

## AICDC's New Shelter Homeward Bound Opens To Serve in Minneapolis!



PHOTO COURTESY OF AICDC

By LINDSEY FENNER

The Homeward Bound Shelter opened at the former Cedar Box Company building at Cedar and Franklin. On December 7, 2020, American Indian Community Development Corporation (AICDC)

opened a new 50 bed shelter providing culturally specific services for the Native American community. The shelter will operate 24/7, and provide meals and storage. Hennepin County provided \$3.5 million in funding, with additional funding from the City of Minneapolis, the State of

Minnesota, and private donors. The shelter was developed relatively quickly, due to the hard work of contractor KMS Construction and AICDC staff, with murals by Rory Wake-mup. To get connected for placement at AICDC's shelter, call Adult Shelter Connect at 612-248-2350.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AICDC

HOMeward BOUND, AICDC's new 24hr Shelter opened on Monday, Dec. 7th! Executive Director Michael Goze sent gratitude to the many people that have worked tirelessly to make it happen including; Funders, KMS Construction, subcontractors, Rory Wakemup for the art, and most of all the staff of AICDC!



PHOTO COURTESY OF AICDC

### Tips from a COVID-19 Case Investigator

## Something to Hope for

By LINDSEY FENNER

I didn't want to write about COVID this month. I'm sick of it, heart-sick. Since November, my coworkers and I have been overwhelmed, with more cases than we can possibly call, and knowing that it has become more likely that someone we're trying to call is hospitalized or has died. And I know that, by now, all of us have been personally touched by COVID-19. There is so much grief to carry. And yet, with that grief, we now have something to hope for. Today, December 14, as I write this, the first vaccine has been administered to someone outside of a clinical trial in Minnesota. I was not expecting that I would cry, but I did. I'm at the back of the vaccine line, and there is a long way to go until enough people are vaccinated for herd immunity. But I know we are going to get through this. And here are some reasons why:

**The vaccine:** My thanks go to the scientists, the lab workers, and the vaccine trial participants. These vaccines are truly a testament of people working together for something bigger than themselves. I will share more information when we know more about widespread distribution in MN. But please start having the conversations now with loved ones about their plans for vaccination. It is estimated that at least 7 out of every 10 Minnesotans will need to be vaccinated in order to end this pandemic.

**We know so much:** COVID-19 has been the subject of thousands and thousands of scientific studies. There are still some uncertainties about

reinfection and long-lasting immunity. But this virus is no longer an unknown to fear. We know how it spreads and we have more ways of treating it. We can fight this.

**What we do matters:** Every choice and sacrifice we have made to slow the spread has helped. Staying home, wearing a mask, not gathering indoors, distancing, handwashing: none of us do this perfectly every time. And we are going to have to keep on doing it for a while. But don't EVER doubt that it doesn't help.

**More work needs to be done:** It should be no surprise that the folks most harmed by this pandemic are indigenous and people of color, low wage workers, and people who are incarcerated. In Hennepin County, indigenous neighbors are 9 times more likely to be hospitalized for COVID-19 as white neighbors, and 5 times more likely to die from COVID-19. According to the New York Times, as of December 16, there have been at least 2,733 cases of coronavirus in meatpacking plants in MN, with over 700 cases at the JBS Pork production facility in Worthington. There have been at least 5,985 cases of coronavirus in prisons and correctional facilities in MN, with over 1,000 cases at Stillwater alone. We need to stand in solidarity, to fight for the lives of our neighbors and to fight for our collective futures.

**You are not alone!** If you need help:

Community Care Community Coordinators: COVID Community Coordinators are community organizations partnering with the Minnesota Department of Health. They can answer questions about:

- Where to get tested for

#### COVID-19

- Food support
- Health care and mental health resources
- Housing and rental assistance
- COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing
- Employment resources

**Community Coordinator Hotline Numbers** (For more, visit <https://covidcommunitycoordinators.web.health.state.mn.us/>)

**Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES):** 651-768-0000, Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 5pm; Saturday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Spanish  
**Cultural Wellness Center:** 612-249-9528, Monday - Friday 24 hours; On call weekends; English

**Division of Indian Work:** 651-304-9986, Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm: English

**WellShare International:** 612-254-7308 (Somali/English), 651-318-0051 (Spanish), 763-312-6362 (Oromo), Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 8:00 pm; On call evenings/weekends: English, Oromo, Spanish, Somali

**Hennepin County Essential Services:** If you're a Hennepin County resident who has recently tested positive for COVID-19 and needs help remaining in isolation, we can help. Call 612-348-3000 or email [EssentialServices@hennepin.us](mailto:EssentialServices@hennepin.us). The line is staffed 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Help is available in different languages.

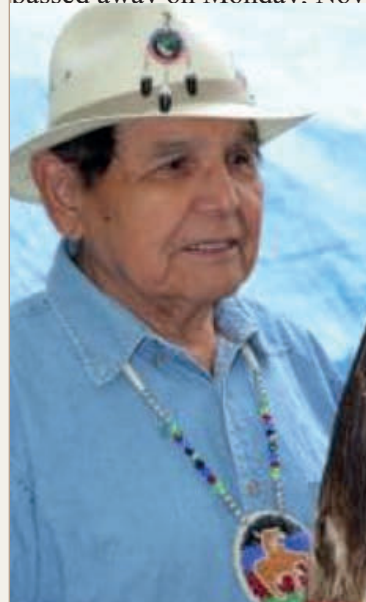
*Lindsey lives in East Phillips and has been working a reassignment as a COVID-19 Case Investigator for local public health since May. She is tired but hopeful. Her opinions are her own.*

## AIM Co-founder Eddie Benton-Banai Remembered for His Contributions to Native Culture

By LEVI RICKERT

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HAYWARD, Wis. — Native communities in the Great Lake region are mourning the loss of Eddie Benton-Banai (Bawdwaywidun Banaise), a co-founder of the American Indian Movement (AIM), who passed away on Monday, Nov.



Eddie Benton-Banai. (Courtesy photo)

30, in Hayward, Wis. He was 89.

Benton-Banai will be remembered for his vast contributions to the resurgence of Anishinaabe culture throughout the Great Lakes

region where he was a grand chief, or spiritual leader, of the Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge. Beyond his role as a spiritual leader, Benton-Banai was an educator and author, who sought to preserve Native culture and spirituality.

"There are people who inspire us, who help us reach the spaces where we are able to be our best selves, who strengthen us to protect what our ancestors wanted for us. There are those who carry these teachings and wisdom and accept the responsibility. They are our teachers, our healers, our inspirations, and one of the greatest has walked on. Bawdwaywidun Banaise was one who accepted the responsibility of teaching and guiding the people," Shannon Martin (Gun Lake Potawatomi, Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe), director of Ziibiwing Center of Anishinaabe Culture and Lifeways in Mt. Pleasant, Mich., said to Native News Online.

"He chose to stand for us, spiritually, ceremonially, and as an advocate politically. He carried and shared the prayers, prophecies, songs, and spiritual teachings of our ancestors. Bawdwaywidun taught many of us how to pray, sing, fast, laugh, cry, listen, and speak our language," Martin continued.

Born and raised on the Lac Courte Oreilles Indian reservation  
*Continued on page 3...*



## thealley

**Alley Communications IS** connecting neighbors, promoting art and culture, advocating for issues, building health community, facilitating deliberation, lifting every voice, documenting history, agitating for change, giving truth and democracy a jog forward.

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**Board meetings:** 6:30 PM 1st Thursday by Zoom. Editorial Leadership Team 2nd and 4th Mon. Mornings by Zoom and virtual conversations as needed.

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Archives: 1976 thru 2007 <http://bit.ly/2GaYHIU> and at Franklin and Central Libraries.

"When the great newspapers don't say much, see what the little independent ones say." ... Wendell Phillips 1811-1884

**Submissions due the 15th day of the previous month.**

**email: [copydesk@alleynews.org](mailto:copydesk@alleynews.org)**



## Library News

By CARZ NELSON

For updated information on Hennepin County Library services during the Coronavirus Pandemic, visit [www.hclib.org](http://www.hclib.org). All information is accurate as of December 15, 2020

**Franklin Library** at 1413 E Franklin Avenue is open for computer use only. Call (612) 543-6925 to make an appointment. The building will remain locked, but staff will let you in at your appointment time. Masks are required and will be provided if you do not bring one. Because of social distancing, staff will be unable to offer computer assistance. You will have access to a desktop computer, Internet, and printing. You will need to bring your own headphones. At this time, Franklin Library is open for computer use ONLY. Other areas and services, including book/DVD checkout, are not available. They will be accepting returns during staffed service hours.

