and 28th St. on June 17, 2019 at the East Phillips Recreation and Cultural Center, Holmes walked through the crowd holding up maps that show how many kids in the neighborhood have been treated for lead poisoning, how many have visited the emergency room because of asthma attacks,

and how many have dealt with arsenic poisoning.

For every 10,000 people, over 200 are hospitalized because of asthma, blood lead and arsenic in this area.

Of the 7,000 children who live in Phillips, about 40% live in poverty and 80% fall into various ethnic groups.

"This meeting is an active meeting," she announced. Holmes asked community members to take out their phones, and engage in grassroots organizing by calling the mayor and their city council members one by one, and asking them to support the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm.

**HOLMES** Continued on page 3

## A brief history of the American Indian Movement



PHOTO BY TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

Dancers in the MayDay 2019 parade celebrate Native culture and traditions.

# AIM: Work goes on because needs go on

By LAURA WATERMAN WITTSTOCK AND ELAINE J. SALINAS

In the 50 years of its formal history, the American Indian Movement (AIM) has given witness to a great many changes.

We say formal history, because the movement existed for 500 years without a name. The leaders and members of today's AIM never fail to remember all of those who have traveled on before, having given their talent and their lives for the survival of the people.

At the core of the movement is Indian leadership under the direc-

tion of NeeGawNwayWeeDun, Clyde H. Bellecourt, and others. Making steady progress, the movement has transformed policy making into programs and organizations that have served Indian people in many communities. These policies have consistently been made in consultation with spiritual leaders and elders. The success of these efforts is indisputable, but perhaps even greater than the accomplishments is the vision defining what AIM stands for.

**WORK** Continued on page 10

# What is a 'beloved community'?

## Let's move from Race to Culture

By MINKARA TEZET, CULTURAL WELLNESS CENTER

"Our goal is to create a beloved community and that will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives." — Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"It is in community (nuit) that a person is socialized (remut); he is given an identity, a place of belonging, human dignity, and personhood. The community (nuit) is a critical concept that infuses the word remut with meaning. 'Society' here does not remain an abstraction devoid of a sense of cosmic purpose." — Seba Ahmed Azzahir

Part of my study at the Cultural Wellness Center has been to learn how to live and practice empathy, not sympathy.

The empathy we are called to practice is a lost art.

It is the practice of empathy where we meet the importance of Dr. King's teachings about the beloved community. It was through the protests, marches and boycotts King worked to show the world what it means to walk a mile in the shoes of someone else. Community is the consistent presence where we are reflections of people who feel like we feel and who feel what we feel.

This is what I call community.

King's life exemplified, we are a community called to cultivate the empathy that we share with those closest to our hearts. His teachings force me to imagine what I want for those closest to my heart. What is the life I imagine for them?

It is clear to me Dr. King was fighting in order that others might have empathy for the plight of Black people in the United States. For me the impact of this push to change the world has driven me to want for our family and our community to experience the capacity of this empathy that allows us to be together. I want us to recognize we are created in the image of Creation. Our collective purpose is to see how our ability to create and produce connections beyond the pain is what gives us power.

I have deep desire for people of African heritage to realize we have stories that connect us to the first time in Creation. These stories are what help us to see our capacity to demonstrate empathy. In practicing empathy, we reflect the divine presence in Kem (black man/black woman).

I am consciously aware that we can see the struggles we have experienced, and we can see the impact these experiences have placed on our ability to be empathetic towards one another or towards ourselves.

The idea of the Beloved Community commits us to collectively practice empathy. And

although it is painful to face the pains of the lives of those we care for, learning to see the value of empathy as we reconstruct the Beloved Community is what allows us to elevate past the pain. Dr. King saw a better future for all of humanity through the healing of his people's relationship with themselves. As he taught us to demonstrate the invisible power of blackness, he invoked purpose. As we continue to recover, we must see that community — Beloved Community — is meant for us.

Seeing that we are community attaches us to the creative purpose of the universe. It is a place that we must create for ourselves, rebuild our sense of a collective purpose and vision.

This cannot be done without us all being willing to search our hearts and share the truth that resides inside of our souls.

The sharing gives us the power to see the value of empathy. Valuing empathy allows us to build in and with peace as the focus of our desire. Empathy is the bedrock of the Beloved Community.

The rebuilding of the Beloved Community is at the heart of our desire to right the wounds of racialized objectification.

Dr. King said, "He who works against community is working against the whole of creation."

**WHAT IS** Continued on page 5





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don't say much, see what the little  
independent ones say."*  
– Wendell Phillips (1811-1884)

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**Next Deadline  
July 15, 2019**



By CRYSTAL WINDSCHITL  
Check out the Phillips West  
Website: [www.phillipswest.info](http://www.phillipswest.info)

## No meeting

There will be no July 4 Phillips  
West Community Meeting due  
to 4th of July. Hope everyone  
has a great July! Contact Crystal  
at 612-879-5383 or email her at  
[pwno2005@yahoo.com](mailto:pwno2005@yahoo.com)

## Transit

# The cacophony of the 6

By JOHN CHARLES WILSON

In 1999, Jennifer Lopez released  
an album titled “On the 6.” Of  
course, she meant the New York  
subway line, not the Minneapolis  
bus line, but I digress: rather than  
being musical, the cacophony of let-  
ters on the southbound 6 are a pain  
in the neck.

There are two versions of the  
6 northbound: 6 and 6U. 6 goes  
downtown and 6U goes through  
downtown to the University of  
Minnesota. However, going south-  
bound, we have eight letters to con-  
tend with. My friends at <https://streets.mn> think this is “Ludacris,”  
and I agree. I propose a Great  
Simplification:

- 6A – To 36th and Hennepin.  
Only runs twice a day, and is intend-  
ed as a “helper” bus to relieve over-  
crowding in the Uptown area at the  
height of rush hour. This bus can be  
kept as is.

- 6B – Southdale via Wooddale.  
Hardly anyone gets on or off on the  
Wooddale branch except at rush  
hour. Move Wooddale buses to  
France Ave. off-peak and running  
an express route with a different  
number, say 556, to serve Wooddale  
at rush hour.

- 6C – Southdale via Xerxes.  
Keep this route but renumber it 6X  
– X for Xerxes. I know Metro usu-  
ally uses X to denote a bus headed  
to the garage, but this is a worth-  
while exception.



- 6D – Southdale via France.  
Keep this route but renumber it 6F  
– F for France. Same logic as above.
- 6E – Fuddruckers via Xerxes.  
I recommend cutting this route  
off at Southdale and run a shuttle  
with a separate number, say 506,  
to Fuddruckers. Perhaps a smaller  
bus could be used and go directly  
to building doors, so people won’t  
have to walk so far.

- 6F – Fuddruckers via France.  
Same recommendation as 6E.
- 6G – 50th and Xerxes.  
Runs school days only, primarily  
for Southwest High School stu-  
dents, though legally anyone can  
ride them. These could be kept  
as is, but renumbered 6H – H for  
High School. Though 6S – S for  
Southwest or S for School is tempt-  
ing, people might mistakenly think  
it’s S for Southdale.

- 6K – Edina Industrial Park.  
This area should be served by a  
shuttle starting at Southdale, similar  
to the one replacing the E and F.  
Perhaps its number could be 506P  
– P for Park. The letter I (which  
would be for Industry) is never used  
due to its similarity to a 1.

Voila! Four letters instead of  
eight!

## What’s Up at the Franklin Community Library

1314 E. Franklin Avenue | 612- 543-6925 | [www.hclib.org](http://www.hclib.org)  
M, F, Sa: 9AM–5PM • T, W, Th: 9AM –8PM • Su: 12-5PM

By ERIN THOMASSON

### All Ages

### Dabaal-dega Dhaqanka Somaliyeed / Somali Cultural Festival

Saturday, July 6, 11AM – 4PM  
Kaalay oo la Dabaal deg  
Maktabadda Franklin Hiddaha iyo  
Dahaqanka Soomaalida! Qofwalbo  
waan soo Dhoweyneynaa.  
Come celebrate Somali Culture  
with Franklin Library! All are wel-  
come. Funded by Minnesota’s Arts  
and Cultural Heritage Fund.

### Read Together

Tuesdays, 1-2 pm  
Practice reading and enjoy-  
ing books one-on-one or in a small  
group.

### Franklin on the Green

Tuesdays, 3-4:30 pm  
Play games outside this summer!  
We will have badminton, soccer,  
frisbee and other games set up to  
play, weather permitting.

### Learn Together: Connect and Play

Tuesdays, 6-6:30 pm  
Connect with your child during  
this drop-in program exploring  
early literacy activities. Join your  
neighbors each week for a different  
theme including music, art, STEM  
(Science, Technology, Engineering,  
Math), reading and creative play.

### Science Wednesdays

Wednesdays, 3-4:30 pm  
Join us for a STEAM (science,  
technology, engineering, art, math-  
ematics) activity each week!

### Electronic Music Workshop

Wednesday, July 24, 6:30-7:30 pm

Entering grades 3-12. Make beats  
and experiment with electron-  
ic music production in a space  
that empowers girls, non-binary  
and trans youth. All are welcome!  
Collaborator: Beats by Girlz.

### Puzzlemania!

Thursdays, 3-5 pm  
Enjoy a variety of educational and  
fun puzzles and games!

