



DOWN BUT NOT OUT



LIGHT GREY PODCAST

Don Blyly

The Future of Uncle Hugo's Bookstore

By CARZ NELSON

Don Blyly might reopen the Uncles.

During the George Floyd uprising, twin retailers Uncle Hugo's Science Fiction and Uncle Edgar's Mystery Bookstores were burned to the ground. The loss of these neighborhood institutions was deeply felt. Hugo's is the oldest science fiction bookstore in the country; its importance to the science fiction community can't be overstated. The two stores, known collectively as the Uncles,

owner Don Blyly would retire from retail business after the fire. Such assumptions are premature, however. It takes a lot of drive to start over from nothing, but Blyly seems to be equal to whatever tasks he sets himself.

He admits that he has a knack for bouncing back from adversity, "I've noticed that I seem to have more resilience than most other people and I've wondered why. Partly it is stubbornness.

Partly it is because the more of a track record you have at overcoming previous difficulties, the more confidence you have of

routinely attracted customers from all over the Upper Midwest.

Blyly started Uncle Hugo's in 1974; the original location was at Fourth and Franklin Avenues.

The companion store, Edgar's, opened in 1980. The bookstores relocated to 2864 Chicago Avenue in 1984; they were fixtures in the Phillips neighborhood for 36 years.

Deciding whether to reopen the stores won't be easy. At 70 years young, many assumed

overcoming the latest difficulty."

Blyly says the city has a lot to answer for when it comes to the uprising, "Back in 2015 the Department of Justice made recommendations for reforming the Minneapolis Police, but the City Council has done nothing to implement those recommendations. The judge in the trial of Mohamed Noor for the murder of Justine Damond raised issues about problems with the Minneapolis Police that have never been

Continued on page 8...

CHANGEMAKERS

Magdalena Kaluza: Direct Action

"BY SHARING VULNERABILITY, WE BUILD DEEPER RELATIONSHIPS. WE NEED DEEP RELATIONSHIPS TO FACE WHAT'S COMING — FLOODS, HEAT WAVES, CLIMATE REFUGEES."

By GAEA DILL-D'ASCOLI

Reprinted with permission from *Minnesota Women's Press* Published 11/25/2020

The story of Magdalena Kaluza starts with their parents. Their mother is a white American woman of Polish and French-Canadian descent with family ties in the Iron Range, who went to Guatemala to study Spanish. Their father is of Mayan K'iche' mixed race (mestizo) who played the guitar and grew up in the midst of the revolution. Both parents were working towards social justice and solidarity before Kaluza was born.

Kaluza's day job is working at Take Action Minnesota, which

allows them to deepen community ties through storytelling while engaging in social justice work.

In 2019, Kaluza applied to Power of Vision, an arts organization based out of Hope Community in Minneapolis. It enabled Kaluza to listen to and tell the stories of the Phillips neighborhood, as well as support tenants in the Corcoran neighborhood.



COURTESY MAGDALENA KALUZA
Magdalena Kaluza

Tips from a COVID-19 Case Investigator

Vaccines and Variants

By LINDSEY FENNER

As I'm writing this in early February, COVID-19 news has seen rapid developments: hopeful, frustrating, and uncertain. The two biggest uncertainties have been how to get a vaccine and understanding how the different COVID variants will impact the pandemic in Minnesota.

First vaccines.

Vaccines are now being distributed a variety of ways: healthcare systems, community health centers, some pharmacies, and the State of MN Community Vaccination program. As of February 10, vaccines are still limited to high risk/high priority groups, such as those 65 and older, or those who work and live in high-risk settings.

I am very hopeful that much more vaccine will be available soon, but right now there just isn't enough vaccine for everyone who wants a shot. I know this is frustrating, but please don't give up on getting your vaccine! Although I will be absolutely thrilled to get my vaccine when my time comes, it is understandable to have questions about these new vaccines. I encourage everyone to reach out to healthcare providers, visit the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) vaccine website <https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/>, call the MDH COVID hotline at 651-297-1304, or talk to trusted community groups and experts about your questions or concerns. You can read more about vaccines on the alley Back Page.

Variants.

The more viruses spread and replicate, the more they start to develop mutations

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Let's Get This Garden Started!



By MARY ELLEN KALUZA
ILLUSTRATIONS BY JESSIE MERRIAM
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARY ELLEN

March in Minnesota. The days are noticeably longer. We are longing to have dirt under our nails. But isn't it too early? There's still snow on the ground. It's the perfect time to get the garden started.



winter planning=summer planning

First: Plan your garden

Know your space—how much sun do you get in the different areas? Put your parka on and go outside. Imagine the trees are fully leafed-out and the sun moving high across the sky. Most vegetables need a lot of sun. Leafy greens can do well in more shaded areas and may actually produce larger leaves valiantly trying to absorb as much sunlight as possible. Save the sunniest areas for tomatoes, peppers, and other fruiting plants. Carrots and other root vegetables will tolerate some shade. Make your wish list, then pare it down to fit your space. Map out your garden with sun and

Continued on page 5...

Continued on page 11...



mn.gov/vaccineconnector
Minnesota's COVID-19 Vaccine Connector:
The Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Connector is a tool that helps you find out when, where, and how to get your COVID-19 vaccine. Insurance and identification are not needed, and signing up is free.

When you become eligible to get the vaccine, the Vaccine Connector will:

- let you know you are eligible.
- connect you to resources to schedule a vaccine appointment.
- notify you if there are vaccine opportunities in your area.

WHY SHOULD YOU GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

- Protect yourself from COVID-19.
- Support your community. Help keep businesses, schools, and other places open.
- The vaccine is FREE for everyone. Insurance and immigration status does not matter.
- Help put an end to the pandemic.

What to expect when you get the vaccine

- People trained to give the vaccine will walk you through the process.
- You need to get two doses to be protected. The person who gives you the vaccine will tell you when to get your second dose. Both doses must be the same kind of vaccine.
- You will be monitored after you get the vaccine for any serious side effects.
- You will receive a vaccine card when you get your vaccine. This will identify which kind of vaccine you got (Pfizer or Moderna). This is important for your second dose.
- It is your choice to get the vaccine.

A vaccine is designed to prevent diseases. There are two COVID-19 vaccines currently available. Both COVID-19 vaccines tell your body how to recognize and fight the virus. The vaccines are called mRNA vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccines cannot give you COVID-19.

The COVID-19 vaccines were carefully tested before being approved for emergency use. It is important that our diverse communities were included in the COVID-19 vaccine studies by Pfizer and Moderna. More than 32,000 Black, Latinx, American Indian, and Asian people participated in these studies. We know that these communities are often excluded from benefits of medicine but experience ongoing and historical racism, medical trauma, and abuse. These factors worsen the impact of COVID-19 for these communities and emphasize the need for a safe and effective vaccine for all.