### Franklin Library Computer Hours

Tuesday & Wednesday – 9 AM to 5 PM

Thursday – Noon to 8 PM

Friday & Saturday – 9 AM to 5 PM

Sunday & Monday – Closed

**Grab and Go Library Service at Hosmer Library:** Hosmer Library, 347 E 36th St., is open for retrieving holds, limited browsing of materials, checking out items, returning library materials, quick reference support, computer appointments and printing. Meeting rooms, study rooms, children's play areas, and lounges will not be available for use at this time. Masks are required and will be provided if you don't bring one. Check the library website for up-to-date service information and hours.

### Community Cookbook

Community Cookbook is a monthly series of video cooking demonstrations from local chefs, restaurants, and organizations. Available on Facebook and YouTube, a new recipe is highlighted every month. January's episode features a cooking demonstration by the chef of award-winning Vietnamese restaurant Pho Pasteur. Available starting Monday, January 18, 2021.

### Due Dates Extended

Due dates for physical materials continue to be automatically extended. You are not required to return materials at this time. Libraries are accepting returns during staffed service hours only. Items will be removed from your account after a three-day quarantine.

**Outdoor Wi-Fi Available at Franklin and Hosmer**

### Libraries

Free Wi-Fi is available in the parking lots and grounds of several Hennepin County libraries, including Franklin and Hosmer. Library staff can help you find the best signal.

### Homework Help

Live, virtual tutors are available through Help Now [www.hclib.org/programs/home-work-help](http://www.hclib.org/programs/home-work-help).

### At Home Service

At Home service is provided free of charge to Hennepin County residents who cannot get to a library due to illness, disability, or visual impairment. To apply for At Home service, submit an online application or apply by phone at 612-543-8850. Staff are available Monday through Friday, 10 AM to 5 PM, except holidays.

### Library social worker

A social worker is available outside Franklin Library, Wednesdays 9am- 5pm:

- Basic needs (clothing, food, meals, shelter)
- Chemical Health
- Disability Services
- Education & Employment
- Hennepin County Benefits
- Housing
- A listening ear
- Mental Health Resources
- Transportation

### E-BOOKS AND AUDIOBOOKS:

**LIBBY:** The Libby app is available for iOS and Android devices and is a streamlined way to access downloadable ebooks and audiobooks from OverDrive. You can check out

audiobooks right in the app. You can also read eBooks in the app or send them to your Kindle.

**CLOUD LIBRARY:** Find downloadable eBooks for readers of all ages. A reader app is also available for Apple, Android and other devices.

### Online Services

Go to the library without leaving home. Here are just a few of the services available at [www.hclib.org](http://www.hclib.org):

- Tools for job searches
- Ancestry Library Edition and other resources to research family history
- Local music on MNspin

**Ask the Library:** Have a reference or library account question? Call, text, chat with, or email a library worker.

**<https://www.hclib.org/contact>**

Call **612-543-KNOW (5669)** to reach library staff by phone.

**MONDAY-THURSDAY** 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

**FRIDAY-SATURDAY** 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**SUNDAY** Noon – 5 p.m.

**ESPAÑOL/SPANISH:** Llame o envíe un texto al 651-503-8013 para recibir ayuda en español.

**HMOOB/HMONG:** Hu losis text rau lub tsev nyeem ntawv ntawm 612-385-0886 txais kev pab hais lus Hmoob.

**SOOMAALI/SOMALI:** Caawimaad Soomaali ah, soo wac ama qoraal (text) usoo dir maktabada 612-235-1339.

*Carz is a Phillips resident and an enthusiastic patron of Hennepin County Library.*

## METRO TRANSIT

## Answer the Survey, We're Counting on You

By JOHN CHARLES WILSON

Public transit is one of the few government functions where the people in charge actually listen to suggestions from common citizens. I have been going to public forums about transit changes for many years, though recently I've had trouble getting to them. However, because of the pandemic a lot of this stuff is being done online now.

Metro Transit is currently doing a survey which can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/futurebus> or from the Metro Transit website regarding future Bus Rapid Transit routes.

As you probably already know, two BRT routes already exist, the A on Snelling (Saint Paul) and the C on Penn Ave. N., and three more are "in the pipeline": the B (Lake St.), the D (Chicago Ave. - Fremont Ave. N.) and the E (Hennepin - France Ave. S.)

This survey is about what three routes will next get the BRT treatment after the ones already planned. You are being asked to pick three of

four choices and rank them in order of importance to you: Central (Minneapolis), Como/Maryland (Saint Paul), Lyndale S./Johnson, and Rice/Robert (Saint Paul). While none of these routes would directly pass through the Phillips neighborhood, the value of a transit system is where it enables you to go. So please think about what areas outside Phillips you have reason to visit, whether daily or just occasionally, and "vote" for BRT to those places in this survey.



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## Eddie Benton-Banai

vation in Wisconsin, Benton-Banai was incarcerated in his early adult life after he was convicted of manslaughter. “Eddie ended up behind bars for a crime that a white man wouldn’t even have been tried for. He was in St. Paul while on leave from the army. He came out of a bar and saw an older white man trying to force an Indian girl into a car. Eddie pushed him, and the man fell and hit his head against the curb. He later died of a brain hemorrhage, and Eddie was convicted of manslaughter,” writes AIM co-founder Clyde Bellecourt in his autobiography “The Thunder before the Storm.” After being released from prison, Bellecourt and Benton-Banai, along with Dennis Banks, started the American Indian Movement to stop police brutality in the Minneapolis-St. Paul twin cities in 1968. He was present during the AIM occupation of Wounded Knee in 1973. Benton-Banai received a degree in education and a master’s of business administration degree. He started the Red School, an American Indian school in Minneapolis and St. Paul during the 1970s. “Eddie was a mentor and friend to me and countless others. He worked up to his passing planting seeds to revive our Anishinaabe culture and



Eddie Benton-Banai in 1971. (Photo: J Walter Green/AP)

language. For the next four days, I am going to observe a spiritual sacred fire and pray that he serve as messenger to bring our prayers with him,” Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Chairperson Aaron Payment wrote on his Facebook page. Benton-Banai is also known for authoring “The Mishomis Book: The Voice of the Ojibway” that draws from the teachings of tribal elders that educate the youth about Ojibway creation stories and legends. The following statement was issued today by Garden River First Nation. It reads in part: “Today we mourn the passing of a great knowledge keeper and spiritual leader, Dr. Eddie Benton-Banai, Bawdwaywidun from Lac Court Orielles Band of Ojibways in Wisconsin and a relative from the Fish Clan,” stated Chief Any Rickard. “Eddie was a leader in the early days in advancing Anishinaabe-controlled education and cultural-based education based on Anishinaabe philosophy and our sacred prophecies. Eddie led the effort in revitalizing our traditional governance institutions by planning and organizing the historic gatherings here in Garden River First Nation in 1992 and 2007 by rekindling the sacred fire of the Three Fires Confederacy. Moments in time that will live on forever in the sounding of the voice of the Little Boy Water Drum and the lowering of our Teaching Lodges.”