### Game On!

Thursdays, 5-7 pm  
Join us for all types of gaming!  
Enjoy card games, board games,  
Xbox, VR and more. Play an old  
favorite or learn a new one.

### West African Drumming & Dance

Thursday, July 25, 5-6 pm  
Learn traditional rhythms and  
dances from Guinea in West  
Africa. Practice basic hand tech-  
nique, patterns and timing on  
the djembe. Learn fun energetic  
dances with steps will be broken  
down for all levels, accompanied  
by live drumming. All are wel-  
come. Collaborator: Duniya Drum  
& Dance.

### Family Storytime

Fridays, 10:30-11 am  
For children of all ages and their  
caregivers. Talk, sing, read, write  
and play together in a format appro-  
priate for young children. Share  
books, stories, rhymes, music and  
movement.

### Teen programs

### 15 Minute Guitar and Voice Lessons

Thursdays, July 11 & 18, 4:30-6:30  
pm

streets to folks biking, walking, and  
rolling. These events are hosted by  
Our Streets Minneapolis, a local non-  
profit organization, in partnership  
with the city of Minneapolis.

At each Open Streets Minne-  
apolis event, local businesses, artists,  
community groups, and institutions  
come out into the street to play.

Open Streets Minneapolis gets  
folks out of their cars so neighbors  
can explore their communities in new  
ways.

Open Streets Minneapolis in-

Registration Required: Sign up in  
person at Franklin Library on the  
day of the lesson.

Come participate in a 15-minute  
one-on-one voice or guitar lesson  
with local musicians, Dallas &  
Siam! Learn to sing or play guitar  
for the first time or learn tips to  
improve your gifts in a welcom-  
ing environment. Use our guitar or  
bring your own.

### Urban 4-H Club

Tuesdays, 5–7 pm  
We do everything from urban  
gardening to digital photo/video  
to theater. Partner: University of  
Minnesota.

### Teen Tech Workshop

Wednesdays, 5-6:30 pm  
Get creative and make music, vid-  
eos, 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.

### Adults

### Open Crafting

Monday, July 1, 1-3 pm  
Looking for a space to sew, knit or  
work on other crafts? Bring your  
current project and materials and  
join us! Sewing machines, knitting  
needles and other equipment will  
be available for your use.

### Fasal furan oo ku Saabsan Barashada Teknoolojiga Maktabadda/Library Technology Open Lab

Wednesdays, July 3, 10 & 17,  
10:30-12 pm  
Come and explore library technol-  
ogy. Staff will start each Open  
Lab with a 20-minute orientation to  
library technology. Following the  
orientation, participants will have  
time to explore on their own, while  
staff will be available for questions  
and one-on-one support. Schedule  
of topics:  
July 3: Scanning and printing

vites people to be curious about their  
city as they discover local businesses,  
use active transportation, view live  
performances, create art, and make  
connections with those around them.

## Canoe, fish for free

Drop in for free canoeing this  
summer Powderhorn Lake Tues-  
days, 5-7 p.m. at Powderhorn Lake  
(south shore - nearest 35th St.)  
– through Aug. 13 Everyone ages

July 10: Creating a library account,  
using the library catalog

July 17: Online library databases  
for learning, literacy and employ-  
ment

### Master Gardener: Container Gardening

Thursday, July 11, 6-7:15 pm  
Container gardening allows you to  
add color to your garden, deck or  
front steps with limited time com-  
mitment. Learn to select containers,  
a good potting mix, ideal plants and  
how to care for these beautiful mini  
gardens. Collaborator: Hennepin  
County Master Gardeners,  
University of Minnesota Extension.

### Franklin Technology Hour

Thursdays, July 11, 18 & 25, 12-1 pm  
Do you want to explore new tech-  
nology, practice using a computer  
program, or learn more about the  
library’s electronic resources? Then  
come to Franklin Technology Hour!  
Bring your questions or come and  
explore a spotlighted resource.

### Work of Art: Grantwriting for Artists of Color and Native Artists Panel

Thursday, July 18, 5:30-7:30 pm  
Registration Required. A panel  
of experts will take a look at the  
grantwriting process and discuss  
how POCI artists can successfull-  
y navigate the application pro-  
cess. Collaborator: Springboard for  
the Arts. Funded by Minnesota’s  
Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

### Power in Participation: Voter Education Workshop

Tuesday, July 30, 10-11 am  
Learn about elections, the voting  
process, and civic engagement.  
Great for first time voters! Non-  
partisan and open to all. Explore  
a new topic each month. July 30:  
Ways to Register. August 27: How  
You Can Vote. Collaborator: Black  
Votes Matter MN.

2 and up is welcome. Canoes, life  
vests and paddles are provided.  
Just show up. No registration nec-  
essary.

Learn to fish using equipment  
and guidance from our partner,  
L.L.Bean Outdoor Discovery Pro-  
grams on Tuesdays, July 2, July 16,  
July 30 and Aug. 13 from 4-7 p.m.  
at Powderhorn Lake.

**Email your event submis-  
sion to [copydesk@alleynews.org](mailto:copydesk@alleynews.org).**





PHOTO BY TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN  
Phillips resident Cassandra Holmes stated, “We want to live a long life, and we don’t want any more trucks in our community.”



PHOTO BY TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN  
“This meeting is an active meeting,” said Cassandra Holmes on June 17. She asked community members to take out their phones, and engage in grassroots organizing by calling the mayor and their city council members one by one, asking them to support the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm. And residents did just that.

# Holmes asks: Will you make a phone call?

From page 1

“We are tired of them not listening to us and putting all their garbage on us,” Holmes stated. “We have to start somewhere and this is it.”

### They took out their phones

Twenty-nine-year-old Margarita Ortega took out her phone. “I know what it’s like to grow up in pollution, and grow up with asthma and breathing problems,” Ortega said. “I have two children going through it, as well.”

The Little Earth resident also knows what it is like to struggle to find green food, and is excited by the idea of an indoor urban farm that uses aquaponics within a few blocks of her house, one that is powered by an immense solar installation on the roof, and provides affordable housing and jobs.

Ortega shook her head when talking about city staff and council members. “They’re just worried about money and power,” she said.

Adam Fairbanks doesn’t live in South Minneapolis anymore, but his family still does. He took out his phone, too, and started calling city council members. He works with Red Lake and helped meet the needs of residents at the Wall of Forgotten Natives last year where he saw the large number of nebulizers and inhalers prescribed to those who were there. He blames the smog and pollution in Phillips for the health problems residents have.

“I’m amazed that the city has not supported this project,” Fairbanks said.

“They don’t listen,” agreed Cindi Sutter, who has dreams of living at a revitalized Roof Depot and having access to garden plots

and solar energy.

Lifelong Phillips resident Gabriel Pass pointed out that neighboring communities such as Seward, Longfellow and Corcoran will also be affected by this new pollution, and already are experiencing effects from the current levels. While biking along the Midtown Greenway earlier that day, he observed how the air smelled bad east of the Sabo Bridge.

Abah Mohamad had her phone out, too. She’s also baffled about why the city isn’t supporting the urban farm plan. “It has everything the community needs,” Mohamed pointed out, speaking on behalf of herself and three other women from her community.

“I’m a little bit emotional and very upset. It is the only hope and only vision that this neighborhood has. It’s exactly what will serve the neighborhood.”

### ‘I plug my nose’

“People tell me, ‘I plug my nose when I drive past your neighborhood,’” observed Steve Sandberg, who encouraged people to call 311 when they smell a bad odor.

This is the sort of pollution that the Clark/Berglin Environmental Justice Law was enacted by the state legislature in 2008 to curb.

Forty-year Phillips resident and former state legislator Karen Clark authored the bill to reduce the amount of pollution in this South Minneapolis area, particularly in the Arsenic Triangle near Cedar and 28th where the Smith Foundry and Bituminous Roadways asphalt plant still operate, belching out fumes each day over Phillips, the Midtown Greenway, and South High



PHOTO BY TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN  
Abah Mohamad (right) is baffled about why the city isn’t supporting the urban farm plan. “It has everything the community needs,” Mohamed pointed out, speaking on behalf of herself and three other women from her community. “It is exactly what will serve the neighborhood.”

School.

“This is what environmental injustice looks like,” Clark said.

She pointed out that Phillips has a disproportionate amount of kids with lead poisoning, which can cause permanent neurological damage. The emergency room is full of Phillips residents who need treatment for asthma. Lawns were remediated for arsenic.

The Clark/Berglin Environmental Justice Law requires that any project in this neighborhood be reviewed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to analyze the cumulative pollution effects — not only what will be caused by the new or expanded project. This includes city projects, such as the proposal to expand the city’s existing public works facility onto the adjacent 7.5-acre Roof Depot site.

The city’s water maintenance

facility, known as the East Water Yard, is currently located on 2.4 acres in Ward 3 at Hennepin Ave. E. and 5th Ave. N. It dates back 120 years and is the hub for maintaining the city’s 1,000 miles of water mains, 16,000 valves, and street holes, and 8,000 hydrants. The Water Distribution’s 100 maintenance staff performs valve operations, greasing and packing of hydrants, street manhole repairs, main water repairs, and leak detection.

Replacing the maintenance yard is the last major unfinished piece of a 25-year-old master plan for updating city Department of Public Works facilities. The neighborhood organization, East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC), was not notified of this plan until 2015 after it was engaged in negotiations to purchase the Roof Depot site. The city threatened eminent domain, and bought it instead of EPIC.