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe, and it works.



READ NOT TO CONTRADICT AND CONFUTE, NOR TO BELIEVE AND TAKE FOR GRANTED... BUT TO WEIGH AND CONSIDER"

FRANCIS BACON

the alley invites you to CONSIDER writing a note or letter to the paper, for feedback or to publish!

the alley BELONGS TO YOU!

New Book Casts Loving Spotlight on the 'Sistas'

By DWIGHT HOBBS



TURN TO PAGE 8 TO READ THE REVIEW OF "CELEBRATING THE SISTAS"

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.

Guided and Informed by: Phillips residents

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March content contributors to the alley:

American Swedish Institute, Francis Bacon, Roberta Barnes, Don Blyly, CUB Foods, Gaea Dill-D'Ascoli, COVIDawareMN, Cultural Wellness Center and CWC Health Hub, Daniel Dorff, Steve Dreyer, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, East Phillips Neighborhood Institute, Lindsey Fenner, J. Marie Fieger, Nadine Gall, Susan Gust, Linnea Hadaway, Patrick Cabello Hansel, Ben Heath, Hennepin County: Libraries, Covid-19 Response, and Sheriff's Office, Dwight Hobbes, Sue Hunter Weir, In the Heart of the Beast Theatre, Indian Health Board, Mary Ellen Kaluza, KRSM Radio, Hannah Lieder, Light Grey Podcast, Lutheran Social Service MN, Marti Maltby, Howard McQuitter II, Jessie Merriam, Midtown Global Market, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Mpls. City Council, Mpls. Park and Recreation Board, MN Dept. of Health, MN Indian Women's Resource Center, MN Spokesman-Recorder, Minnesota Women's Press, Peter Molenaar, David Moore, Nationaal Archief, Carz Nelson, Grace Pastoor, Peace House Community, Hans Peters/Anefo, Andrea Pierre, Phillips Neighborhood Clinic, Pillsbury United Communities--Waite House, Phillips Neighborhood Clinic, Prepare and Prosper, Putnam Family, Quatrefoil Library, Julia Robinson-Frantsvog, Sa athani Senior Center, Sunny Sevigny, Michelle Shaw, Strive Publishing, Melissa Trent, Twin Cities Really Really Free Market, Uncles Hugo's and Edgar's Bookstores, Ventura Village Neighborhood Organization, John Charles Wilson.

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the alley is delivered to every house in Phillips by Jeff Matson and to 170 apartments, businesses, places of worship, institutions in Phillips and in nine adjacent *alley* radius neighborhoods by Peter Molenaar.

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

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Library News

By CARZ NELSON

Things can change fast. For updated information on Hennepin County Library services during the Coronavirus Pandemic, visit www.hclib.org. All information is accurate as of February 12, 2021.

LIBRARY UPDATES:

East Lake Library Grab&Go

East Lake Library, located at 2727 E. Lake St., is open for Grab and Go service **Sunday 12-5 PM; Mon, Tues, Thurs 9 AM to 5 PM Wednesday 12-8 PM.**

Franklin Library

1413 E Franklin Ave., 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. Returns are accepted during staffed service hours.

Franklin Computer Hours

Tues & Weds – 9 AM to 5 PM

Thursday – Noon to 8 PM

Friday & Sat – 9 AM to 5 PM

Sunday & Monday – Closed

Hosmer Library

Hosmer Library, 347 E 36 th 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.

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 Wifi Available at Franklin & 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/homework-help.

METRO TRANSIT

Build Transit For Our Climate

By JOHN CHARLES WILSON

At the time I am writing this, Minnesota is having its coldest weather of the season. Please keep that in mind if it is warmer by the time this column is actually in print.

Everybody in Minnesota who goes outside knows we have a challenging climate, to say the least. Extreme cold and snow in the winter, and heavy rainstorms in the summer. However, Metro Transit installs the flimsy "shelters" that often provide little to no protection from wind, rain, and snow, and the heaters are often broken or placed so high they don't give enough heat to help anyone.

Even worse than the bus shelters are the ones at Light Rail stations. Those are like wind tunnels when the wind blows parallel to the tracks. The best shelters Metro Transit has to

offer are at Northstar stations.

It's not like more heat and better shelters are impossible: Winnipeg has fully enclosed shelters with doors, and Chicago provides decent heat at L stations. Some people worry that more comfortable shelters would end up getting taken over by the homeless. Personally, I think that finding homes, or at least decent shelter, for them would reduce the problem considerably. Cruelty to everyone just to punish the homeless is short-sighted.

People who get around by bus and train deserve nice things too. I have recently joined a Facebook group called NUMTOT-Twin Cities that discusses this and other transit issues. NUMTOT is an acronym for "New Urbanist Memes for Transit Oriented Teens", which is a misnomer as most of the members aren't teenagers. There are members who work for Metro Transit and/or are transit advocates. I highly recommend it to others who care about making Metro Transit a better system.

At-Home Service

At Home service is provided free of charge to Hennepin County residents who can't 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 612-543-8850 Monday through Friday, 10 AM to 5 PM.

Expanded Hours for Library Social Worker

A social worker is available outside the library at **Franklin Library** Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 AM – 5 PM, **East Lake Library** Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 AM-5 PM.

- 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: Available for iOS and Android devices; use the app to access downloadable ebooks and audiobooks.

Cloud Library

Downloadable ebooks for readers of all ages. A reader app is available for Apple, Android and other devices.

Online Services

Go to the library without leav-

ing home. Here are just a few of the services available at www.hclib.org:

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

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

www.hclib.org/contact
Call 612-543-KNOW (5669) to reach library staff by phone.
Mon to Thurs – 9 AM to 9 PM
Friday & Sat – 9 AM to 5 PM
Sunday – Noon to 5 PM

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.



"BOOKHEAD" BY JESSIE MERRIAM

LÍNEA DIRECTA SOBRE CORONAVIRUS Llame o texto
Servicios disponibles en línea, recursos y más **651-768-0000**
clues.org/coronavirus

CLUES COVID-19 HOTLINE Call or Text
Services available online, resources and more **651-768-0000**
clues.org/COVID19

WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS!

Public health officials or health care providers will NEVER ASK for:

- ▶ money,
- ▶ your bank account, credit card,
- ▶ or social security number.

Offers to sell or ship doses of the vaccine are also a scam.

If you believe you are the victim of a COVID-19 scam, visit <https://www.ag.state.mn.us/Office/Forms/COVID19Complaint.asp>.

Do you read "the alley"?