# Random alley News

- ▶ All My Relations Arts has announced their *We Are Still Here* cohort. *We Are Still Here* is an 18-24 month partnership with the Hennepin Theatre Trust that will bring large-scale, high profile public artwork created by an emerging network of Native artists to both downtown Minneapolis and the American Indian Corridor highlighting contemporary Native culture and dispelling stereotypes. Artist Mentor Jonathan Thunder (Red Lake Ojibwe) will work with cohort artists Ray Janis (Oglala Lakota Tribe), Sheldon Starr (Oglala Sioux Tribe), and Missy Whiteman (Northern Arapaho and Kickapoo) to create digital designs, full-motion animation projects and a possible large-scale mural.
- ▶ The Uncles are moving out. After 36 years at 28th and Chicago, Uncle Hugo’s Science Fiction Bookstore and Uncle Edgar’s Mystery Bookstore are looking for a new home. The building was destroyed by fire during the unrest after the murder of George Floyd, and the owner has decided not to rebuild at the same location. We hope they don’t move too far away!
- ▶ Phillips Neighborhood Clinic has reopened! Clinic hours are Mondays, 6PM-8PM (check in starts at 5:30PM) at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 2742 15th Avenue South. Please enter from the side door on the East side of the building (along 15th Ave S). No appointments or insurance necessary. Spanish interpreters are available at all times. The Phillips Neighborhood Clinic (PNC) is a free clinic operated by University of Minnesota health professional students. All students are supervised by licensed
- clinicians. Phone: 612-724-1690
- ▶ Janis Lane-Ewert is the new station manager of KRSM Radio, 98.9 FM, which operates out of Waite House at the Phillips Community Center at 2323 11th Avenue South. Lane-Ewert was Executive Director of KFAI Fresh Air Community Radio for 12 years, and was most recently Development Officer at jazz station KBEM – Jazz88. KRSM, an initiative of Pillsbury United Communities, is a platform for amplifying the voices, stories, cultures, and conversations happening in our neighborhood, with a focus on communities that are marginalized, misrepresented, and erased by traditional media.
- ▶ Peace House Community welcomes Loaves and Fishes. Beginning January 4, 2021, Peace House Community at 1816 Portland Ave will be a new serving site for Loaves and Fishes meals. Meals at Peace House Community will be served Monday through Friday, 5:30PM until 6:30PM. St. Stephen’s at 2123 Clinton Ave S will no longer be serving meals. Other Loaves and Fishes locations near the Phillips neighborhood will not change. During COVID-19, all meals are takeaway only. Loaves and Fishes is always looking for volunteers to help cook and serve meals! Loaves and Fishes provides free meals at locations throughout Minneapolis. To volunteer, visit their website [www.loavesandfishesmn.org](http://www.loavesandfishesmn.org) or email their Director of Volunteers, Lonny Evans at [levans@loaveandfishesmn.org](mailto:levans@loaveandfishesmn.org)
- ▶ Ward 9 Council Member Alondra Cano has announced she will not be running for re-election

in 2021. Ward 9 includes East Phillips and Midtown Phillips, as well as parts of the Powderhorn, Central, Corcoran, and Longfellow neighborhoods. A controversial figure during her tenure, Cano has been criticized for doxing constituents, freezing out journalists, not supporting East Phillips neighbors in their fight against the City’s public works expansion at the Roof Depot, and flip-flopping on police defunding. Cano was first elected in 2013. To the best of our knowledge so far, Rita Ortega has announced her candidacy to serve Ward 9. Ortega is a community organizer, Little Earth resident, and former Cano policy aide who ran unsuccessfully to fill MN House seat 62A in 2018.

- ▶ Iglesia Apostolica De La Fe En Cristo Jesus at 1534 East 24th St. has put new siding on the church. The building is now greyish-blue in color. The update looks good from the street and has won the approval of the immediate neighbors.
- ▶ From Dave Moore: I’m having a hard time downsizing, like barely at all, but wish to let go of my file copies of past *alley* issues. I have what looks like a complete run from 1987 to present, and just recycling them seems a waste. Anybody want them?
- ▶ **Soup for You Cafe serves lunch from Noon to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.** Diners pay whatever they feel is a fair price — or whatever they are able. (Or no fee, as may be the case.) Due to COVID, diners will receive a healthy bag lunch to take away. Sometimes groceries (fresh and non-perishable) and toiletries are available as

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# Financial Concerns After Death

By MARY ELLEN KALUZA

Death is a tough topic. We fear it for ourselves and we fear it for those we love. On top of the grief, it is a lot of work to lose someone close to you. This blog is meant to help you get started with some of the important tasks around the departed’s finances that will make things much easier if attended to soon after the death.

**Get the Death Certificate**

Typically the funeral home supplies the death certificate. You can request several copies from the funeral home—you’ll need them. They are generally less expensive at this time, and will save you trips to the county vital records office for additional copies. Five to ten copies is not excessive, especially if there is property to be sold.

**Contact the Social Security**

## Administration

Even if the deceased was not receiving benefits, you want to notify them.. Call the SSA at 1-800-772-1213. (The funeral home may contact them for you.) Do this for a few reasons:

- Survivors may be eligible for benefits
- Prevent identity theft (yes, stealing the identity of the dead is a thing)
- Learn if you must return any payments received (payments received for the month of death may have to be returned to Social Security)

**Notify Financial Institutions and Creditors**

Hopefully, your loved one left financial records in good order and it will be easy to track down where money is and where money is owed.

- If there are Payable-on-Death beneficiaries on the accounts they can claim the money immediately with a death certificate.
- Creditors will close accounts to prevent unauthorized use.

**Report the Death to the Credit Bureaus**

Identity thieves do watch

obituaries. Sadly, family members may even seize the opportunity. Send a letter and copy of the death certificate (originals usually not necessary) to one credit bureau – they will contact the other two. It is worth the extra cost to send certified mail.

- Equifax, P.O. Box 105139, Atlanta, GA 30348-5139
- Experian, P.O. Box 4500, Allen, TX 75013
- TransUnion, P.O. Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016

**Order Credit Reports**

This is a useful way to identify all debts. Send a letter along with the following information about the deceased:

- ◆ Legal name
- ◆ Social Security Number
- ◆ Date of birth
- ◆ Date of death
- ◆ Last known address
- ◆ A copy of the death certificate or letters testamentary

Mail the request and information to each of the three of the credit reporting companies listed above. Include your name and address.

**Change Mailing Address (if the deceased lived alone)**

You’ll need valid proof that

you are the appointed executor or administrator and authorized to manage the deceased person’s mail.

- Complete a change of address form at a Post Office location.
- Have someone bring in the mail until the address change is in effect. Piled up mail alerts thieves that a home is not occupied.
- Stop advertising mail by registering on the Direct Marketing Association “Deceased Do Not Contact” list at DMA.org.

**Set Up a Filing System**

You will thank yourself for this. Keep:

- ◆ Death certificates
- ◆ Copies of all correspondence
- ◆ Detailed notes of all phone calls, etc.
- ◆ Receipts for all expenses including the funeral, documents, mailing, etc.
- ◆ Medical bills for the deceased
- ◆ Other debts
- ◆ Tax returns

And more, depending on the complexity of the estate

**Don’t Rush to Divvy up**

## Money Left by the Deceased or Pay Their Debts

States have a hierarchy of debts to be paid by the estate of a deceased person. This includes possibly repaying the state for medical assistance received. Know the laws of your state first, or survivors may be held responsible. Seek legal advice.

**Take care of yourself**

Most of us will be faced with losing a loved one. It is hard on so many fronts. Having a starting point in dealing with the finances can help. If you find yourself in this position, I wish you comfort and peace.

*Author Mary Ellen Kaluza is a Certified Financial Counselor with LSS Financial Counseling. A version of this blog first appeared in Sense & Centsibility blog page.*

*LSS Financial Counseling offers free counseling for budgeting, debt, student loans, foreclosure prevention, credit report reviews, and much more.*

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- 750g / 1lb 10oz / 5 cups  
blueberries fresh or frozen
- 80g / 3oz / 1/3 cup plus 1  
tablespoon of sugar plus  
extra to taste
- 2 tablespoon potato starch

Place berries in a large pot  
with the sugar and pour in 3  
cups of water (750ml / 25fl  
oz).

Bring to a simmer over  
medium heat and cook for 5  
minutes.

In a small bowl, mix the  
potato starch with a couple  
of tablespoons of cold water,  
then stir it into the soup.

Return to the boil and cook  
until it thickens, then taste and  
adjust the sweetness to your  
liking with a little sugar.

Enjoy!

VASALOPPET &  
BLUEBERRY SOUP  
(blåbärssoppa)

The American Swed-  
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Vasa, the 24-year-old future  
King of Sweden, fled on skis  
from Mora towards Norway to  
escape Danish oppression and  
urge rebellion after his father,  
brother and 80 others were  
beheaded. He led the battle to  
a free Sweden and was elected

King. Contemporary interest  
in skiing was linked in 1922  
to Vasa’s flight, launching the  
Vasaloppet race.

Now during the race, each  
participant is offered refresh-  
ments including the legendary  
blueberry soup (*blåbärssoppa*)  
which has been served since  
1958. During Vasaloppet week,  
approximately 50,000 litres  
of blueberry soup are served.  
While blueberry soup isn’t on  
the menu every day, there is  
a daily soup special and there  
are plenty of other menu items  
to fit your taste. When we  
resume operations, we invite  
you to visit ASI and to dine  
at FIKA located at 2600 Park  
Avenue in Minneapolis, *ASImn.org*. Tack så mycket!