The city’s plans for the former Roof Depot site involve using the entire 16.4 acres to store manhole covers, sewer pipes, and sand-salt mix, and send out public work’s fleet of diesel trucks into other areas, concentrating the air pollution. EPNI has asked the city for a portion of the land over the past few years, drawing up plans for three acres, then two acres, and then one acre.

“They said ‘No,’” pointed out Holmes. And they haven’t once allowed the community group to present to the city council.

This is despite the city’s own core principal of community engagement, specifically stating the right of citizens who are affected to

be involved.

“We have not had that right,” stated Phillips resident Brad Pass.

### ‘We don’t want any more trucks’

Those gathered on June 17 see the trouble residents have finding apartments and homes they can afford. They see the problem of not having access to fresh, green vegetables. They want their kids to have better. They want to be part of fixing things for their neighborhood and the world, and they have some bright ideas about using aquaponics and solar power in their corner of South Minneapolis. They’re inspired by the Midtown Greenway and want to fashion a neighborhood that places a high priority on biking and walking — two methods of travel that are accessible to the poor and the rich, build better health, and don’t spew pollution into the air.

They have already received some grant money, and have worked to make this affordable and more green by pinpointing a large building that they can reuse.

In the past, neighborhood organizers have staved off the Hennepin County Garbage Transfer Station at Cedar and 28th in the mid 1990s; kept out the Midtown Eco-burner (Cogenerating Plant) in 2007; and convinced Xcel Energy to bury high voltage power lines in 2009. They were also able to transform the land at Cedar and 24th into a busy cultural and recreation center, garnering grants and other support for the massive project. They’re committed to doing that here.

Holmes stated, “We want to live a long life, and we don’t want any more trucks in our community.”



PHOTO BY TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN  
This brass band sees itself as an agent of change, and arrives to protest at community meetings.

LETTERS TO THE COMMUNITY ON THIS ISSUE, SEE PAGE 10



# Flagpole cost \$271.55, is still up 90 years later

The 1920s was the age of flappers and speakeasies, of dance marathons and flagpole-sitting contests.

The national mood was upbeat and there seemed to be enough money to do whatever needed to be done. While members of the recently formed Minneapolis Cemetery Protective Association (MCPA) would never have been mistaken for flappers or bootleggers, they had big plans and in 1928 they began their work in earnest.

Their plans included a flagpole.

In May 1927 the Minneapolis City Council had voted to issue \$50,000 in bonds to be sold to buy out the remaining interests of Layman family members (the third generation of Minneapolis Layman family members) and to make some much-needed improvements. The grounds were a mess. In some places wooden coffins had disintegrated, creating large craters, and in other places dirt was mounded around the emptied graves of the approximately 5,000 people whose remains were disinterred and relocated to other cemeteries.

The cemetery needed a fence and the MCPA wanted to erect monuments that celebrated the achievements of some of the city's pioneers and soldiers.

In January 1928, the city council granted the MCPA's Auxiliary (women) exclusive rights for selling flowers and plants in the cemetery. That may sound insignificant but at the time the number of visi-



PHOTO TIM MCCALL  
**American Red Cross volunteers huddle under umbrellas during the 2019 Memorial Day events at the Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery.**

tors to the cemetery on Memorial Day weekend numbered not in the dozens or even hundreds, but in the thousands.

On Feb. 10, 1928, the city council voted to rename the cemetery. Although the cemetery's official name in its early days was Minneapolis Cemetery, it was (and still is) commonly referred to as Layman's Cemetery after its original owners. The cemetery's official name is Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery.

In June 1928, the MCPA announced that they had set up a trust fund and had already raised \$1,000 to supplement the city's

\$4,000 budget for operating and maintaining the cemetery. With an eye toward raising additional revenue, in July 1928 the MCPA asked the city council to amend an earlier ordinance and allow new burials in the cemetery. They argued that the cemetery was no longer (if, indeed, it had ever been) a threat to the city's health and safety. Their request was not immediately accepted and was referred to the council's Committee on Public Welfare where it seems to have disappeared.

On July 31, the city council voted to accept \$160 from the Auxiliary for repairs to the care-



PHOTO TIM MCCALL

**Memorial Day keynote speaker Lt. Col. Lori J. Allert was the first woman in 151 years.**

taker's cottage. What those repairs were is not clear.

Earlier, in May 1928, the Auxiliary had made an even bigger gift to the city. They donated \$256.80 to raise a new 50-foot steel flagpole set on top of a limestone base. Andrew Skoberg and Sam Walsen, two stonemasons, constructed the flagpole's base using three tons of stone and 15-cubic feet of mortar. They each spent 17 hours on the job and were paid \$1.38 an hour for their labor. The MCPA bought them lunch on May 2 at a cost of 50 cents each. The steel flag staff cost \$135 and the plaque cost \$70. The city supplied \$14.75 worth of materials bringing the total cost to \$271.55.

It was a good investment since more than 90 years later the flag-

*Tales from  
Pioneers and Soldiers  
Memorial Cemetery*  
By SUE HUNTER WEIR  
166<sup>th</sup> IN A SERIES



pole is still the focal point of the cemetery.

The flagpole was the first of six monuments donated to the city by the MCPA in honor of the city's soldiers and territorial pioneers. Those structures, along with the 1871 caretaker's cottage, are considered part of the cemetery's "built environment" and contributed to its being the first cemetery in Minnesota to be designated as an individual landmark in the National Register and later as a city of Minneapolis landmark.

The efforts of the MCPA also were an important factor in the designation: their work was considered to be among the city's early preservation efforts. They worked tirelessly to preserve the cemetery.



## The EPIC Report – July 2019

[www.eastphillips-epic.com](http://www.eastphillips-epic.com)

### East Phillips SummerFest What a way to kick off summer!

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

Also featured at East Phillips SummerFest 2019 were:

- Many fascinating resource tables including the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm project [www.epnifarm.org](http://www.epnifarm.org).
- A raffle with many cool things donated by Welna Ace Hardware and a bike provided by a generous neighbor.
- Kids Games, piñatas and a giant inflatable fun house.
- Delicious food from Mariana's Kitchen and East Phillips Park youth and staff

East Phillips SummerFest 2019 is brought to this community by the collaboration of the East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC), the incredible East Phillips Park Staff, Midwest Magic Productions, GAP Media (Sound System), Mpls. & Park Police, Mpls. Fire Department and the great artists, vendors, volunteers, friends and neighbors. Special THANKS to Jeanne Whitehill, Tammy Williams and Brad & Carol Pass.

**Thanks to all for a GREAT DAY!!!**



**Watch for SummerFest 2020 – Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup>**



**Deotrell Melody**



**Edison Hi Cheerleaders**



**Your Community Band**

### For Your Calendar:

*To get involved in EPIC and East Phillips,  
Join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month.*

**EPIC Board of Directors** meets on the FIRST Saturday of the month – Next Meetings; Saturday, 7/1/2019 and 8/3/2019 at 10:00 AM. at 2433 Bloomington Ave.

**EPIC Community Meetings** are on the SECOND Thursday – Next Meetings; Thursday, 7/11/19 and 8/8/2019 at 6:30 PM the East Phillips Community Center – 2307 17<sup>th</sup> Ave S Agenda includes Neighborhood Industrial Pollution, Crime Initiatives, and EPIC project updates.

**The Phillips Community Clean Sweep** is Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup> with free breakfast in the Welna Parking Lot followed by cleaning the 'hood and free lunch at Stewart Park.

**The East Phillips 17<sup>th</sup> Ave Community Garden Fall Harvest Party** is Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 4:30 PM. Join us for a pot-luck, a pumpkin carving Contest and S'mores by the fire.

**The East Phillips Community 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. Gardeners** meet on the SECOND Saturday – Next Mtng: Saturday, 7/13/2019 and 8/10/2019 at 9:00 AM in the GARDEN located at 2428 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.

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

Prepared for and paid by EPIC





Students from the Minnesota Transitions Charter School participate in the 2019 Memorial Day events at the Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery.

PHOTO TIM MCCALL



A little guy makes the best of a very soggy event on Memorial Day 2019 at the Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery. It was 151st Memorial Day Observance at the cemetery.

PHOTO TIM MCCALL

# What is a ‘beloved community’?

From page 1

The pain held in the heart of our people must no longer bind our beings to brutality of the past. In the cultivation and production of empathy we learn our humanities are intertwined. We have the difficult work of unravelling the levels of hidden pain in order to see how our truth telling and community healing can lift us beyond the suffering of being racially objectified. As I have considered the radical goal of Dr. King’s vision for a Beloved Community it becomes conceivable with the shift of “Moving from Race to Culture.”

Moving from Race to Culture forces each of us to see how humanity is harmed by racialized objectification.

This shifting from race to culture requires we trace the journey of our peoplehood back to Creation, back to cosmos.

To create the Beloved Community, we are required to begin to see how our action relate to an innate peace and harmony. It is in this learning to harmonize peace with ourselves we become capable of demonstrating empathy for others.

The primary obstacle is a lack of empathy for others. We are in need of giving and receiving the acknowledgement that naturally

comes from empathy.