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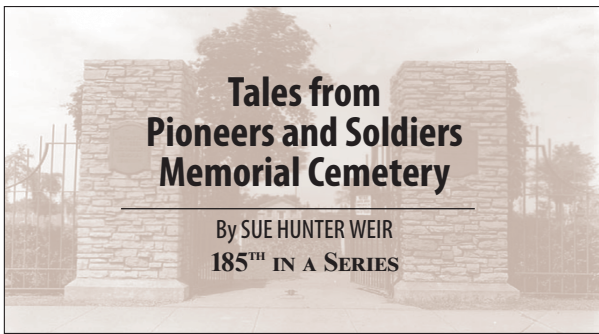


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Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery

By SUE HUNTER WEIR
185TH IN A SERIES

Betsy Putnam (1777-1860): I Am Not Afraid to Go Into the Woods

Elizabeth “Betsy” Putnam lived to the ripe old age of 83 years and ten months.

This might not seem unusually old by 21 st -century standards but Betsy was born in 1777. Bearing in mind that averages are simply that—averages—the average life expectancy for someone born around the time of the American Revolution was 36 years old.

In 1796, when she was 19 years old, Betsy married Joshua Putnam, a man who could trace his family’s beginnings in what was to become the United States back to the arrival of John Putnam in 1634. Two of John’s sons played prominent and deeply troubling roles in the Salem witchcraft trials. They were both accusers and witnesses against some of the town’s women including Rebecca Nurse who had been a family friend for more than forty years. Although Nathaniel Putnam recanted his testimony, his remorse came too

late. Rebecca Nurse was hanged on July 19, 1692. Whether Joshua and Betsy knew about this dark chapter in his family’s history and what they might have thought about it is not known.

In a history of the Putnam family, Joshua was described as being “a thick set, strongly built man, with large broad features.” In contrast Betsy was described as being small, “somewhat less than average stature.” Despite her small size Betsy must have been very robust. Between the ages of 21 and 40, she gave birth to nine children, the first seven spaced roughly two years apart. She outlived at least four, and perhaps as many as six, of her children. (The dates and places when two of her children died have not been established).

Betsy spent much of her life moving from place to place. She was born in Chittenden, Vermont, but grew up in Bakersfield, Massachusetts, a community named after her father, that was home to only three or families. After Betsy and Joshua married, they lived for a time in New Salem, Massachusetts, but in 1812, when many New England settlers were moving westward, the Putnams and their then five children headed to

Houlton, Massachusetts (now Maine), eleven miles from the Canadian border. Betsy remarked, “I am not afraid to go into the woods. I know all about it.”

Life in Bakersfield would have prepared her for a life of isolation but most likely not for the hardship that she would endure in Houlton. Like Bakersfield, it was a community populated by only a handful of families, many of them related to each other. The growing season was not long to begin with and the town suffered through several “cold years.” In 1816 there was snow on the ground in June...[the] little birds which came up from the South with the advent of the summer months, were chilled and died in large numbers.” The grain they planted did not ripen in time to be harvested and they had to pay top dollar for food brought in from other areas in order to survive.

The second cold year was even worse. Members of the family “were six weeks without a mouthful of bread of any kind in their house.” They had a cow for milk and tapped maple trees for syrup but the family’s diet consisted primarily of salmon: “Had it not been for these most excellent fish, in such profusion [they] might have starved...”

Joshua Putnam died in 1835 and was buried in Houlton. Although he and Betsy were not the first to settle in there, he is considered one of the town’s founders.

In 1890, more than a half-century after he died, the town erected a headstone engraved “Joshua Putnam, A Founder of Houlton.”



Joshua Putnam is buried in Holton, Maine. His wife, two sons, two grandsons and two great-grandchildren are buried in Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery. Betsy and Sterne Putnam’s graves were marked at one time but the tablets have disappeared and all that remains are the bases.

After he died, Betsy moved again, this time back to the more highly populated New Salem. In 1854, Betsy and three of her sons headed west. She and her son, Sterne, and his family settled in St. Cloud. In 1854, at the age of 77, she traveled almost 1,500 miles to her last home. She died there on November 21, 1860, from old age. She was brought to Minneapolis for burial.

There are six members of the Putnam family buried in the cemetery. Betsy and two of her sons, Sterne and Franklin, are there. Sterne

is buried next to Betsy, and Franklin is buried in a different section next to his daughter Mary. Julian

Putnam, Betsy’s grandson, is buried next to Mary E. and Wilton Putnam, two of her great-grandchildren. None of their graves are currently marked.

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

Should You Make Student Loan Payments During Forbearance?

By NADINE GALL,
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE MN

Great news for folks with federal student loans! The relief from loan payments due to the pandemic — also known as a forbearance — has been extended through September 30, 2021. This means that no payments will be due and no interest will accrue for federal loans during this time. For those who are unable to afford their payments, this is wonderful news. It’s also great news for anyone still able to make student loan payments.

Why Make Student Loan Payments if No Payments Are Due?

To pay it off faster. Without interest accruing, 100% of your payment goes toward the principal loan balance, instead of part of it going toward interest. If you want to pay down your loan even faster, consider making slightly higher payments right now.

To bring your loans current. If

your loans were past due before the forbearance period, they’re still reporting past due. Bringing your loans current will help you improve your credit score. If you’re unable to make ongoing payments, just paying the past due amount will help.

To rehabilitate defaulted loans. If you’re in default, now is the perfect time to rehabilitate your loans. The payment and interest relief includes defaulted loans. This means you’ll get credit for payments, but you don’t have to pay through at least September 2021. If you can make payments, as indicated above, 100% will go toward the principal balance. Contact your loan servicer to determine your options for getting out of default.

Who Might Not Benefit from Making Payments?

Borrowers seeking loan forgiveness. During forbearance, you’re getting credit for payment. Making payments won’t help you meet the required number of payments faster. However,

should something happen to make you not qualify for forgiveness in the future, you’re not reducing your loan balance without making payments. Be sure to consider the long-term effects if you decide not to make payments while seeking loan forgiveness.

Borrowers with reduced income. If you have temporarily reduced income and cannot afford to make your student loan payment, focus on your priority expenses, such as food, housing, utilities, transportation and medical expenses. Reduce spending wherever possible. Also, if you’re having trouble keeping up on your housing payment, car payment, utilities, etc., contact the company/lender. Let them know about your income reduction, and see what options they give you. It is always better to keep them in the loop.

Borrowers without an emergency fund. Consider building your savings first. Once you meet your savings goal, resume payments. For instance, if you

have no money in savings and your student loan payment is \$200/month, set aside that payment amount in savings while the loan is in forbearance. If you start in February, you’d have \$1,600 in savings by the end of September!