EAST PHILLIPS IMPROVEMENT COALITION  
EPIC NEWS  
JANUARY 2021

For ZOOM links and more information: [Eastphillips-epic.com](http://Eastphillips-epic.com) | Email: [epic.ssantiago@gmail.com](mailto:epic.ssantiago@gmail.com)

Upcoming Events

January 7, 2021 at 7:00pm

EPIC Board Meeting

January 8 at 5:30pm

Greenway Sculpture Happy Hour  
Meeting — Zoom

January 14 at 6:30pm

EPIC Community Meeting — Zoom

January 21, 7-8pm

EPIC Executive committee meeting.  
Zoom

January 23 at TBD

EPIC 2020 Annual meeting and  
election of board of directors —  
Zoom

April 24 at TBD

2021 EPIC Annual meeting and  
election of board of directors. Zoom

Every Saturday 9-11

Neighborhood trash pickup.

Board Elections are this month!

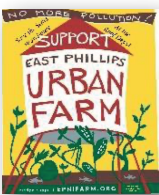
Due to COVID, we did not have board elections in 2020. This year, all nine board positions are up for election: four in January and five in April. We are looking for residents who would like to serve on the board. Go to to the EPIC website for more information and the board member application. More information on how to vote for board members will be posted on the EPIC website and Facebook page soon. For questions contact: Sarah at [epic.ssantiago@gmail.com](mailto:epic.ssantiago@gmail.com)

Light sculpture for EPIC greenway entrance

You are invited to a zoom happy hour on Friday, January 8th, at 5:30pm to discuss the proposed sculpture to be located at the top of the Midtown Greenway’s 18th Ave. entrance ramp. The idea is to create exciting artwork that says, Wow!, lights up a dark area, and serves as a way-finding beacon. For more information contact Tim at [thegreenwayguy@gmail.com](mailto:thegreenwayguy@gmail.com) Zoom at: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/81328451267>

Trash Problems!

This year has been bad for trash in our neighborhood. Neighbors are meeting together regularly to come up with a solution. Please join us for short 20 minute block clean-ups every Saturday between 9-11am. Cleaning up litter is a great way to connect with neighbors. Reach out to NACC or Southside Harm Reduction for biobags or use buckets to clean up needles and be sure to keep syringes separate from the rest of the trash. For more info on safely collecting syringes visit Southside's website or fill out their form on their website and they will come and pick up needles at specified locations. Contact Nikolas at: [subvert.designs@gmail.com](mailto:subvert.designs@gmail.com)



Support the Urban Farm!

EPNI is raising money for legal fees and to post bond to continue the legal fight. Go to Gofundme and search for EPNI to donate. For more info go to: [EPNIfarm.org](http://EPNIfarm.org)

WE ♥ OUR  
RESIDENTS

Happy New Year!

Would you like to get more active in the neighborhood this year? Do you have skills you would like to share? Are you a dreamer? Can you cook or bake? Are you fun-loving and creative? Are you a writer? Do you do photography or make videos? Are you an artist, a musician, or dancer? 2021 is shaping up to be a new start for EPIC. More community members are getting involved and new initiatives are starting up. We are hiring an executive coordinator to help EPIC become more transparent and responsive to the community. We would love you to get involved.

We want to hear from you:

- Your hopes, dreams and ideas for making East Phillips a great place to live and work.
- Your issues, problems, and concerns.
- We are here. Join us!



**“Ron Edwards (1959-2020), the proverbial last, different and defender of Twin Cities Black Community”**  
 Tributes of Friends & Family in April/April

COURTESY OF MIDWINTERSONS.BLOGGERS

**Indigenous Women's March**  
 Feb. 6, 2020: Marchers observe history and murdered women walking action.

**Drought makes column**  
 Something's Goin' Down in the Alley - Pt.1

**Alley ELC Into P4**  
**Alley 2019 Front Pages and Alley Help Wanted P6 & 7**

**Alberder Gillespie Leads Mpls. Census**

By CITY NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
 Alberder Gillespie, 2020 Census Project Coordinator in leading Mpls. efforts to ensure that all residents are accurately counted. His accuracy preparation course is vital in determining political representation

Illustration: Catherine

**WE COUNT**

**AND WE BE COUNTED**  
**CENSUS 2020**

Illustration by Barbara Lewis-Woodard, Co-Editor of Creative Collaborations, Kirtina Ramsey-Pedersen and Peter Morgan for the Milwaukee Metropolitan Census 2020. Creative Collaborations is a program of the Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy of the City of Milwaukee. Residents are invited to the National Kickoff Event for the 2020 and the People's

about The Arc's

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# Alley Communications Annual Report 2020 It belongs to YOU!!!!



## Attention--- Artists, Authors, Activists and Alley Advocates!!

Alley Communications, the nonprofit organization that governs and guides this independent news source with a community heart, is actively looking for Millennials and Generation X-ers (and maybe a couple more Boomers?) to join our Board of Directors and consistently attend our monthly Board Meetings.

Joining the Alley Communications Board may sound like a “really, why would I want to do that” question but think about this:

In addition to supporting community-driven media, *the alley* is one of only a few remaining neighborhood newspapers still alive and publishing. No one speaks for our neighborhood like our community writers and you can help us build on our success and help you build your volunteer resume. We are looking for individuals with the skills and desires to assist us to guide the following important pieces of growth of the organization:

- Upgrade our website to a fully interactive space where we can add content between print publications and to be able to collect online donations
- Increase our social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and other platforms to reach new audiences
- Outreach to cultural communities to be able to tell more stories of the many voices of Phillips and to develop partnerships with students from our local high schools to more directly engage with our up and coming leaders



- Develop a marketing plan to promote and build upon our partnership model for organizations, businesses, and initiatives in the community
- Build our advertising presence to reach more community businesses with affordable ads, including developing an advertising presence for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) businesses and organizations as well as small entrepreneurs and trades persons to advertise their services

If you would like to find out more information or discuss, please email Cathy Strobel-Ayres at [cstrobel11@gmail.com](mailto:cstrobel11@gmail.com) or call her on her cell: 612-387-7679

## Yippppeeee and with gratitude!!!!

During the Autumn of 2018, regular readers of *the alley* may remember several announcements and postings of a possible “transition” of this 43 year old community newspaper. Some of those posts appeared seemingly full of pleas of participation. Most of those announcements were asking for any evidence at all from our readers that would assist a small handful of people decide if we should keep push-

ing to publish this monthly paper? That small group of people knew they would also need to grow their numbers and, open up to new ideas and ways of doing things, and, more importantly, work diligently to grow more fully into the what it means to be conducting community journalism.

The verdict came in-----the paper should continue. More people are participating. The transition from a singular voice of “Editor” is being embraced by an Editorial Leadership Committee or team. The Board membership has grown, has shaped and hired folks for key functions in keeping the paper going and will be planning for making Alley Communica-

tions, the nonprofit publisher of *the alley*, a stronger organization. This year, we were able to successfully fundraise one month of expenses with over one-half of the donors being current or former residents of the Phillips Community!

We invite you to peruse to read these four pages to see key pieces of the development of *the alley* and Alley Communications since the Autumn of 2018. There is still a long way to go to lift the many voices and cultures within the Phillips Community using the values and tools of community journalism. Find a place where **YOU** might fit and be able to contribute to this vital and vibrant effort!



## Alley Communications is...

Advocating on Issues  
Agitating for Change  
Building Healthy Community  
Connecting Neighbors  
Documenting History  
Facilitating Deliberation  
Giving Truth and Democracy a Jog Forward  
Lifting Every Voice  
Promoting Art and Culture

## ELC Reflections

LINDSEY:

The Editorial Leadership Committee will be one year old this December. Although the ELC was first mentioned in Alley Communication official documents years ago, it never became reality until Harvey Winje began to transition into retirement. He gathered together a group of willing neighbors to see what would happen if instead of one person, there was a group of Phillips neighbors making the decisions about what to put in *the alley* every month. And this has been quite the year for this experiment. From cozy meetings around Harvey's dining room table eating his homemade banana bread or gathering in the warmth and hospitality of the Cultural Wellness Center, we now meet through Zoom, write too many emails, and struggle, like the rest of our neighbors, with the difficult realities of 2020.

And so, we have been learning as we go, struggling both with new technologies and letting go of old ways of doing things. We have had difficult conversations about content and have worked through what the right decisions are for *the alley* each month. How do the decisions I contribute to the ELC consider and grow the existing relationships between *the alley* and the writers who put together the words we print, the community organizations that support us financially, and the people of Phillips, who, after all, this is all about?

As the ELC turns one year old, we are still discovering who we are together and what we do. As part of that process, we have started thinking about how we grow our group. Who is missing from our decision-making conversations? What roles and skills are yet to be utilized or developed? How do we continue to grow in our relationships with each other and with the many contributors and volunteers

who make *the alley* happen each month, when we are still, by necessity, at a physical distance?