Healing begins in being able to empathize with the forces, energies, lives, beings, creatures in nature. It begins when we are able to see the tree and feel the experience of the tree’s ability to survive a long harsh winter.

*Founded in 1996, the mission of the Cultural Wellness Center is to unleash the power of citizens to heal themselves and build community. The Cultural Wellness Center is one of the primary community and cultural knowledge-production organizations in the Twin Cities region. They partner with organizations, institutions, and people within communities to develop models to solve problems and create lasting solutions. The Cultural Wellness Center is located within the Midtown Global Market, 920 E. Lake St. Look on the back page of each Alley newspaper for more on its activities.*

**Editor’s note:** This is reprinted from the MayDay 2019 tabloid courtesy of In The Heart of the Beast. This year marks the 400th anniversary of slave ships arriving to the new colonies that would become the United States. Earlier than that, Africans had been seized by slave traders and brought to North America, South America, and the Caribbean since about 1501.

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from Somali Radio.*



# YOUR CONCERNS ARE HER CONCERNS



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Commissioner Angela Conley, along with other leaders and community members, celebrate the completion of nearly two years of construction at Peavey Park on May 31, 2019. Hennepin County invested funding for a sidewalk at the park. Other improvements include new basketball courts, play areas, pavilion and more.

## Commissioner Angela Conley wants constituents guiding decisions from the 24th floor



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Angela Conley is the first black, female Hennepin County Commissioner.

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

*Editor's note: This is the second in a two-part series reprinted courtesy of the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger. The first part ran in the June 2019 edition of The Alley.*

Addressing unsheltered homelessness is an issue Hennepin County District 4's new County Commissioner Angela Conley is passionate about, and one that local residents focused on when she was door-knocking during her campaign.

Many years ago, Conley had to leave where she was living for safety reasons and was technically homeless. "That experience taught me ways in which we can do better," said Conley, who later spent 20 years working in social work at both the county and state level. "I

know housing and having a place to sleep at night are basic human rights."

Conley believes that the answer to fixing this issue is funding, and hopes to see a number of different agencies partnering together with direction from the state. This way, someone from Washington County can stay within their community and not go to a shelter in Hennepin County because that's the only one that has space.

"This is a lot bigger than just Hennepin County," said Conley.

Plus the answer requires more than providing a bed and a mat to those who are homeless. It will require that – and on-ramps to supportive housing and permanent housing. "We have to meet people where they are at," observed Conley.

Right now, Hennepin County

operates as a referral-based system which means that someone might get referred to four or five other agencies to meet his or her varying needs. Conley said, "It's often a full-time job for people to get chemical health services over here and mental health services over here, and then help with finding employment over in this direction. All of that should be under one roof."

She added, "We should be doing it with people who are involved in our shelter system because housing stability is when you have the support you need to maintain your own housing."

That costs money, Conley recognizes, so she's looking at where money is being spent now, evaluating if the outcomes are good, and questioning if that money should be spent elsewhere.

"We are moving in the right direction, but we're still not where we should be," stated Conley. "We're still busting at the seams."

According to the Wilder Foundation, Minnesota is seeing the highest numbers of homelessness in the 30 years they've been tracking it. She pointed out, "Homelessness has jumped 10% in the last three years."

Conley is taking a close look at how the county invests in shelters and supportive housing, as well as real estate.

"We've got a market out here that not a lot of people can afford anymore. It's harder to buy a home. Houses go up for sale and they're snatched up right away. Rent keeps going up, but wages don't," she remarked. When people

**CONCERNS** Continued on page 7

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A mural at Funky Grits (805 E. 38th St.) honors the contributions females have made in Minneapolis.

# YOUR CONCERNS

ple get out of jail, landlords won’t rent to them. And women and children fleeing domestic violence make up a large percentage of the homeless and have specific needs before they can get back on their feet.

There are also members of the community who don’t go to shelters, and some of those people came together last year at the Hiawatha Encampment, the largest encampment Minnesota had ever seen.

As a Southside resident, Conley drove past the Hiawatha Encampment regularly. She recognizes there are many reasons why people opt to not use shelters, such as not being able to bring a loved one or beloved pet. Others don’t think the shelters are safe, and worry that they don’t have a place to lock up their belongings. Addiction is also an issue, and opioid addiction is hitting the fourth district hard, Conley said.

She pointed out that encampment was full of many Native American and African Americans – the two groups experiencing the highest levels of homelessness. “You had a group of folks who found community amongst each other and who chose to live amongst each other,” Conley observed.

“There are also 200 to 300 people who sleep on the trains overnight. So this is an issue that not a lot of people have talked about.”

According to Conley, the

county has divested from shelters and invested in affordable housing over the years. Her question there is: “Affordable to who?”

All of the affordable housing is calculated based on median income, and affordable workforce housing is at 60% of the median income. “We have people at 30% of the median income. Where can they go?” she asked.

Also lacking is shelter that is culturally specific, and meets people where they are at even if they aren’t ready for addiction treatment.

Conley co-chairs Heading Home Hennepin, which brings together the county, city of Minneapolis and others to look at the ways people might be able to work together to provide resources to create the infrastructure needed to house more people.

“If we make these investments on the front end then the resources are already there, and we wouldn’t have to go into an encampment and provide services there because we were already on the front end working upstream to stop the build-up at the bottom,” said Conley. “There’s a lot of possibility in taking on this issue head-on. It’s going to require the political will for people to say, ‘Yes, this is an issue.’”

Conley also pushed for unsheltered homelessness to be included in the county’s federal legislative platform this year for the first time.

From page 6

## WHAT IS A COUNTY COMMISSIONER?

During her campaign, Conley started with that question because she loves talking about the county.

“I have spent my career in public service, and I wanted everybody to know what commissioners do because it’s a level of government that is sort of invisible,” observed Conley. “A lot of people know who their state reps are, they know who their senator might be, they know the governor, they know their city council, but do you know who your commissioner is? Raise your hand. We’d be in a room of 25 people and one person might raise their hand.”

She’d point out, “The county is involved in pretty much everything you do,” and deals with more than just the big, contentious issues of lightrail and stadiums.

When you take out your garbage, it’s burned at the county energy recovery center downtown. The road you drive on to get to work everyday may be a county road even in the city, and if you’re concerned about safety on it you’ll need to talk to the county. If you are on a fixed income and you need help paying for medical care or you’re experiencing food insecurity, you may apply at a county office.

“This is your largest government entity aside from the state, and it’s operating a \$2.4 billion budget. We’re the second largest county in the Midwest -- only to



Hennepin County Commissioner Angela Conley (left); Ashani Price, Specialist, ARNG; and Colonel Lori Allert, AN, USAR, on Memorial Day 2019 at the Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery, the 1st integrated cemetery in the state.

Cook County near Chicago. We’re very, very big with a far reach in people’s everyday lives,” stated Conley.

Her office will be intentional about holding community office hours for citizens to share concerns and ideas. The first was held at Sabathani, and others will be held at various places throughout the large fourth district including Longfellow, by the airport, in Cedar-Riverside, Phillips and the Central neighborhood.

“We want folks to know that their commissioner is very interested in having community lead on key decisions,” said Conley.

In March, she was part of a meeting focused on the Cedar/Highway 77/Highway 62/Edge-water area, and was most interested in hearing what those in attendance had to say. “I think community should be leading on what they know is best for their

neighborhood,” stated Conley, and her staff took a ton of notes at the meeting. She plans to hold a follow-up meeting to talk about how those ideas can be implemented.

“That’s the kind of leadership you can find out of the District 4 office,” stated Conley. “I don’t want to be in this space making up solutions based on what I think the community needs. I want people in the fourth district to be guiding decisions that happen up here on the 24th floor because these are decisions that ultimately affect your life.”

For a long time, Conley didn’t feel included in decision making and so she’s taking that experience and turning it around.

“This really truly is the district four people’s office,” said Conley. “I want people to know that they have access to their commissioner, and their concerns are my concerns.”

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## Steps towards peace

# So what should we talk about?

By MARTI MALTBI

Each day that Peace House Community is open, we host a “meditation” for our guests, volunteers and community members. It isn’t meditation in the traditional sense; we focus on one topic and discuss it as a group to help us understand each other and develop a great respect for the people and world around us. The discussions last 20 to 35 minutes, and it is one of the hallmarks of our community.

Sister Rose Tillemans founded PHC with the intention of giving a forum to marginalized women and men who were generally ignored by the larger society. She also wanted to promote relationships in a safe context, making individuals feel comfortable with exploring their own thoughts and feelings in a supportive setting.

Having been at PHC for a little over a year now, I’ve come to



respect Sister Rose’s wisdom in weaving a deliberate time of reflection and sharing into her vision. The discussions have opened my eyes (and I know from speaking with others that they have had the same experience) to people and situations that I would otherwise have completely overlooked.

Among the topics we’ve covered in the last 15 months have been:

- Tell us your name, why it was given to you and how you feel about it
- What is the happiest song you have ever heard
- What do people who have never been homeless need to know about being homeless
- How prepared are you to survive a natural disaster

Unfortunately, just reading these topics on the page doesn’t do them justice. As I typed them I realized how much they sound like the conversation starters you might find on tables at a corporate networking event. And yet, when you discuss topics like this day

after day and become comfortable sharing yourself and accepting what others have to offer, the questions become something more than trite questions. When 20 or 30 people come to one of these questions together, the questions open doors to multiple ways of viewing and responding to each other’s life experiences. The results are wonderful.