Borrowers with other debts. If you have other debts with higher interest rates, large monthly payments, or one or two with small balances that are close to being paid off, consider paying extra toward one of those debts while your loans are in forbearance. Once you’ve paid off those other debts, add those payments to your student loans, helping you pay them off faster and save money in interest. If you need to get rid of a monthly payment, it’s best to start with the smallest debt. If you want to save more money in interest, then start with the debt that has the highest interest rate.

Need Assistance?

Even though your loans are in forbearance, it’s a good idea to come up with a plan now if you’re worried about future student loan payments, if you feel like it’s taking forever to pay them off, or if you’re in default or behind on payments.



May Day Café

Open for business

four days a week,

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No inside seating.

LSS Financial Counseling offers free counseling for budgeting, debt, student loans, foreclosure prevention, credit report reviews, and much more.
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Website:
www.lssfinancialcounseling.org

Author Nadine Gall is a Certified Financial Counselor with LSS Financial Counseling. A version of this article first appeared on the LSS Sense & Centsibility blog page.

Peace House Community: A Place to Belong

A Golden Age, or Fool's Gold?

By MARTI MALTBY

I try to find positive things to talk about in this space, but I also want to make sure the voices of the homeless and others who come to Peace House Community are heard. Those two goals sometimes conflict, as homelessness and hopelessness often go together, especially in Minnesota in February.

The optimist in me sees how much resilience and creativity people have shown in the face of the covid pandemic. I admire and appreciate how these folks have found ways to carry on and even to thrive in adversity. I find hope in people's refusal to give up, and I am reminded of Saint Augustine's comment,

"This awful catastrophe is not the end but the beginning. History does not end so. It is the way its chapters open." (I have no idea which particular catastrophe Augustine had in mind, but neither it nor any of the catastrophes since have ended history.)

But when I read Augustine's words, I want to ask him, "The beginning of what? What is going to be written in the chapters we are opening?" Over the centuries many people have made wonderful comments about the golden age that is just over the horizon, and about the inevitable paradise that will result from human progress. Here are just a few samples:

"Where children are, there is the golden age." – Novalis

"The golden age has not passed; it lies in the future." – Paul Signac

"The 21st century has more potential than perhaps any other in our brief evolutionary history. We stand on the cusp of computing, genetic and energy generation breakthroughs that were only recently in the realm of

science-fiction. A golden age of humanity is tantalizingly within our grasp." – Clive Lewis

And yet every golden age has had its share of throw-away people who have to fight just to live on the

fringes of society. The maxim that a rising tide lifts all boats ignores the boats that get swamped and

sink. Every promise about the future of society carries an implicit threat to those who don't have the

skills to succeed in the new world, who aren't being prepared today for what will come tomorrow, or

who just aren't fortunate enough. The community members who come to Peace House Community are

some of the most resilient people I've ever met, but I don't think the pandemic is going to reshape

society enough to provide them with a basic standard of living that provides dignity and safety. (And

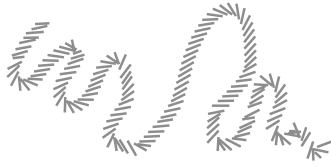
when I say "society", I of course mean you and me and all the other regular people who have the power to shape the future.)

As I said at the start of this column, I want to see the positives. I want to be optimistic about the future.

But I do not want to do so by ignoring unpleasant realities. I don't want to use the intellectual equivalent of placing my hands over my ears and singing "La-la-la, I can't hear you!", like a three year old who doesn't want to cooperate when his mom tells him it is bedtime. I hope there are enough people out there who are willing to face these uncomfortable truths so that, eventually, we really will reach some kind of golden age.

Random alley News

Compiled By LINDSEY FENNER



▶ **MIWRC Drop in Hours:** The Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center now has drop-in hours, **11AM-5PM**. Services offered: support and advocacy, connect with community referrals, assist in finding shelter, shower and outreach bag available upon request. **2300 15th Ave S, 612-728-2034**

▶ **Indian Health Board Winter Storytelling Event:** Indian Health Board is hosting an online winter storytelling event at 6pm on Tuesday, March 16th. Please join our relatives June Blue and Nelda Goodman for a night of teachings, laughter and tradition. To register or for questions, email Delaney.kesheena@indianhealthboard.com

▶ **American Swedish Institute's Community Fund:** ASI has a new small to mid-sized short-term grant program, aimed at service-oriented organizations and initiatives neighboring ASI, primarily in Phillips. Granting amounts will range from \$1,000 to \$3,000. Deadlines to apply for 2021 are March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31. Visit <https://www.asimn.org/communityfund> or email communityfund@asimn.org for more.

▶ **Phillips Neighborhood Clinic Expanded Hours:** PNC will now be open two days a week: **Mondays and Thursdays, clinic hours 6-8PM** (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



WHITTIER PARK
425 W 26th St

March 6, 2021
1 - 4 pm



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bring art, clothing, books, vegan/vegetarian food, a skill, anything you want to share. take what you need. No money, no barter, no trade.

*Please wear a mask & practice social distancing. Masks & hand sanitizer available.

East Phillips Really Really Free Market has moved to Whittier due to Covid--check it out!

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**

▶ **Parks for All Comment Period Extended to July 18:** The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board has extended the public feedback period on the "Park for All" draft plan. According to MPRB, the plan will "provide guidance in developing policy, establishing or changing programs and services, setting the annual MPRB budget and creating park improvements over the next decade." Read the plan and submit comments here: minneapolis.parks.org/parksforall-draft

▶ **Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Offering online narcotics training in March:** The online opioid awareness class will be offered March 2 and March 30 in the early evenings. These sessions will include training on how to properly administer Naloxone, also known by the brand name Narcan®, a prescription medicine that reverses an opioid overdose. Funding for the classes has been provided through grants from the Minnesota Department of Health. All sessions will be taught by licensed alcohol and drug counselor Randy Anderson, founder of Bold North Recovery and Consulting. To join a session of the opioid

awareness class or request a free Deterra drug disposal bag, send an email to drugdisposal@hennepin.us.

▶ **Cub Foods Reopens:** The Cub at Lake and Hiawatha reopened on February 10. The grocery store was closed for 9 months after being damaged during the civil unrest last May following the murder of George Floyd. According to Cub Foods, the store has been completely renovated with expanded global and organic foods sections. The store also offers grocery pick up and delivery, and prescription delivery from Cub Pharmacy. The store hours are **6AM-10PM, seven days a week**.

▶ **More Ward 9 Candidates:** Two more candidates have announced they are running for the Minneapolis City Council seat being vacated at the end of 2021 by Alondra Cano. Mickey Moore is a South Minneapolis business owner. Haji Yusef is a South Minneapolis business owner and activist. They join a growing field of announced candidates for Ward 9: Rita Ortega, Jason Chavez, Al Flowers, Jr, and Carmen Means.