MARY ELLEN:

I was a late-comer to the ELC, but was still winter when I joined, pre-pandemic. I loved the early morning winter walks through Peavey Park to the Cultural Wellness Center for meetings, admiring perhaps the best view of downtown from any neighborhood.

The walk wasn't my motivation for volunteering, though. It was my love of *the alley* and what it gives us – the people of the Phillips Community – unity.

There was a time when the four neighborhoods (East Phillips, Midtown Phillips, West Phillips, and Ventura Village) were a single neighborhood, simply Phillips. I was never in favor of dividing up our community into smaller units 18 years ago. What happens on one side of 24th Street affects residents on the opposite side. The industrial pollution plaguing East Phillips didn't stop at Bloomington Avenue. For profit and not-for-profit corporations merge to gain strength, splintering only weakens enterprises.

*the alley* is the single unifying force that has remained since the dissolution of what once was the largest neighborhood in Minneapolis. It is through *the alley* that we learn of issues our neighbors across the street are talking about and taking action on. All four neighborhoods still identify as being part of the Phillips Community. Our strength as a community is through unity. *the alley*'s Editorial Leadership Committee seeks to preserve and build our collective power.

Current ELC members are-

Lindsey Fenner  
Mary Ellen Keluza  
Cassandra Nelson  
Brother Minkara Tezet  
Harvey Winje

Program and Engagement Coordinator-  
Meena Mangalvedhekar

In the last quarter of 2020, the Board of Alley Communications set a goal of raising one month of current expenses or \$3000.

We are profoundly pleased to report that we achieved a goal, raising \$3,300 to date!

Over one-third of the 40 contributors are residents of the Phillips Community; one-half when including former Phillips residents, helping The Board and the Editorial Leadership Committee (a standing committee of the Board) to know the alley Newspaper truly does matter to the Community. **THANK YOU!**

HERE ARE SOME OF THE NOTES WE RECEIVED WITH THESE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

"the Alley and all deserve a life and strength in each neighborhood, in par of these States."

"Dear Alley Staff and Board---A small contribution---I appreciate all the work you all do. I never miss an issue."

"I don't regularly read or access *the alley*. Southside Pride and Longfellow Messenger all the locals I

frequent because of where I live. Yet, I am an enthusiastic supporter of local news and want to support *the alley* during these challenging financial times. Keep on reporting and connecting community!"

".....and we want *the alley* to survive."

"Really enjoy your paper---especially articles regarding the Cemetery and local news. Keep up the good work!"

"To the Staff and Contributors of *the alley*, I appreciate your work! Thank you! Enclosed is a small check; I don't have much, but like *the alley* suggests, let's all help each other."

"I have read *the alley* since I moved to the area in 1983. Always have enjoyed reading history about Soldiers and Pioneers Memorial Cemetery. One day, I met Sue Hunter Weir--that was special. There are interesting articles about the neighborhood each month. Thanks, everyone, for all their efforts to put out a free newspaper. "

IF ANY OF THESE WORDS INSPIRE YOU TO GIVE OR IF YOU SIMPLY WANT *the alley* TO KEEP COMING OUT EACH MONTH, PLEASE CONTRIBUTE BY VISITING GIVEMN OR SEND A CHECK TO: ALLEY COMMUNICATIONS, P.O. BOX 7006, MPLS., MN 55407

## Want to see your name in print? Opportunities abound at *the alley*

- ▶ Write for *the alley* – cover events, critical issues, controversies, local personalities, feel-good news, ...
- ▶ Stretch your creative wings with poetry, humor, recipes,...
- ▶ Take photographs of special events, breaking news, unusual sights, interesting people, happy puppies, ...
- ▶ Build relationships with area businesses, schools, and institutions for content, ads, other media, donations,...
- ▶ Put your love of social media to philanthropic use helping *the alley* move into the 3rd decade of the 21st century on FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram, Myspace (jk), ...
- ▶ Like hanging with people? Alley Communications Board of Directors and Editorial Leadership Committee are swell groups with regular meetups.

Just imagine – your name could be in the paper! Your mother would be so proud.









# VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD

JANUARY '21 NEWS

Our annual December Ventura Village Association membership meeting was held via Zoom on Wednesday, December 9th. Board member Ray Peterson was reelected to the board and three new board members joined him to serve new terms: Michelle Benson, Josiah Hanka, and Melanie Majors.

- Reports were received from Kali Pliego, our crime prevention specialist, and Ryan San Cartier from the 6th Ward office. A letter was drafted and will be sent to various City, County, and State officials expressing our concern for the dramatic increase in violence in our neighborhood
- Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 13th, 2021.
- We want to welcome Janis Lane-Ewart as the new general manager of KRSM, Waite House's neighborhood radio station. Elsewhere in this issue is an article about her background and ties to this neighborhood..

Among the businesses damaged during the unrest after George Floyd's killing in May was the convenience store at 814 E. Franklin. The family that operates the business chose to do a complete makeover. They closed for two months during the summer, remodeled the interior, and installed a bright, well-lit front exterior. The newly renamed Minneapolis Market was approached by the BIPOC artist group CityMischief about doing a mural on the alley wall of the store. CityMischief was a part of the Heart of the Beast's "Possibilities Project" this summer and completed the mural "Power in Unity" on that wall; it is one of several they created. Thank you for helping to improve Franklin Avenue as a place to do business.



## COUNCIL MEMBER JAMAL OSMAN UPDATE

This year's City Budget process was centered around the future of public safety in Minneapolis. I appreciate that so many Ward 6 residents reached out to my office about this issue. I heard from many of you that you currently do not feel safe. You shared your desire to see alternative responses to 911 calls, you shared your desire for police reform, and you shared your fears that if these programs are not implemented correctly, and come at the cost of less police funding, your sense of safety will further diminish. In the budget, the City Council passed funds to begin implementation of mental health responders to 911 calls, while maintaining the sworn officer count and 2021 overtime funding level for MPD. Our office will continue to amplify our constituents' voices on public safety votes and in program design with the goal that the City's public safety responses meet our community's needs.

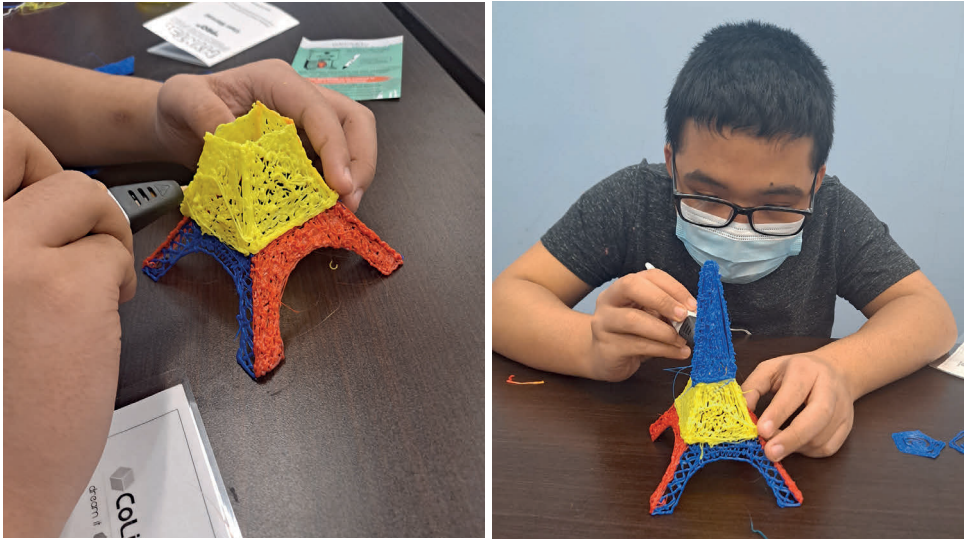
The City Council also passed three budget amendments I authored that totaled \$195,000 dollars. The amendments made investments in tenant rights advocacy and homeownership education, opioid addiction treatment and resources, and strategic communications and outreach to promote job training and employment opportunities. These programs will target our friends and neighbors living in Ward 6 that need these services most.

After a busy budget season and first few months in office, I look forward to having even more time to connect with Ward 6 constituents on the issues we care about. There's a lot of work to be done to improve the lives of those living in our community and my commitment to that work is steadfast.

## PHILLIPS COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

In November, the Governor put a stop to many activities because of the spike in Covid-19 infections. Activities at the Minneapolis Park Board which had just started were abruptly halted. So the staff at the Phillips Community Center went back to work planning new programs and one such program for youth started December 15th:

The PCC continues to rise to the challenge of providing youth enrichment programs safely, even with executive orders and dropping temperatures. Of the many programs being offered, we are excited to highlight Technology and Me. At Technology and Me youth, aged 10-17, can expect to dive in the world of weekly STEAM activities. The program runs every Tuesday from 5-7pm, and participants can expect the following upcoming activities: Putty Lab, RC Car Building, Bottle Rockets, Coding, 3D Art and more!