Of course, not every meditation works out as planned. On some days the group just doesn’t have a lot of energy. Occasionally the discussion goes well off course, like when I asked what people should have buildings or lakes named after them, and we ended up discussing gun control legislation. But even these discussions build bonds, as we learn what issues are important to each other and recognize that sometimes silence is more important than speaking.

Being an introvert with some autistic tendencies, I sometimes have difficulty starting conversations with people and getting to know them. I am thankful for people like Sister Rose and events like the meditation time that deliberately make human connections a priority.

# Navigation Center closes

Coalition partners involved in the temporary Navigation Center in south Minneapolis reflected June 3 on the months’ long effort to provide a safe and service-rich environment for people formerly living at the Franklin-Hiawatha homeless encampment.

The Navigation Center at 2109 Cedar Ave. S. has closed after operating since late December of 2018. At its peak occupancy, it provided beds and shelter to 176 people in three sprung structures. Seventy-four people who stayed at the center have been connected to housing, nursing homes or treatment programs — a high success rate compared to traditional shelters.

Red Lake Nation, Simpson Housing Services and the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID) partnered to provide services onsite and led transition efforts while the city of Minneapolis provided funding and support for the Navigation Center.

Through the Navigation Center, people were able to secure an array of services including pathways to

## 46 STILL LIVING AT CENTER AS OF MAY 22

- 10 had firm housing or treatment admission dates for prior to June 3
- 28 had alternate shelter for interim period before getting firm housing
- 8 were not accepting services

## 130 EXITS AS OF MAY 22, 2019

- 68 positive
- 60 negative
- 2 deaths

permanent housing, income, health-care and stability. Individual case management services were provided onsite by partner agencies and included traditional American Indian healing activities, all of which were voluntary.

Red Lake Nation will build a culturally sensitive, 110-unit affordable housing development on the Navigation Center site, with a treatment clinic on the first floor.

*This update by city consultant Margaret King, who managed the Navigation Center, was shared by Ward 9 Council Member Alondra Cano in her e-newsletter.*



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## Movie corner

# ‘Godzilla’ muddles along

By HOWARD MCQUITTER II  
[oldschoolmovies.wordpress.com](http://oldschoolmovies.wordpress.com)  
[howardmcquitter68@gmail.com](mailto:howardmcquitter68@gmail.com)

“Godzilla: King of the Monsters” (2019)  
\*\* of 5  
Warner Bros.



San Francisco, a city that’s become one of exorbitancy in recent years, where homelessness is all too common and billionaire corporations line the skyline like ducks in a row, five years ago had to rebuild the city

costing billions of dollars and several thousand lives because of one humongous lizard called Godzilla. He roamed through the city doing as much damage as an earthquake or a tsunami. With all the military might against the beast he left the city on his own terms. Godzilla years earlier would attack Japan leaving so much havoc the scientists there spent every ounce of their brain power to come up with a way to kill Godzilla.

Thanks to director Ishiro Hondo, who created the Godzilla (Gojira in Japanese) in 1954, in black and white – though, not to be outdone, other Japanese directors made Godzilla movies adding some monsters like Morthra, Rodan and Ghidorah. (I’ve been a fan of Godzilla, a creature growing out-of-proportion because of nuclear tests by the U.S. and U.S.S.R. [now known as Russia].)

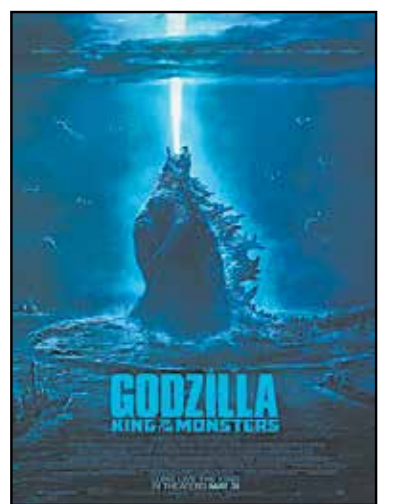
I cannot endorse Michael Dougherty’s “Godzilla: King of the Monsters” if for no other reason than some of its main character, such as the Russell family Mark (Kyle Chandler), Dr. Emma

(Vera Farmiga) and their daughter Madison (Millie Bobby Brown) feel unduly superficial getting in the way of the experienced military at times. As dysfunctional as these three are I have to cut Emma and Madison some slack because they are kidnapped for the untried formula ORCA, the thing that’s suppose to communicate with the monsters, not just Godzilla but Mothra, Rodan and Ghidorah (the three-headed dragon). Over cable TV we see other humongous monsters going on their own in other countries on other continents causing destruction. But where do these other monsters other than Rodan, Mothra and Ghidorah end up?

Where Gareth Edwards’ “Godzilla” (2014) made much more sense and more inviting with a more solid plot, Dougherty’s version muddled along even though a few scenes are quite good – the movie doesn’t hold up.

Bryan Cranston, Elizabeth Olsen, Carson Bolde (his character died in the 2014 movie) and Juliette Binoche are missing in Dougherty’s version and that maybe telling.

Japan is spared from Dougherty’s “Godzilla” and that’s a good thing. I saw a trailer for “Shin Godzilla”, from Japan which looks amazing featuring the oversized lizard with



lots more weapons to fight the top military answers.

In fact, “Shin Godzilla” is so real it’s the scarcest “Godzilla” on record.

Cast: Vera Farmiga (Dr. Emma), Ken Watanabe (Dr. Ishiro), Sally Hawkins (Dr. Vivienne Graham), Kyle Chandler (Mark Russell), Millie Bobby Brown (Madison Russell), Bradley Whitford (Dr. Stanton), Thomas Middleditch (Sam Coleman), Charles Dance (Alan Jonah), O’ Shea Jackson, Jr. (Chief Warrant Officer Barnes), Aisha Hinds (Elizabeth Ludlow), Ziyi Zhang (Dr. Chen), Anthony Ramos (Staff Sergeant Martinez). Director: Michael Dougherty.

Running time: 131 minutes.

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# SUDAN DEMOCRACY SUPPORTERS

PETER MOLENAAR

Local people from Sudan Africa rallied with their supporters at the state capital on June 18, 2019. Among the demands: Send the former dictator to the International Criminal Court.





# VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD

J U L Y ' 1 9   N E W S

Hope you're enjoying your summer here in Ventura Village. Get out and enjoy some of these neighborhood events and places that our association supports. If you need help with your yard or garden contact us at 612-874-9070. We have tools and supplies available. Our meeting schedule is below. Please note there will be no membership meeting in August

Beauty on the sidewalks of Minneapolis. Thank you for the flowers

Rain showers  
Bring flowers  
People dress up sidewalks so nice.  
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People pass by  
From Heaven to earth brings out spice in our life.



It went  
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Sends pleasure through twenty four seven.



-Verla Cuff



\*Last month we incorrectly copied a poem from Verla Cuff, a local resident who writes poetry on a variety of topics. Here is the corrected version.

## Peavey Park Revitalization Recap: Two-phase, \$2.7 million overhaul cited as part of an ongoing “transformation” of the Ventura Village and Phillips neighborhoods.

On Friday, May 31, 2019, officials from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), Hennepin County, US Bank and several neighborhood organizations held a ribbon-cutting event following a major overhaul of Peavey Park. The key goal of the project is to welcome more people to the park by accommodating additional activities. There were several speakers at the event, including a past and current member of our neighborhood board.

AK Hassan—former chair of Ventura Village—who now serves as MPRB’s Vice President and Commissioner of District 3, noted his own experience growing up with Peavey Park as his neighborhood park. “To be successful, these parks must reflect the diverse communities who use them. I am proud of the work MPRB is doing to be more responsive to the needs and desires of all communities.”

Cecil Smith--current board member of Ventura Village and chair of our Crime & Safety Committee--put the park improvements in the context of changes to the neighborhood, He noted that this area used to be filled with bars and open-air drug dealing and a gas station noteworthy as the address for the highest number of police calls for years. “Transformation has been happening in this community for decades. You look at where we are now: we are living that transformation.”

Ventura Village is proud to have contributed funds toward swings, sod, and the park pavilion (see photos below).

Source: Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board Website



Northern Spark, nighttime arts festival, took place along American Indian Cultural Corridor on Franklin Avenue from June 14-15. (Top) Video Installation across from Pow Wow Grounds and All My Relations Gallery. (Right) Night Library at the Franklin Library.