▶ **In the Heart of the Beast Theatre Community Update:** After a pause in programming and a three-month furlough of staff, HOBT announced their next steps, accompanied by a pair of community meetings. The Board of Directors is working to raise funds, search for co-Executive Directors, build relationships and convene an inaugural "Avalon Theatre Cohort." The first online community meeting, on

Continued on page 9...



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OF VERY LITTLE USE
EXCEPT IT BE SPREAD"

FRANCIS BACON



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Continued from page 1...

Let's Get That Garden Started!

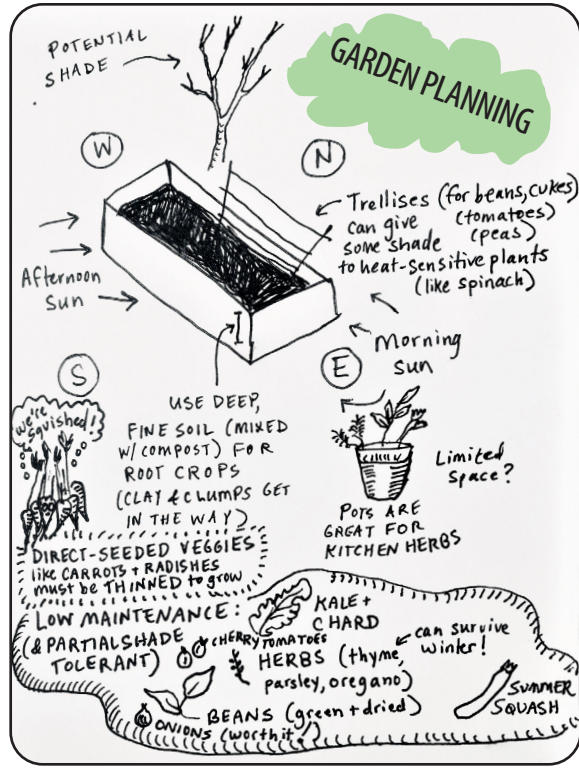
plant size in mind. Buy your seeds!

Second: Start your seeds
Starting plants from seed is a great way to save money. Seeds will stay viable for a few years and store easily in a glass jar in the fridge. You can get dozens of plants out of a \$2 - \$3 packet.

A lot of vegetables can be seeded directly into the soil. Read the seed packets for planting times and instructions. In short growing seasons, like Minnesota, many plants must be started inside a month or two before they can go outside. Save clear plastic clamshell packaging from lettuce or berries to start your seeds. You can control the moisture and warmth with the lid. Save other plastic tubs – yogurt, sour cream, anything you can punch drain holes into for transplanting the little starts into later on. Set up your own seed-starting nursery when the timing is right (read the packets). I recommend spending a little money on seed-starting potting mix. I've tried regular outdoor dirt and general potting soils and had my heart broken. You'll need more light than what comes through the windows. I bought a used 4 foot fluorescent light fixture that I hang a couple inches above



Black Swallowtail caterpillars are a sign of a happy pollinator garden (this one is on a dill plant)—as are monarch caterpillars (which you will find only on milkweed)



Third: Direct seed and transplant

Your cool weather plants can be directly seeded when the soil is dry enough to work in early April. Think kale, lettuce, peas, radishes... After the danger of frost has passed (mid to late May), transplant your babies into their permanent locations. Plant your seeds for beans, cucumbers and other warm weather plants directly into the soil.

Fourth: Feed, mulch, enjoy

Give your plants a nutritious boost to grow bigger and more beautiful. There are plenty of ways to feed your plants, organic or not. Mulch garden beds to keep down weeds and



Bountiful vine/bush plants: summer squash, cucumbers, and beans



Left: green beans with rebar trellis. Right: raised beds



All season cut & come-again: kale (left) and swiss chard (right)



Letting dill go to seed is great for pollinating insects



the seed pots in the basement. Seeds need warmth to germinate so I drape aluminum foil over the light and plants (which I reuse each year). Adjust the lights as the plants grow. Sixteen hours of light a day is a good rule of thumb. Thin the little starts to allow room to grow. That's where the larger containers you saved come in—transplant the babies after they have “true” leaves and can safely be handled into regular potting soil. When the days are warm enough, gradually move the plants outdoors. Give them an hour or two in a protected area outside to start, increasing the time and exposure to sun and wind over a week or two until they are out all night (keeping an eye on the forecast for danger of frost.) The soil will dry faster outdoors, so be mindful of watering.

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hold in moisture. When your neighbors tell you how wonderful your garden looks you can proudly say you grew it all from seed!

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.

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EPIC NEWS

Star Date: **03 2021**

Greetings East Phillips residents!

I have news from Star Fleet Command (EPIC). I can assure you that the cold has left your area and it's time to start planning for the summer gardening season. See Upcoming Events for more information on gardening meetings.

Please note the changes to the board meeting date and time. The EPIC board is now meeting on Saturday mornings at 10:00am. All are welcome to attend.

The 2021 Annual meeting is scheduled for April 24th at 10:00am. Five board members will be elected at this meeting. We are looking for individuals to run for the board. Please see the EPIC website for more information.

Black Visions and Reclaim the Block will be presenting at the March Community Meeting. Plan to attend to learn more about these important issues.

We are excited to announce that Sarah Santiago has accepted the position of Executive Coordinator for EPIC. Sarah started her new position on February 15. Look for more information in the April edition of The Alley.

Three new board members were elected at the January 23rd 2020 Annual Meeting: David Ingold, Nikolas Winter-Simat and Hannah Lieder. Laura Dale was re-elected to the board. Congratulations to all.