Photos submitted by Urika Pratt

## SEASONAL INCREASE IN AUTOMOBILE THEFTS

BY: CRIME PREVENTION SPECIALIST, KALI PLIEGO

During the colder months, car thieves take advantage of residents who leave their cars running unattended. All precincts see a spike in auto thefts when temperatures plunge and the snow flies. The temptation to start the car and let it warm up while you stay warm inside or leaving it running while doing a short errand could be a costly mistake; even if you lock the car, it only takes seconds to break a window or jimmy a door lock. It is against City ordinance to leave your key in the ignition while you are not in your car: Minneapolis City ordinance 478.160, Open Ignition – failure to lock ignition and remove key from passenger vehicle is a towable offense. It is legal to use a remote starter but keep in mind that an unoccupied running vehicle will provide some temptation to a thief. If the car is running and locked, they may still attempt to break into the vehicle. What you can do:

- Do not leave your vehicle running and unattended, including to 'warm up', or run a quick errand
- Use anti-theft devices such as steering wheel clubs, GPS trackers, and/or engine kill switches
- Be aware of unauthorized tow trucks in the neighborhood or other suspicious vehicles in the alley or on your block
- Call 911 when you witness any suspicious activity and/or people around your property or block
- Have your license plate and VIN documented in case you need to report your car has been stolen
- Meet your neighbors and watch out for each other – organize your block and share information – consider being a block leader to help facilitate information sharing. For more information on block clubs, crime prevention tips, contact your Crime Prevention Specialist, Kali Pliego at email: [kali.pliego@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:kali.pliego@minneapolismn.gov)



RETURNING CHAPTER 6  
Unknown

By PATRICK CABELLO HANSEL

Luz yelled at Angel, “How could you forget to pick up our daughter?!”

Angel yelled at Luz, “I thought it was your turn! I worked a double shift yesterday.”

Luz, “How could you do this?”

Angel, “I didn’t DO anything!”

Their shouting woke up Angelito from his nap.

“Mami, papito, why are you shouting at each other?” he asked, bursting into tears.

Angel went to comfort his son; Luz called the daycare. It went to voicemail. She called the director’s cell phone. Same. She called a friend, a mother of another child in the program, and no answer there either.

There comes a point when the profound terror of a lost child bursts past shock, anger and blaming, and settles into desperation. Alone, that can lead a parent to either paralysis or futile violence. Fortunately, Luz and Angel were able to put their blame mechanism aside and comfort each other. They began to think the same. Angel passed Angelito to his wife, who went for his

coat, while Angel put on his shoes and coat. Each of them reminded each other to bring their phones and keys.

Mi Familia Day Care was a few short blocks from their apartment. The slush had begun to freeze, so there were a few slips and near-falls on the way. Angelito kept asking where they were going, and Angel and Luz both told him they were just going to get his sister.

In their rational minds, they didn’t expect to see anyone at the daycare, but the part of them that hopes was guiding their steps and moving their eyes and legs. When they arrived, there was only the security light on above the door. Luz rang the bell several times, and pounded on the glass door. Angel peered in—by the thin, red light of the emergency exit signs, he couldn’t tell if anything was out of place. It took them a minute to realize that there was a handwritten note taped to the door. It looked like it had been ripped from a notebook.

“What’s it say,” Angel asked. Luz read it out loud:

Don’t worry.  
We have your light blessing.  
You will know where she is.  
“What?!” Angel asked. He took the paper from Luz and read it again.

“We have your light blessing?” he shouted. “What the hell does that mean?”

“And how ‘will we know

where she is?’” Luz cried. “Oh Angel, somebody took our baby!”

They did not notice that when they tore the note off the door, the left a piece hanging there. They didn’t pay attention to the marks on the bottom of the page they held in their hands: two small open arrows ^ ^ pointing up, and a vertical straight line next to it. Had they seen those markings and had they matched them to the markings on the scrap left on the door, they would have seen the initials M L written there. Had they done so, they might have realized that their dear Lupita was safe, and that the mysterious M L was someone they could trust. But in their terror, they could not see.

A fierce wind blew around the corner of Lake Street and blew the paper out of Angel’s hand. He dashed into the street after it, almost getting hit by a dark colored van with tinted windows. The driver honked and the passengers shouted, but Angel was only thinking about preserving the only clue they had.

Luz, on the other hand, saw the van, saw it had no license plate on either the front or back, and heard the voice. A second fierce wind blew through her; not from the storm that was starting outside, but from the storm that had been hidden inside her for a long time.

To be continued...

Peace House Community–A Place to Belong

In Praise of Creativity

By MARTI MALTBY

About a month ago, I attended a seminar for grant writers. Everyone there hoped to find more effective ways of convincing foundations to give money to our agencies. During the discussion, someone asked me how Peace House Community had pivoted in our service delivery model since the onset of covid. If you aren’t sure what they were talking about, don’t feel alone. I understood all the words they used but still had to translate the question into normal person language.

“Pivoting” is the trendy new way of asking how organizations are adapting to changing circumstances. I was supposed to say something like, “We’ve pivoted to external service delivery to reduce the risk of covid transmission onsite”, which would have meant we’re serving meals in our parking lot instead of in our building. The person I was speaking with would have understood my answer, but I couldn’t bring myself to say such a ridiculous sentence.

Instead, I explained that PHC has been flexible about how we provide our services. I spend a lot of time speaking with our community members about what they need and figuring out how to meet those needs. If I asked them how I should pivot, they might think I was about to break into dance and move a safe distance away. On the other hand, if I ask them what sort of foods we should serve

through the winter,or how to help them stay warm, they will give me a roadmap for what to do. Our members can be as creative and imaginative as any foundation in figuring out how to adapt to covid or any other crisis they face.

I have been struck by the amount of creativity I have seen in other parts of society over the last few months. People with limited resources are finding innovative ways to meet their needs and care for family and friends (and sometimes even complete strangers). Sometimes it is a matter of survival, but often it is simply a desire to make the world a better place. They take it as a personal challenge to find innovative ways to make things work in a world that feels like it has fallen apart. When I see some of the ideas they have, I realize just how unimaginative I am. I can come up with good ideas, but usually only when it is absolutely necessary. Other people do it every day just for fun, and they make it look easy.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who is keeping us sane and optimistic through their creativity. You are facing the same lousy situations as the rest of us, but you are handling them with anything from determination to playfulness. You remind us that we are not governed by our situation, and that we can always choose to fight back against our problems in new ways. You are subvert-

ing the storyline that says we are nothing more than victims who must submit to the conditions in which we find ourselves. Thank-you for doing what you do.