## FOUR SISTERS

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### 2019 MARKET DATES

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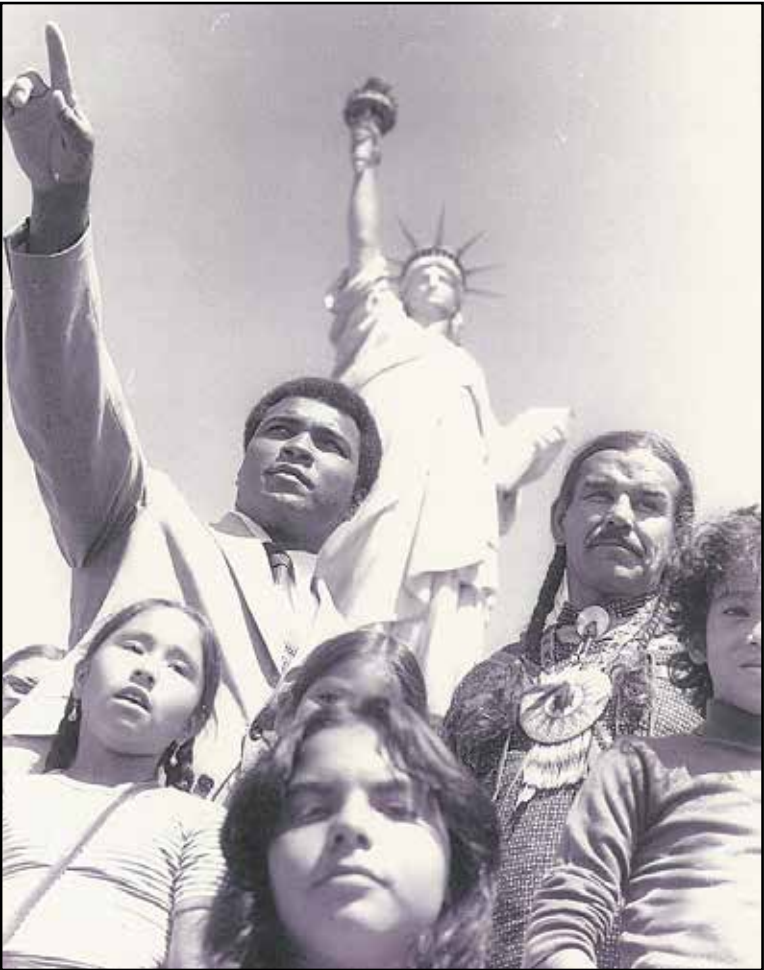
### UPCOMING VENTURA VILLAGE MEETINGS:

- Wednesday, July 10th: Board of Directors Meeting: 6 pm
  - Thursday, July 25th: Housing & Land Committee: 5:30 pm
  - Tuesday, July 30th: Community Engagement Committee: 6 pm
- Wednesday, July 10th: General Membership Meeting: 7 pm
  - Thursday, July 25th: Crime & Safety Committee: 6:30 pm
  - Tuesday, July 30th: Wellness, Gardening & Greening Committee: 7 pm

ALL RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE: VISITORS WELCOME TO ATTEND!

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





COURTESY OF AIM

Muhammed Ali (back left) and AIM founder Clyde Bellecourt, July 1978.

FOR 50 YEARS OF IMMENSE WORK AND VISION –

# Thanks for American Indian Movement

By SANDY SPIELER

I arrived in Minneapolis in 1973 and moved into the collective household right across the street from Little Earth of United Tribes just as it was being built. Out of that house, the MayDay Parade was born, and so the parade begins each year from the field alongside Little Earth of United Tribes.

In my first month in Minneapolis, I ventured to the Little Earth gym to hear you of the American Indian Movement speak of your work.

Your voices shook me to my core.

Your call for spiritual grounding as social justice and truth reached inside me and woke within me a need to reckon with colonial histories. You brought me to this neighborhood with a cry to deal with the layers of institu-

tionalized trauma and live in reciprocal relationship with the life-giving majesty of this world.

I owe much gratitude to you of the American Indian Movement (AIM) for teaching me so much. While your work upholding Native Communities is often detailed, I know I am not alone in noting the profound influence you have had on my life as a white woman. Your influence in the world is great, and with each passing year I recognize the immensity of your influence in this neighborhood. Your work continues to inspire and challenge me.

Please accept my profound thanks and congratulations on 50 years of visionary work.

*Editor's note: This is reprinted from the MayDay 2019 tabloid courtesy of In The Heart of the Beast.*

## OPINION & COMMENTARY

*The following letters were written to city officials and submitted to The Alley.*

“Right to be involved – 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.” (Passed by Minneapolis City Council in 2007 - updated in 2014).

I am Shontal Lajuenesse. Why has public works and the city council REFUSED to allow the East Phillips Community to present our East Phillips indoor Urban farm plan at any of your meetings??? We DO NOT want your pollution and congestion. We have enough already. And

Yes! We want clean water, but we also deserve to BREATHE. Where is the justice?

Shontal Lajuenesse

I am Amy Pass, and I have lived in the East Phillips neighborhood for the last 21 years. The residents of East Phillips already are exposed to high levels of pollution, and my daughter was tested and found to have high levels of arsenic when she was a preschooler. Our neighborhood is full of minority people and people of low socio economic status, and the city’s plan to put a water maintenance yard at the former Roof Depot site is nothing short of environmental racism and elitism. The neighborhood has clearly stated opposition to the city’s plan and has proposed an alternate plan that would decrease pollution, increase affordable housing, create jobs, and increase quality of life for our neighborhood.

Why would the city refuse to even listen to the community?

Why would the city chose to add stress and pollution to an already suffering neighborhood?

Why won’t the city even HEAR the plan that the citizens of the neighbourhood propose?

We’re asking for your assistance in helping our neighborhood to be heard. We look forward to your quick response.

Sincerely,  
Amy Pass

## Work goes on because needs go on

From page 1

Indian people were never intended to survive the settlement of Europeans in the Western Hemisphere, our Turtle Island. With the strength of a spiritual base, AIM has been able to clearly articulate the claims of Native Nations and has had the will and intellect to put forth those claims.

The movement was founded to turn the attention of Indian people toward a renewal of spirituality which would impart the strength of resolve needed to reverse the ruinous policies of the United States, Canada, and other colonialist governments of Central and South America. At the heart of AIM is deep spirituality and a belief in the connectedness of all Indian people.

During the past 30 years, The American Indian Movement has organized communities and created opportunities for people across the Americas and Canada. AIM is headquartered in Minneapolis with chapters in many other cities, rural areas and Indian Nations.

AIM has repeatedly brought successful suit against the federal government for the protection of the rights of Native Nations guaranteed in treaties, sovereignty, the United States Constitution, and laws. The philosophy of self-determination upon which the movement is built is deeply rooted in traditional spirituality, culture, language and history. AIM develops partnerships to address the common needs of the people. Its first mandate is to ensure the fulfillment of treaties made with the United States. This is the clear and unwavering vision of The American Indian Movement.

It has not been an easy path. Spiritual leaders and elders foresaw the testing of AIM’s strength and stamina. Doubters, infiltrators, those who wished they were in the leadership, and those who didn’t want to be but wanted to tear down and take away have had their turns. No one, inside or outside the movement, has so far been able to destroy the will and strength of AIM’s solidarity. Men and women, adults and children are continuously urged to stay strong spiritually, and to always remember that the movement is greater than the accomplishments or faults of its leaders.

Inherent in the spiritual heart of AIM is knowing that the work goes on because the need goes on.

Indian people live on Mother Earth with the clear understanding that no one will assure the coming generations except ourselves. No one from the outside will do this for us. And no person among us can do it all for us, either. Self-determination must be the goal of all work. Solidarity must be the first and only defense of the members.

*Editor's note: This is reprinted from the MayDay 2019 tabloid courtesy of In The Heart of the Beast.*



Read the unabridged AIM history by same authors here:  
[www.aimovement.org/ggc/history.html](http://www.aimovement.org/ggc/history.html)

**Marie Sandvik Center invites you to our annual JESUS JUBILEE!**  
**Tuesday, July 30th, 2019 - 4pm - 7pm**

• Inspirational preaching & Music •  
• Food • Games • Bouncy house •  
**All are welcome!**  
**Rain or Shine!**  
**FREE!** **TASTY GOOD**

**1112 East Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404**  
**612-870-9617** [www.MarieSandvikCenter.org](http://www.MarieSandvikCenter.org)



**Free! Now thru July 26**  
Kids in K-8th grades come and learn about God's word, make friends and share lunch and activities.  
**Monday - Friday, 11a - 1p.**  
Call for more information.

**FOR ADULTS:**  
**After a chapel service, guests may receive a hot meal, clothing, hygiene products and a blanket.**  
(See schedule on right.)

**Sunday nights**  
4p Bible study  
6p Chapel, Meal, men's clothes  
**Tuesday nights**  
5p Set Free (12 Step Bible study)  
7p Chapel, Meal, women's clothes  
**Friday nights**  
3:30p Christian movies,  
5:30p Bible study  
7p Chapel, Meal, men's clothes  
**Thursday afternoons**  
12p Quilt & layette sign-ups, Gospel movie, Child care for attendees  
1p Ladies' Day Chapel  
2pm Meal, women's, infants' & Children's clothing  
(\*Guests must enter by time noted)

**They're healthy. You're happy. And it's free.**

[FreeChildCheckups.com](http://FreeChildCheckups.com)

**Child and Teen Checkups**



The Hennepin County Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC) program is free for children, teens, and young adults 20 and younger who are on Medical Assistance, including young parents.



## OPINION & COMMENTARY

### Raise Your Voice

## Mind-numbing Janjaweed

By PETER MOLENAAR

On the western fringe of Alley News territory, there exists yet another progressive church. Was it more than 10 years ago that Plymouth Congregational (1900 Nicollet Ave.) hosted a sizeable public meeting in response to the Darfur Genocide? Indeed, events in this western province of Sudan, Africa had provoked the presence of such notables as Tim Walz and Keith Ellison.