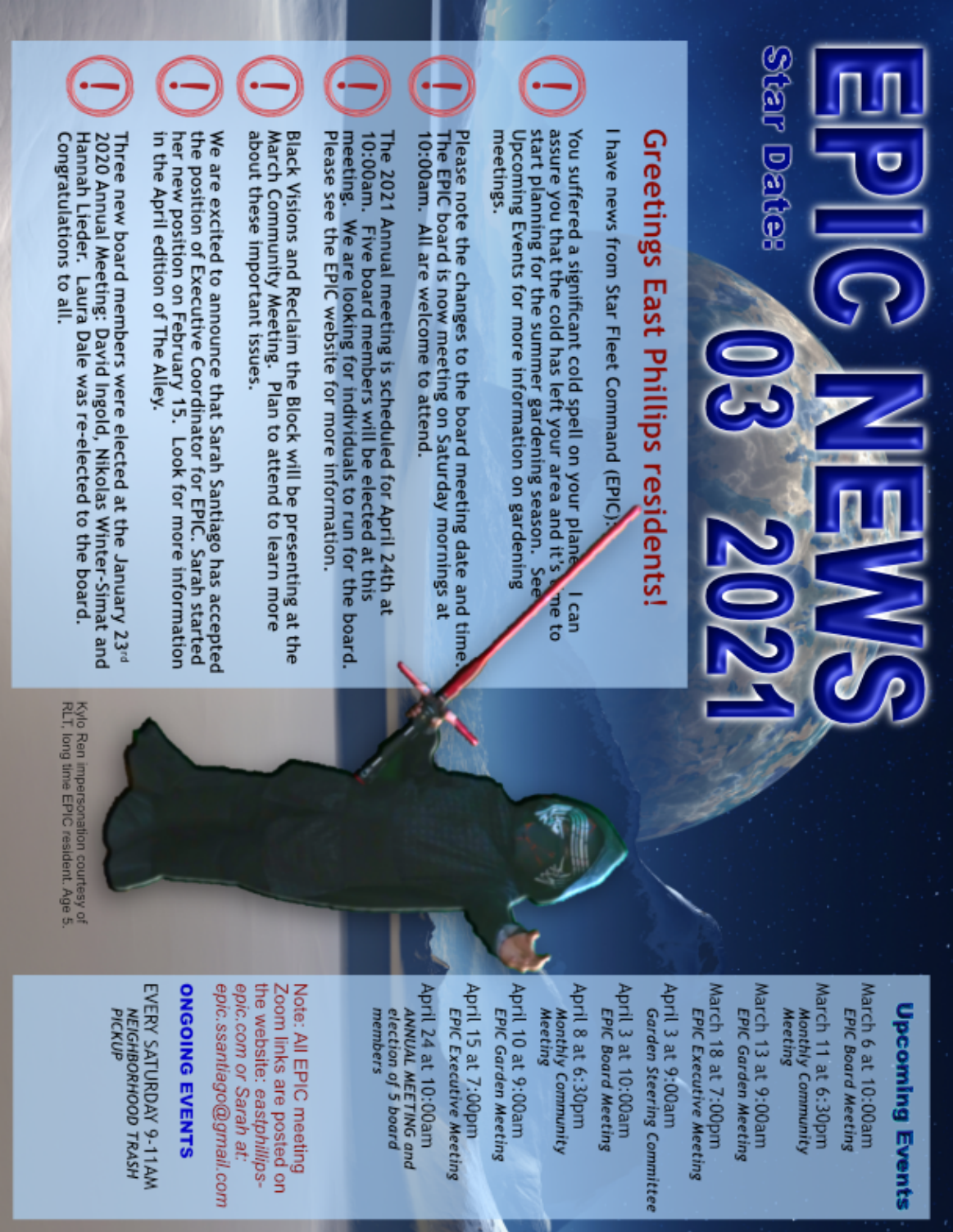
Upcoming Events

- March 6 at 10:00am
EPIC Board Meeting
- March 11 at 6:30pm
Monthly Community Meeting
- March 13 at 9:00am
EPIC Garden Meeting
- March 18 at 7:00pm
EPIC Executive Meeting
- April 3 at 9:00am
Garden Steering Committee
- April 3 at 10:00am
EPIC Board Meeting
- April 8 at 6:30pm
Monthly Community Meeting
- April 10 at 9:00am
EPIC Garden Meeting
- April 15 at 7:00pm
EPIC Executive Meeting
- April 24 at 10:00am
ANNUAL MEETING and election of 5 board members

Note: All EPIC meeting Zoom links are posted on the website: eastphillips-epic.com or Sarah at: epic.santiago@gmail.com

ONGOING EVENTS

EVERY SATURDAY 9-11AM
NEIGHBORHOOD TRASH PICKUP



Kylo Ren impersonation courtesy of RLT, long time EPIC resident. Age 5.



MIDTOWN PHILLIPS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INC.

www.MidtownPhillips.org | info@midtownphillips.org | [midtownphillipsminneapolis](https://www.facebook.com/midtownphillipsminneapolis)



MARCH 9

6:30 - 8 pm

MPNAI BOARD MEETING

AGENDA:

- Discuss Neighborhood Priority Plan and use of funds
- Finalize 2021 Partnership MOUs
- 2021 advertising review
- Finance Report

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/92651300488>
 Meeting ID: 926 5130 0488
 +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

MARCH 16

6:30 - 8 pm

LAKE STREET RECOVERY

Community Check-In #3

AGENDA:

Hear about revitalization efforts of businesses and organizations along Lake Street
Featuring: Bloom Lake Flats update by PPL

Missed Check-In #1 & #2?
 Listen to the recorded sessions at:
www.midtownphillips.org/meeting-schedule

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/97702465838>
 Meeting ID: 977 0246 5838
 +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

MARCH 23

6:30 - 8 pm

COMMUNITY MEETING

AGENDA:

Discuss Neighborhood Priority Plan & use of funds
Community input received so far for use of funds within Midtown Phillips includes:

- To help Lake Street Businesses with emergency needs
- For Culturally-Specific Outreach Service by American Indian CDC
 - Books for Little Earth Youth
 - Midtown Community Safety Center

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/95067429798>
 Meeting ID: 950 6742 9798
 +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
 Meeting ID: 950 6742 9798

Please watch our website www.midtownphillips.org for agenda updates and links to join the zoom meeting!

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



VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD

MARCH '21 NEWS

- **My name is Andrea Pierre and I am the new station Manager at KRSM.** I started off as a host on KRSM since the beginning of the station. I am also a producer based in Minneapolis and I am of Afro-Caribbean descent. I have worked as a consultant for MIA, FLOW Nonfiction, Hennepin County Public Libraries, In The Heart of the Beast, Free Black Dirt and countless other institutions big and small. I am passionate about media and how our stories are told. After the uprising seeing how our community was portrayed in the national spotlight, I realized how we need to uplift more than ever the unheard and underserved. It is my honor to be at KRSM in the community I live in and love. *(Submitted by Andrea Pierre along with photo 1)*



Andrea Pierre

NOTE: KRSM is located in the Phillips Community Center and serves the Phillips Community.

- **Hope's Food, Land and Community team invite you to come plan and grow with us!** Dear community, please join our Food, Land and Community Team of Hope Staff and Community leaders for the 2021 farm planning sessions on the following Fridays: March 5th, March 19th and April 2nd from 5-7PM. We will build shared values, goals for the year and Imagine what is possible together. At these sessions we'll get into garden designs, crop rotation and look thru seed catalogs —to decide what we want to grow! Come thru and check out what's coming in 2021! All events are virtually on Zoom and All ARE WELCOME!! To get the Zoom links checks us on! Instagram @foodlandandcommunity: Facebook @FoodLandAndCommunity or email our Farm lead at mabdinur@hope-community.org *(Photos 2-3 by Maryan Abdinur, article submitted by Will Delaney)*



- **Our March membership meeting will be Wednesday, March 10th at 7 PM.** Our meeting will be available only by Zoom. You can get our Zoom link by calling 612-548-1598, by visiting our website venturavillage.org, or by emailing us at villageventura@gmail.com for more information.