Movie Corner

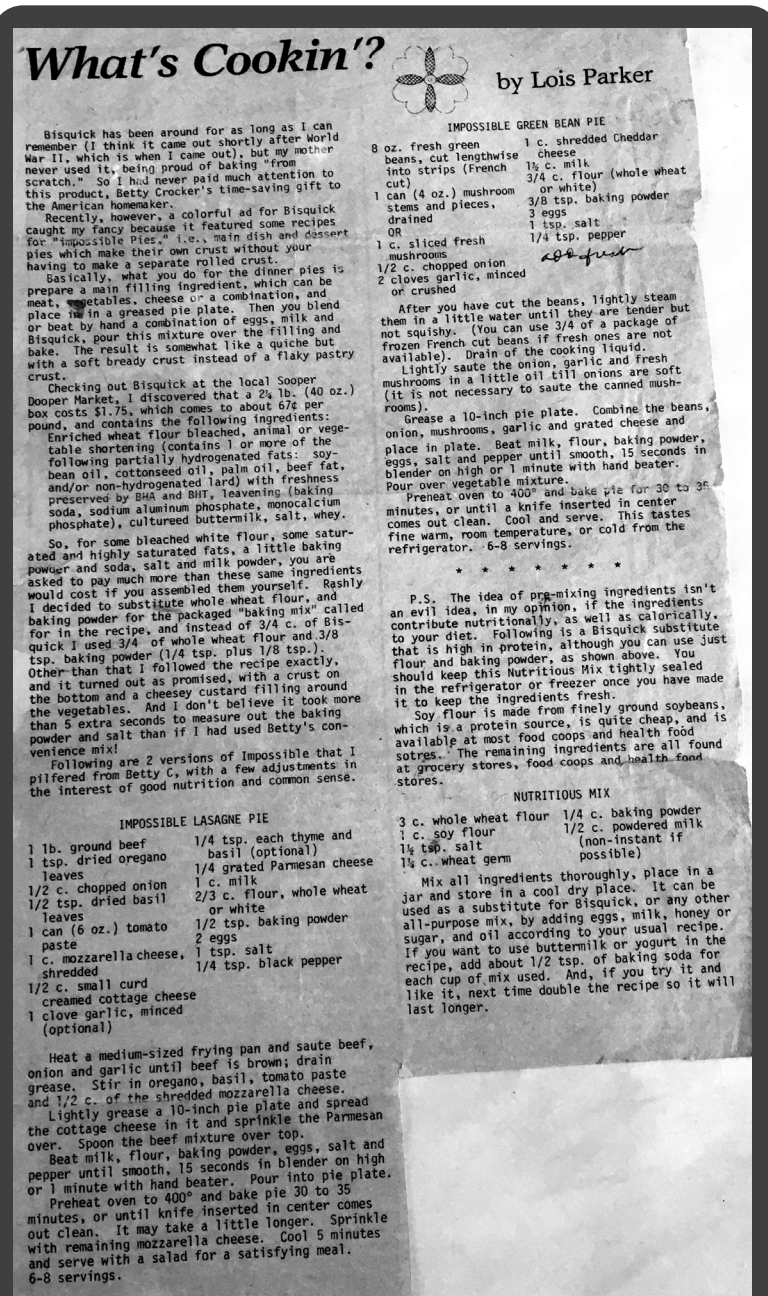
David Prowse

By HOWARD McQUITTER II

Moviegoers will always remember one of the most menacing villains on silver screen who was the original Darth Vader played by the towering bodybuilder, 6-foot-7, David Prowse. He was the perfect fit to play the major antagonist in the Star Wars series (started in 1977) which would meet stupendous success at the box office.

Mr. Prowse would put on a 40 pound outfit black helmet (gold-trimmed around the edges), black leather bodysuit, black gloves, black knee-high boots, fiberglass breastplate and last but not least, he carried a long lightsaber. Behind all that gear he essentially remained anonymous.

Star Wars creator George Lucas met Prowse at Twentieth Century Fox’s offices in London in 1976. Prowse had played Frankenstein’s monster for Hammer Studios in London. Lucas was impressed seeing Prowse in a bit part



Everyone has been cooking more than ever with COVID-19 closing restaurants and keeping us shut in. No doubt we all have come up with a delicious new dish, made one better, or returned to old favorites.

Let’s spread the love by sharing our favorite dishes. Send your recipes to [copydesk@alleynews.org](mailto:copydesk@alleynews.org) with the story behind it. A picture of you and/

or your creation will only make it more delicious!

Some 38 years ago these recipes appeared in The Alley Newspaper. This worn, torn beloved recipe submitted by Mary Ellen Kaluza. She noted, “I’ve made the Impossible Green Bean Pie countless times since. Thank you, Lois Parker!”

Continued from page 3...  
Random  
Alley News

well. Diners of all income are welcome. Masks are required.2511 East Franklin Avenue, (Bethany Lutheran Church Building.) <https://www.facebook.com/justone-guymakingsoup/>

*Is there something going on in Phillips that should be noted in the alley? Maybe a shoutout for a job well done, an inspiring development, or a bittersweet farewell? Let us know all about it by sending your sentences to: [copydesk@alleynews.org](mailto:copydesk@alleynews.org)*

CALL FOR  
SUBMISSIONS





## Raise Your Voice

# Way Forward: Abolish?

By PETER MOLENAAR

It appears that a section of the deep state has been mobilized to thwart the well armed Proud Boys, (sons of Little-Boy-Man). Indeed, a thin blue line is forming to defend the degree of democracy afforded us under the capitalist system. Meanwhile, "we the people" will defend and deepen democracy- the thread that ties us ultimately to socialism. On the other hand, some "fine citizens" are infiltrating the police.

*In opposition to the looming electric vehicle revolution, the*

*military industrial complex demands more copper from the ground. For her part, Mother Earth declares a limited capacity to serve both. Hence, a developing contradiction is emerging within the present ruling class.*

A framed art print rests on my desk, conveying,; KNOW PEACE, LIVE JUSTICE. There is an image of an African-descended person caressing a dove. The artist, Ricardo Levins Morales, is much appreciated around here, but allow me to pick a bone with him.

Scattered about in our lending libraries is found a book called: *Enough Is Enough* (the cover is purple). 150 years of MPD misconduct has been documented as a backlog to the almost daily on-going outrages in this country. Try to remember every name... my aging brain suffers from

several head injuries, including two stemming from armed robberies, during which I was knocked unconscious. Brother Ricardo was instrumental in producing *Enough Is Enough*. The sign on his studio door reads, “Abolish the Police Now!”

According to *Enough Is Enough* (p.7) those of us who continue to advocate for reform are guilty of “the ultimate in magical thinking!”. Moreover, in essence the demand PURGE THE RACISTS is said to flow from “frivolous arguments”, i.e., reform is not possible.

In fairness to *Enough Is Enough*, “abolition” actually might mean incremental defunding over time (p. 49). In theory, a progressively revised budget would uplift communities, thereby reducing the need for police. However, what cadre of social workers will

intervene in potentially violent scenarios without police backup?

Reality check... Has a one-sided focus on the police question dimmed the big picture? No way will defunding the police purchase the required reparations. *Enough Is Enough* makes no mention of taxing the rich; no mention of demilitarizing the whole economy; no mention of fundamental socialist transformations. Is “the system” eternal in their view? Truly, such is the nature of magical thinking.

So, what reforms might be implemented in the here and now? Camden New Jersey set the example by firing its entire force, and then reconstructing minus the corrupt elements. Were Minneapolis to follow suit, the door would be opened to COMMUNITY CONTROL (i.e., vetting).

Might it be possible to humanize the police?

Some 20 years ago, East Phillips leaders met with a competent police liaison. We were, at the time, a neighborhood full of children and crack cocaine. Might we expand from this experience to have every officer report to public gatherings on a scheduled basis? Hey, once they get to know us, the sum total of their arrogance should diminish! Not every apple in the barrel is rotten to the core. However, toss out the *Proud Boy* variety, please.

Despite 150 years of bad precedent, every social formation is fraught with contradiction, and therefore is subject to change. In the not so distant future, in consequence to a "democratic worker's state", the state (i.e., the repressive arm of government) will wither away. Ricardo Levins Morales and his many friends are good people. Ricardo's father was a Marxist-Leninist. I honor his father's memory.

# Saving the Roof Depot

By EAST PHILLIPS NEIGHBORHOOD  
INSTITUTE

The East Phillips Neighborhood Institute -- through investor Agro Fund One, Ltd. -- has offered to purchase the historic former Roof Depot building. Agro Fund One hopes to participate in East Phillips residents' own idea: turn the huge former Roof Depot warehouse building into the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm. This indoor farm would be a community-based aquaponic urban farm facility, with a farmer's market, community kitchen, cafe and coffee shop, and other entrepreneurial spaces to be owned and operated by neighborhood residents. Jobs and job-training would help provide living wage and second-chance jobs with a

priority for local community residents. However, if the City is allowed to go forward with its plan, the huge former warehouse building at the intersection of East 28th Street and Hiawatha Avenue, would be demolished and replaced with Minneapolis' proposed Hiawatha Campus Expansion Project -- a centralized storage and maintenance facility for their Public Works Department with all its equipment and vehicles.

The City's plan would add greatly to the environmental injustices faced historically and currently by the East Phillips neighborhood. This neighborhood is one of the most diverse areas in Minneapolis and is home to the Little Earth of United Tribes community -- one of the only Native American-preference housing complexes in the country. The Roof Depot is located on an arsenic Superfund site, and its demolition would expose neighborhood residents to

more highly toxic arsenic-contaminated materials.

The Hiawatha Campus Expansion Project -- in which the City of Minneapolis hopes to expand its storage for water and sewer maintenance facilities -- would also bring two 12,000-gallon oil tanks and 102 pieces of diesel equipment into this neighborhood. An asphalt heating facility and a 400 car employee parking ramp has also been part of their revealed plan. The City's project would dramatically increase toxic air pollution from more traffic congestion in the area and exacerbate existing pollution-related health issues in the community, including asthma and cardiovascular disease -- additionally magnifying COVID's disproportionate impact.