The genocide was carried out by the Sudanese government's "Arab" militias, known as the Janjaweed (translation: "devils on horseback"). The Janjaweed systematically destroyed Darfurians by looting and burning their villages, murdering, raping, and torturing... and then, polluting their water supply with decomposing bodies. Over 480,000 were killed, 2.8 million displaced.

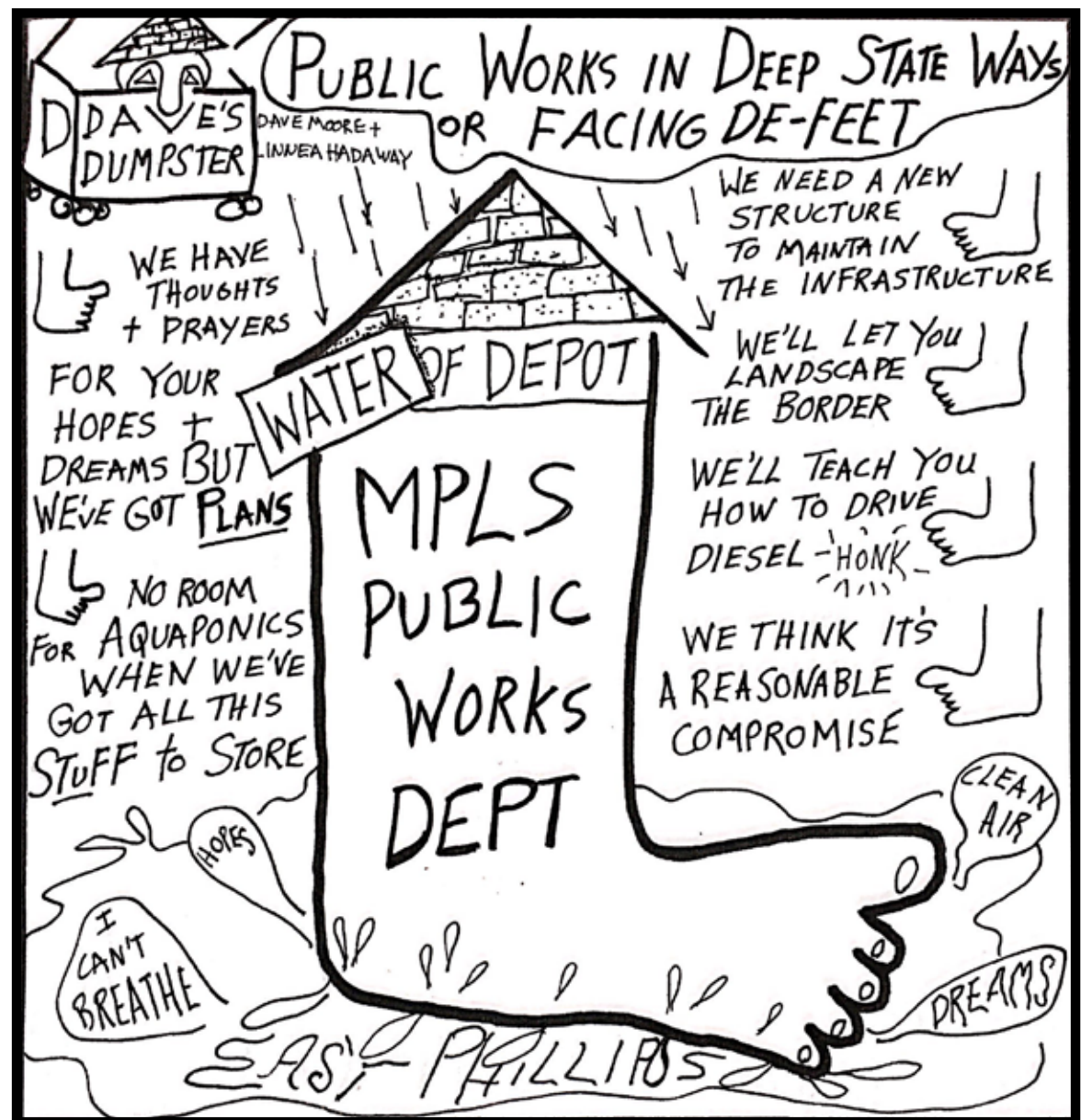
Why, at the present time, would one choose to write about these things? Well, the stench of

burning Janjaweed has returned now to waft among the reeds of Khartoum's Nile, and because the overlords have seen fit to notch a fresh death toll with their refusal to reveal their "deposed" leader and their refusal to allow elections in the near term. Oh, but the crocodiles smile.

Hey, we have Sudanese neighbors living close by and we are blessed with the knowledgeable concern expressed by African immigrants from numerous nations. But, here is the thing: the Janjaweed are stoked by the Saudis, and the Saudis are armed by the U.S.A. Therefore, the rest of us citizens had better begin to register a modicum of moral integrity.

For God's sake: BAN ALL WEAPONS SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA.

Meanwhile (all the while waving their little false flags) Trump, Pompeo, and Bolton are making awkward attempts to "circle-bond." Peering through the haze, they would have us believe their Janjaweed is really good stuff. People, the moral degradation is not worth it... just say: NO.



WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR OPINIONS ON WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND THE WORLD! Email [copydesk@alleynews.org](mailto:copydesk@alleynews.org)

### The Rand Report

## Cano: Here are four things to do to show we all matter

By RAND RETTERATH



This issue I'd like to focus on a comment made regarding my 2020 article. Nicole H. posted this response to that article: "This is such a crock. Neighborhoods are not representative of their residents (say what?). The city is requiring work to be done to get money. You act like the money is expected or entitled. (This isn't for me personally, it's for the communities and part of the participative government experience that has existed in this city for decades.) .... You should write about how the white power base are losing power and have created false narratives. Every single one of your points can be argued yet you will never see it because you are full of the kool-aide. (I assume she means that I am white and it mitigates my ability to understand much of anything.)

I agree with Nicole. I should talk about the white power base losing power; we all should.

But to do that means that we must discuss her comment in light of achieving racial and socio-economic parity for all.

The assault on my ideas and opinions is unrelenting not because they are flawed, but because I am (fill in the blank). No single person has ever spoken to me about

the facts or merits of my opinion. Rather, like Nicole, the response is always about my race or some other unrelated attribute, real or imagined, and as a result of that attribute, I have nothing to offer.

Since Alondra Cano has come to office, I have been called an endless list of insults. It is the same tactic used by the Nationalists in Washington. Think about it. Facts are overlooked in favor of emotionally charged slanders and false narratives designed to cut people out of the conversation.

2020 is all about engagement; my responsibility, your responsibility, theirs and ours. It should be a message of inclusion. However, since 2013 the rant from Ward 9 leadership seems to be about minimizing someone as entitled, gentrified, or victimizers exclusively.

We talk about a specific diversity agenda to the exclusion of age (why yes, I have been accused of that), ability (or lack thereof), religion (ask my Hindu, Lubavitch, Ethiopian Christian or Coptic friends how they feel included in our so-called community), national origin (ask my Ethiopian and Eritrean neighbors) and others. What about how we treat people because of their job? The worst employment in this city right now is a police officer (now there is an example of profiling). On May 18, American Public Radio went so far as to air a story on the increasing

suicide rate within rank and file officers because of the environment in which they are forced to work.

You are an untouchable hero if you work with victims of the sex trade or bike lanes. If you are an educated professional, you are a member of the proletariat and could not possibly understand. In fact, Cano doesn't even think she needs to attend events, candidate debates, parades (May Day), because she apparently knows better than everyone else. Opportunities for community input are a thing of the past for ANYONE!

As a white man, I need to change and adapt. I like that! Those who aren't me do have the right to their anger! But do they have the right to focus that anger on me and others with a goal of retribution, invalidating my opinions or insights? Isn't that exactly what I am being accused of?

I am descended from a line of Irish Catholic Railroad workers. My great uncle Stan was allegedly killed by the KKK in Lake Side Park, Fond du Lac, Wis. because he was Irish Catholic. The Irish, as indentured servants, were worked to death with greater frequency than slaves. England practiced a policy of total genocide in Ireland. "East of the Mississippi, under every railroad tie is a dead Irishman, west is a dead Chinaman." John F. Kennedy was to the Irish American – what Barack Obama was to the African American. The Irish formed street gangs to survive in America (Dead Rabbits, Hudson Dusters, the Westies and

others. Whitie Bolger emerged out of the Irish gangs).

People have a right to their anger! But do they have the right to target individual representatives of the historically oppressing group? To what end is it "creating false narratives"?

I had a black neighbor who lived across the street. She would sit in her 2nd floor apartment window and call every African immigrant who passed words that made me shudder.

So, my question for you all today – how long are we going to tolerate people in power, to model behavior that divides, disparages, invalidates, ridicules and depends on historical guilt to survive, that makes it ok to call people names and treat them as worthless, uneducated dolts rather than engage in meaningful, community building conversation?

We must find ways to meet in common space. Not one single person since 2013 has ever engaged me in a respectful dialogue over the issues that have evolved in our community.

The recent resolution on prostitution is a perfect example. I get it, I really do. But, as I said, this is the current golden topic. To argue the point will only result in name calling and disparaging assaults on my intelligence, integrity and the reality of what I see. What I see day after day are needles, feces, children in harm's way, elders afraid to walk the street, black eyes and the full spectrum of maladaptive behavior within the culture of a sex work, addiction, homelessness and all

the rest. Unfortunately, rather than talk openly about these other victims, people will just take me to task for being white, entitled or some other completely unrelated and irrelevant aspect, real or imagined.