- **A lot of frustration with the City Council** and its relationship to neighborhoods was expressed at the February 10th Ventura Village Neighborhood meeting. The Neighborhood Board will be drafting a letter to the City Council reflecting their concerns about the lack of transparency and community engagement with the Council. If you would like to contact the 6th Ward call 612-673-2206.

- **Our website venturavillage.org contains a lot of information we can't fit on this page.** Here are some reasons for you to visit the website: - If your house is cold and expensive to heat a former resident of Ventura Village, Arbor Otorora-Fadner, has some advice for you. He now works for the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), a nonprofit that helps homeowners get cost-effective energy efficiency upgrades. Find out more on our website. - If you need help with finances and taxes a St. Paul nonprofit Prepare and Prosper can help you build financial wellness and inclusion. Again contact our website for more information.



Rico Morales @Pizza Oven



Melissa and Chip

PILLSBURY UNITED COMMUNITIES (WAITE HOUSE)

BY: MELISSA TRENT

Photos 4-6

As the frigid winter air bites at our noses and toes, Minnesotans are reminded of the seasonality of our lives, remembering, or wondering why we live in this great state. For many, winter is a difficult time, the days are shorter, and the nights are colder, but as a farmer and gardener, it is a time to rest, plan, and dream of the beauty that will come from the coming season. The days are getting longer now, and each week brings more sunshine, bring on Spring!

As the Farmer for Pillsbury United Communities (Waite House), the farm season hasn't ended for me. I've been busy transplanting and harvesting produce alongside our Hydroponic Specialist Micah Helle and intern, Chip Long Crow at our Hydroponic "Freight Farm" on the Northside. All winter long we've been growing herbs and greens indoors to sell to the community. We've been donating our produce weekly to Chef Jose who cooks and serves free meals at Waite House Community Center, so if you get your lunch there, you may have tasted our lettuces or herbs in one of his meals! We've been working hard to grow the healthiest, freshest, safest, herbs around, and we're nearly ready to start selling into local

grocery stores! If you have Instagram, you can follow our progress @puc.farms

Partnership Updates: Have you ever walked by the garden at 2213 Chicago Avenue? Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Waite House Community Center, and the 24th Street Coalition have been partnering to grow fresh produce, herbs, and fruits at our Chicago Ave. garden for the past few years. We're excited to announce that we've received a grant to create a mural, painted by a local artist, host community events and make improvements to our garden space. We're looking forward to farm-fresh pizza

parties, community-led workshops around plants and medicine, and inviting our neighbors to join us for these events (outdoor and covid-friendly). For volunteer opportunities, to join us for summer festivities, or to contribute topic ideas for our summer workshops check out our website at:

<https://chicagoavegarden.com/> or email Melissa Trent at melissat@pillsburyunited.org

We're more than excited to greet the summer growing season, and that means we're hiring a summer farm intern in April! If you know of someone 18-24 who loves to work outdoors, doesn't mind getting their hands dirty, and is excited to grow fresh veggies and herbs, send them our way! Phillips neighborhood youth are given priority. Contact Melissa Trent @pillsburyunited.org

For the budding gardeners out there who are interested in starting their own seeds this year, we'll be giving away free seeds at the



Waite House Community Center Wednesday, April 7th from 1:00PM-3:30PM. Look to the next issue of the Alley for seed starting supplies and steps.

Continued from Page 1

The Future of Uncle Hugo's



Uncle Hugo's Science Fiction and Uncle Edgar's Mystery Bookstores 2864 Chicago Ave. after the Fire

addressed.”

Since the uprising and subsequent looting, he's concerned that many people think the area is too dangerous to visit, “About half of my sales were to people outside the I-495/ I-694 loop, and they are now scared to come to Minneapolis to spend their money. Customers in South Minneapolis told me that they would be scared to return to the Uncles if I rebuilt in the old location. The city is going to have to actually work on fixing the problems with the Minneapolis Police instead of making ‘defunding’ speeches before people will feel comfortable about spending their money in Minneapolis again.”

Although the last year has been an ordeal, there have been bright spots along the way. With the help of a good lawyer, Blyly's experience with his insurance company was relatively positive. “There were a few small

disagreements that we eventually worked out, but I was very happy about how the



The Uncles in Better Days

claim was handled.”

When asked if there was anyone he wanted to give a shout out to for their assistance, he said,

“The demolition company I hired, Bolander, was very helpful. And Lake Street Council was very helpful.”

Blyly keeps a close eye on

the local real estate market, scouting potential locations for a new storefront. He's been looking primarily in Richfield and South Minneapolis. As of this writing, he hasn't yet found a suitable place.

Blyly's daughter, Mina Blyly-Strauss, is working on The Uncles Story Project, a collection of memories about the Uncles. People are encouraged to contribute their stories at the website www.unclesstoriesproject.weebly.com/.

Items from Don Blyly's personal library are available at Abebooks.com listed under *Uncle Hugo 'SF/Uncle Edgar's Mystery*. Nearly

2000 items are up for sale.

Head over to GoFundMe.com to see the fundraiser that's been started for the stores. The name of the campaign is Official Help Save Uncle Hugo's Fund, but you can also try typing Hugo in the search bar and finding it that way.

“Every child should have the opportunity to learn about the outstanding contributions of these sistas,” Taris said.

The concept originated with Taris and entrepreneur Kevin Johnson, founder of the Twin Cities Steppers Association. “After attending the 2018 Celebrating the SistAs Annual Awards Dinner,” she recalled, “I kept thinking about all the amazing women who were honored. As an educator, I wanted to find a way to share the inspirational biographies of all the Black women who are working hard for the community.”

“So, I asked Kevin Johnson, the founder of Celebrating the SistAs, if he would be interested in partnering on a children's book series. Kevin was interested and we worked together to get the book project going.”

She added, “This partnership creates a pathway for documenting our legacy while inspiring the next generation.”

For example, there's Sharon Smith-Akinsanya, CEO at Rae Mackenzie Group CEO, the

award-winning marketing firm advising corporations on profitably relating to communities of color. Clients have included Minnesota Timberwolves/Lynx, U.S. Bank, Target and Verizon Wireless. Accordingly, she is the author of “Colorfull: Competitive Strategies to Attract and Retain Top Talent of Color” (Morgan James Publishing).

Neda Renee Kellogg



co-founded Project DIVA International with Keeya Allen of The Love Initiative Group. Project DIVA, a grassroots community-based initiative, mentors young Black women and girls part and parcel of which is responding to the pressures in urban environments.