EPNI has sued the City of Minneapolis in an attempt to stop the project, and is using other avenues to ensure the City's project is halted.

**SPIRIT & PHILLIPS** \*

BE SAVED MORE L. HADWISY

**The man who, for party,  
forsakes righteousness,  
goes down,  
and the armed battalions of God march over him !**

**- Wendell Phillips (1811-1884) - Our neighborhood namesake**

**JUST BIDEN**  **OUR TIME ...**

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# MIDTOWN PHILLIPS

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INC

### JANUARY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 12, 2021  
6:30-8 pm

- AGENDA:
- Update on Roof Depot site by Brad Pass
  - 2021 Partnership request update
  - Midtown Phillips yard signs
  - Neighborhood Safety update
- See [www.midtownphillips.org](http://www.midtownphillips.org) for updates on agenda.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/93003446773>

### JANUARY COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, January 26, 2021  
6:30-8 pm

- AGENDA:
- Lake Street Recovery
  - Update from Wellington Management: Learn about the Hi Lake Area and the housing being reconstructed.
  - Lake Street Revitalization
  - How are businesses doing? How can we help?

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/95779856810>

### ANNUAL MEETING

February 23, 2021

VIA ZOOM, 6-8pm

- Hear from speakers & neighbors
- Celebrate Midtown Phillips pride with fellow community members
- Get the annual report of MPNAs activities & projects during 2020
- Learn about our partner organizations & upcoming initiatives

- Join the Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Assoc. board!  
*(District Rep candidates must live or work within the neighborhood boundaries as listed below)*

#### OPEN POSITIONS:

- Midtown Phillips Board President
- District 1: 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> & Chicago to 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- District 3: 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> & Chicago to 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- District 5: 28<sup>th</sup>-Lake & Chicago to 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- At Large Representative



## A Letter/Manifesto to our Leadership

*This letter is one composed of many voices. We are affordable housing advocates, (many for 30 years), Lake Street business owners, and cyclists. All are neighborhood activists, (many for up to 40 years) who live or work in the Midtown or East Phillips Neighborhoods. Because of our collective years of activism we see three areas of concern for our city/county/state that need to be the priority of these bodies of government.*

1. Homelessness, and the encampments cropping up in our city.
2. The increased level of violent crime citywide.
3. The need for jobs and economic development, along with the rebuilding of East Lake Street's small, minority, and immigrant businesses

Nothing will be resolved in Minneapolis, if these three issues are not made our priority. For example, will Minneapolis be able to attract convention business or any businesses that employ its citizens if violent crime has over-run it and tent cities continue to crop up? We don't want to become another Detroit and that is what's happening. To address these issues lawmakers need to come together under holistic plans, like the heading home plans already created, crime reduction strategies, put in place in the 1990s, under the federally funded program, Weed and Seed and comprehensive plans for job creation, especially for minority youth. They need to listen to the experts, whose voices on homelessness, crime and job creation were once heard, when plans were implemented and we were on our way to solving these problems. New voices need to be heard like those coming from directors of shelters, those who do outreach, work with law-enforcement to create equal justice for all in order to reduce crime, and develop opportunities for youth and our neighbors in need of good-paying jobs. Many past and present strategies have been disregarded by those who govern. We have been told they can't be implemented due to regulations, funding or other reasons.

If these three issues are addressed and funded many of society's ills will be lessened if not alleviated with much less work, for much less money. Funding for them should be a top priority. Presently it is not. For example, many members of the Phillips Neighborhoods were the drivers for the creation of the Midtown Greenway. Many residents of these neighborhoods are avid cyclists, and have enjoyed its benefits and its connection

to all the other trails in the Metro area. It took thousands upon thousands of hours of volunteer work and millions of dollars to create and today all that work and all those funds have gone down the drain, because of the encampments. Yet today the Minneapolis City Council, Hennepin County and the Minneapolis Park Board have moved forward with the construction of hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of new trails that cyclists are afraid to use, because of the encampments that continue to grow and attract crime, drug dealing, car racing, and fires. Cyclist (some on this letter) will say that they don't need any more trails until homelessness has been addressed! "Nothing good comes of encampments," said a former outreach worker in our neighborhood with years of experience.

#### *We have been affordable housing activists for more than 30 years:*

- advocating for funding and bonding on the state level, educating, adding input to Heading Home Hennepin, advocating for ordinance changes, and most importantly leveraging millions of dollars of neighborhood funding in order to build affordable rental units, houses, and rehab our housing stock.

#### *The contributors of this letter have been residents of East/Midtown Phillips from ten to forty years and have collectively:*

- contributed hundreds of years' worth of volunteer organizing in this community, from block club leaders, NNO, Phillips Community Clean Sweep, and annual festivals. We were the spark for the creation of the Midtown Greenway, saved the former Sears building to be transformed into the Midtown Exchange, lobbied the state for bonding and fund-raised for the building of the East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center, among many other accomplishments.

#### *Through Weed and Seed, we leveraged funding:*

- for the implementation of strategies and the creation of programs for fighting crime in order to keep our neighborhood safe. We funded youth programs, cameras on Bloomington Ave, ShotSpotter, and community policing. We worked with law enforcement to identify hot spots, and created restorative justice, among many other strategies and crime-fighting programs. It is sad to see so many of them go by the wayside.

#### *For forty years the great organizers of Phillips worked to:*

- bring in minority and immigrant businesses,

especially the Latinx Community, worked with many organizations, like MADDADS, The Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, neighborhood youth organizations, churches, and mosques to make our neighborhood welcoming and livable for all.

The encampments that have endangered our community along with the racism that has been allowed to systemically grow and fester in all departments of our city, including law-enforcement, causing violence and even death to some of our citizens, and the riots that were allowed to run rampant through our immigrant and minority owned businesses, a district serving a neighborhood populated with vulnerable, low-income families and the elderly who relied on those businesses, has set us back. We saw forty years of work and funding go down the drain. We feel like the sacrificial lamb.

Many of the businesses in the Midtown and East Phillips community including those on Lake Street were thriving prior to this year's events. These businesses are a testament to the inclusive principles and practices that make our city so special! From our Latino bakery to our Somali café; we've been the benefactor of economic growth through inclusive policies. It's imperative that the city employs strategies that will protect those businesses and those who frequent them. There have been many things lost this year; please don't let these business owners and patrons lose their trust in our city. We had promised to protect them.

Lastly, the best social program is a job. Employment, training and jobs work to address the root cause of need which leads to crime. Under Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton we applied for and were designated an Empowerment Zone Community. Millions of dollars were awarded to create and train for jobs—good-paying jobs.

- We challenge the City/County/State to create at least 500 jobs with some of the newly approved stimulus dollars; that a Jobs & Employment initiative is prioritized for at risk youth of diverse backgrounds and those living on the margins, in our neighborhoods.
- Support the Urban Farm concept as proposed for the Roof Depot Site and stop the relocating of more pollution oriented services in our Phillips Community. This job-creating example, is East Phillips' fight for the former Roof Depot site for

the creation of an Urban Farm and to save the former Sears Warehouse Building on that site, as opposed to the City of Minneapolis' acquisition of it for the water department, which would bring hundreds of pollution-causing trucks into a neighborhood already saturated with ground and air pollution. Instead we could have environmental justice and a project that will create an estimated one hundred to two hundred jobs. Saving the former Sears Warehouse would be a good opportunity to house lost restaurants and small shops to the riots, in a building that would need little work toward its restoration. But, a city that lost countless buildings to the riots wants to tear it down!

- We are calling for the implementation of the original plan for a streetcar/trolley on the Greenway as soon as possible. It will provide a time-saving mode for inner city residents, without the need of a car, to reach the airport, educational institutions, and malls. But, more importantly, it will make it possible for our residents to access jobs and economic opportunities outside of the city.
- We support Chief Rondo, a Southside Central High School graduate with extraordinary experience in policing and what is needed for change.
- We support the Mayor's budget as proposed and pledge to work in partnership with him and the Chief on police reform. We also support the Mayor's budget with regard to neighborhood organizations. Funding at the neighborhood level allows neighborhood based approaches and solutions to safety and root cause needs.

East and Midtown Phillips residents who live diversity and were the first neighborhood to welcome with open arms the Islamic Center, have generated and benefitted from more bottom up plans, programs, projects, strategies and movements than can be counted. We have been resisted and our visions and goals have often been disregarded by those who govern, but we persist. And though our businesses and residents have experienced continued victimization, negatively affecting our physical health and well-being, we persist. We are Phillips Strong. Like the Phoenix we will rise!

Sincerely,  
Midtown & East Phillips  
Neighborhood residents