I come to people with a wealth of information on topics, having done my homework in an effort to understand as completely as possible the issue. I am told to go lay down by my dish, that I do not matter. I am very sure that resonates with many of you, just as I am sure there are many of you thinking "good for him, now he knows how I feel," and I agree; that is good for me and yet, we still need to come together, live next door to each other and solve a common set of problems that are destroying our community!

Perhaps Cano could make a start by unblocking all the community members she has blocked on social media. (Which, by the way, is a court determined violation of First Amendment Rights). Secondly, she might initiate protocols to return every constituent inquiry. Thirdly, she might commit to attend and host community events where she actually listens to community experience and ideas. Fourth, she might institute community events to talk about the exercise of power and community building strategies, which is the intent the 2020 program.

Four simple actions that could turn the tide of division and derision in favor of building community with all Ward 9 residents by showing that WE ALL MATTER.





# BACKYARD COMMUNITY HEALTH HUB

Midtown Global Market, 920 E. Lake St., Minneapolis MN 55407

[BackyardHealthHub@culturalwellnesscenter.org](mailto:BackyardHealthHub@culturalwellnesscenter.org)  
**612-353-6211 | [www.culturalwellnesscenter.org](http://www.culturalwellnesscenter.org)**

Call Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for more info and to find out how to get involved!

Like us on Facebook



## It's July – the **BIG CHALLENGE** Continues!!!


Community organizations and residents – Bring your co-workers and friends and join together to make healthy life choices, build morale and meet the **CHALLENGE!** WIN individual or organizational prizes and recognition for:

- **BIGGEST LOSER !!!** • **MOST STEPS!!!** • **MOST FITNESS HOURS ....and more!**

**GUIDE TO CALENDAR:**

1. **WALK ANYTIME MGM & GREENWAY** – 10am to 6 pm. CHECK IN with staff of the Backyard Community Health Hub to help us keep track of your participation.
2. **MONDAY activity** – held in the Midtown Global Market's Conference Room on the lower level
3. 1st and the 3rd **THURSDAY** activities – located in the center area of the Midtown Global Market.
4. **WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY** activities – located inside of the Allina Conference Room.
5. Craniosacral on Wednesdays by appointment only-612-353-6211.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 <i>*Walk anytime!</i>	3 <i>*Walk anytime!</i> <i>*Breathe 5-6pm</i> <i>*Yoga 6-7</i> <i>* Craniosacral by appointment</i>	4 <i>HOLIDAY</i> <i>Not open</i>	5 <i>*Walk anytime!</i>	6 <i>*Yoga 2-3</i> <i>* Zumba 3-4</i> <i>*Breathe &amp; Sound Therapy 4-6pm</i>
8 <i>*Walk anytime!</i> <i>*Breathe 5-6pm</i> <i>*Yoga 6-7</i> <i>* Zumba 7-8</i>	9 <i>*Walk anytime!</i> <i>* Stepping into Wellness - with J Most 5:30-7:30</i>	10 <i>*Walk anytime!</i> <i>*Breathe 5-6pm</i> <i>*Yoga 6-7</i> <i>* Craniosacral by appointment</i>	11 <i>*Walk anytime!</i>	12 <i>*Walk anytime!</i>	13 <i>*Yoga 2-3</i> <i>* Zumba 3-4</i> <i>*Breathe &amp; Sound Therapy 4-6pm</i>
15 <i>*Walk anytime!</i> <i>*Breathe 5-6pm</i> <i>*Yoga 6-7</i> <i>* Zumba 7-8</i>	16 <i>*Walk anytime!</i>	17 <i>*Walk anytime!</i> <i>*Breathe 5-6pm</i> <i>*Yoga 6-7</i> <i>* Craniosacral by appointment</i>	18 <i>Dinner Dialogue Cardiovascular Health (2DC) 5:30-7:30</i> <i>- Walk &amp; Step</i> <i>- Massage &amp; Craniosacral</i>	19 <i>*Walk anytime!</i>	20 <i>*Yoga 2-3</i> <i>* Zumba 3-4</i> <i>*Breathe &amp; Sound Therapy 4-6pm</i>
22 <i>*Walk anytime!</i> <i>*Breathe 5-6pm</i> <i>*Yoga 6-7</i> <i>* Zumba 7-8</i>	23 <i>*Walk anytime!</i> <i>* Stepping into Wellness - with J Most 5:30-7:30</i>	24 <i>*Walk anytime!</i> <i>*Breathe 5-6pm</i> <i>*Yoga 6-7</i> <i>* Craniosacral by appointment</i>	25 <i>*Walk anytime!</i>	26 <i>*Walk anytime!</i>	27 <i>*Yoga 2-3</i> <i>* Zumba 3-4</i> <i>*Breathe &amp; Sound Therapy 4-6pm</i>
29 <i>*Walk anytime!</i> <i>*Breathe 5-6pm</i> <i>*Yoga 6-7</i> <i>* Zumba 7-8</i>	30 <i>*Walk anytime!</i>	31 <i>*Walk anytime!</i> <i>*Breathe 5-6pm</i> <i>*Yoga 6-7</i> <i>* Craniosacral by appointment</i>	<div><b>Engage, Connect and Participate... our work unleashes the power of citizens to heal themselves and build community</b> -----Join us at the Midtown Global Market</div>		



## BACKYARD COMMUNITY HEALTH HUB

Inspiring people to live 3 dimensional in the world around them

## CHECK OUT these two Health Champions

and what they have to offer through the exciting activities made possible by the Backyard Community Health Hub.


**There is something for everyone!!!**



J. MOST of COMMAND STEPPERS MN



Line Dancing in June at Backyard Community Health Hub Dinner, Dialogue, Cardiovascular Health monthly event



### LINE DANCING with J. MOST, COMMAND STEPPERS MN

**1st and 3rd Thursdays, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 5:30 to 7:30**

**sponsored by the Backyard Community Health Hub (see Calendar below)**


J. MOST had a hit single in 2007. People who enjoy the dancing or “Stepping”, said it was a great song for dancing to. J. MOST also loves teaching so in 2009, he began teaching Stepping and estimates he has taught over 350 people. In fact J. MOST reports, many of the other Stepping and Line Dancing instructors in the Twin Cities can be linked back to learning these dances from him.

Line Dancing is an urban, group dance routine learned and performed to a song. This form of dancing can involve a group of people from 2 to 1000! Both Stepping and Line Dancing instructors by COMMAND STEPPERS MN is done to rhythm and blues music.

The Backyard Community Health Hub brings J. MOST and COMMAND STEPPERS MN to Dinner, Dialogue and Diabetes on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Midtown Global Market. (NOTE: Dinner, Dialogue, Diabetes will

NOT occur the 1st Thursday in July because of the holiday.) People are served a delicious meal, learn about diabetes and how to practice improved self-care and have fun getting their bodies moving through line dancing and other activities. If you want to learn about cardiovascular disease AND do some line dancing with J. MOST, show up on the 3rd Thursdays of each month from 5:30 to 7:30 pm for Dinner, Dialogue, Cardiovascular Health, another exceptional monthly activity of the Backyard Community Health Hub.

If you just want to dance or practice your Stepping moves, join J. MOST and COMMAND STEPPERS MN on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the MGM. You will be Steppin’ into Wellness with the Backyard Community Health Hub! (see calendar below)



### CRANIOSACRAL with Caspian

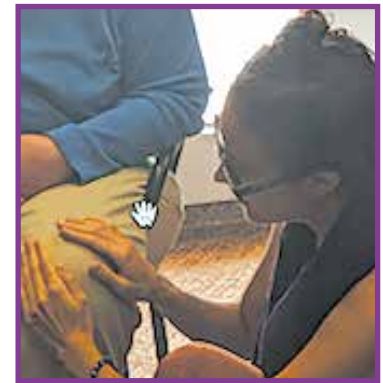
**Wednesday, by appointment by calling the Backyard Community Health Hub 612-353-6211 (see Calendar below)**

Craniosacral – is light touch, inner resourcing body-listening, rooted in following the movement of the cranial head bone that pumps cerebral spinal fluid down to the sacrum. Since all of

the nerves come out of the spine, you can connect with the whole body. You can talk to the whole body from that relationship.

Sessions are tailored to fit the person. Caspian offers sessions as part of the Backyard Community Health Hub’s varied activities to promote self-healing and community building. Participants sit in chairs and are fully clothed and help to co-create what the focus will be during this time together. Co-creation of the focus is based upon the participant knowing what they need and being able to ask for it. A “consent to practice” format is also used, meaning that the participant has an equal voice and may decide when to stop or end the session.

Participants may use craniosacral for pain, injury, heartbreak, over-thinking or general stress among other things. Craniosacral originated in chiropractic medicine and is about being in relationship to the bones, a type of practice that is evident in many cultures. Caspian believes it is part of our collective liberation and living in our connected selves. She says, “When we are feeling one’s life energy in our own bodies, it leads to our being able to feel and respect the life energy of others.” Her philosophy aligns well with the principles that are practiced daily at the Backyard Community Health Hub.



Caspian performing craniosacral per Backyard Community Health Hub participant’s direction.