Around the neighborhood

Hopeful messages from the painted boards at the former gas station at Bloomington-and-25th

credit: Ben Heath



Continued from Page 1

New Book Casts Loving Spotlight on the 'Sistas'

By DWIGHT HOBBS

This article first appeared in the February 4, 2021 Minnesota Spokesman Recorder

Strive Publishing empowers youth through the enlightening tool of literacy, most recently with “Celebrating the SistAs,” an anthology/workbook showcasing Twin Cities role models for girls.

While these are 10 women, it's worth noting, young males would do well to heed the examples. The subject said Strive founder Mary Taris, is “women of color making a difference in the fields of education, politics, business, health, and social services. This biography series is building a written legacy for the children while celebrating the strength, determination, care, success, power, and beauty of each sista.

As Kellogg told the MSR in a previous article, “They receive guidance and support in respecting themselves, parents, their school situations. How do you handle frustration when you get upset at school [or] when you're the oldest at home and have to help Mom with everything? Our coaches provide spaces for these girls to grow into young women by encouraging them to self-discover without limits.”

Toni Newborn, J.D. is the director of Human Resources and Chief Equity Officer at the City of Saint Paul, formerly of the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights. Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter said in a press statement, “Toni Newborn has helped embed a lens of equity across every city department, and in how we serve our community. [She] will further expand this critical work as we continue moving forward together through these uncertain times.”

Also among the contributors are Rep. Rena Moran, Dr. Artika Tyner, Commissioner Toni Carter,

and Tracey Williams-Dillard, MSR owner and publisher.

“Celebrating the SistAs,” said In Black Ink executive director Rekheta Si-Asar, “holds up a mirror to reflect the hard work, dedication, grace, beauty, focus, generosity, compassion, creativity...of those many women of African descent who shape and enrich our lives locally and globally. We are fighting for the lives, hearts, and souls of our young Black girls. This book highlights their immense potential.”

“Celebrating the SistAs Book 1 in the Series of 21st Century Heroines Every Child Should Know,” edited by Taris, illustrated by Kprecia Ambers of Kp Inspires, and created to honor African American girls through illustration and design, marks a welcome addition to personal libraries and coffee tables.

In Taris' words, “With this biography series, we are building a written legacy for the children. Moreover, each contributor's story will teach, inspire, and empower children to reach for their dreams.”

For more information, visit www.strivepublishing.com.

Returning Chapter 7

Light in the Darkness

By PATRICK CABELLO HANSEL

“It’s always darkest before the dawn.” That may be true, but it is of little solace to those who have no idea how far away the dawn is from coming, or even where to look for it.

Angel and Luz knew this: their beloved little daughter was missing; she was with some stranger, and all they had to go on was this cryptic note that had been taped to the door of the day care:

*Don't worry.
We have your light blessing.
You will know where she is.*

Luz’ first words were, “Don’t worry? Are you out of your mind?”

Angel’s first words were: “You will know where she is? What kind of cruel joke is that?”

But it was little Angelito’s first words that made for the turning toward the dawn: “Papito, mamita, what is a light blessing?”

Luz and Angel looked at their first born with wonder. For the parents, everything had focused down to this one horrible fact: little Lupita was missing. If you had asked them what they had done ten minutes earlier, or what they would do ten minutes hence, they could not have told you. They couldn’t remember if they had read the note out loud and Angelito had heard them. Or had their son, at age 4 ½, suddenly learned how to read?

Angel squatted down next to his son, and looked him in the eye. He did not see the terror he had just seen in his wife’s eyes, rather he saw something peaceful, searching, akin to wonder.

“Did you ask us what a light blessing is?” Angel asked his son.

“Yes, papi. Is it like the

blessing you give to me and Lupe every night before we go to sleep, where you touch our heads and say ‘Dios te bendiga?’”

Angel hugged Angelito so hard, he cried out in a hushed voice:

“Papi, I can’t breathe!”

Angel, let go of his son with his arms, but not with his heart. For the first time he felt a bit of hope. He looked straight at his son, and said: “I think so, hijito. I think the note is saying that little Lupita is a blessing to us, and she’s OK.”

“So why don’t we go find her?” Angelito asked, loudly.

Angel stood up, looked at his wife, and both of them started to laugh. Angelito looked at them like they were crazy, but started to laugh as well.

“Where do we start?” Angel asked Luz. Luz looked up at the sky, then down at the snow on the ground. She hesitated to look east—that was where the menacing van with the voice passed. But she looked. The cemetery was dark, but peaceful, and a light snow started to fall.

She turned to Angel and asked him: “Remember how we met?”

“How could I forget, mi amor?!” Angel said. “It was at your tio’s bakery, when you smiled at me.”

“And gave you something to eat, remember?” Luz said. “I think we need to start our journey there.”

“But it’s not there anymore!” Angel said. “It’s just that phone store now. No more bakery.”

“No more bakery in the present,” Luz said. “But we know there was in the past, and may be in the future.”

At this little Angelito said: “Forever and ever. Amen!”

And so our little family, buoyed up not by certainty but by hope, set off west down Lake Street toward a bakery that had been and that might be again.

To be continued...

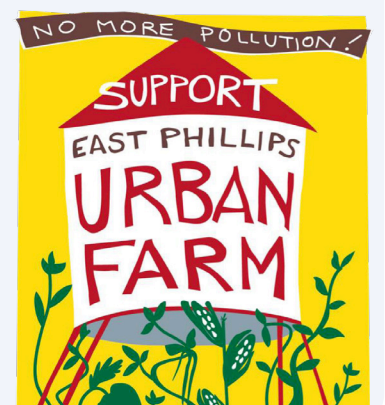
East Phillips Urban Farm Gets Much Needed Support from Council Vice-President Jenkins

By GRACE PASTOOR, EAST PHILLIPS NEIGHBORHOOD INSTITUTE STAFF

Minneapolis City Council Vice-President Andrea Jenkins has come out in support of the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute’s urban farm project. Jenkins initially voted for work on the City’s Hiawatha Campus Expansion Project to continue but, she said, changed her mind due to COVID and other concerns. “2020 happened,” Vice-President Jenkins said on the SouthSide Mpls podcast. “Given the fact that there’s a perception in the community that this facility would increase the

amount of pollution in that area...given what we know about the Coronavirus, given what we know about how Native communities have had land stolen, I think this provides us, the City of Minneapolis, an opportunity to say ‘Community: We hear you.’” Jenkins, along with other local leaders, restated her support in a virtual event January 16. The event featured short speeches by Jenkins, Senator Omar Fateh, Senator Patricia Torres Rey, and more. “After the effects of the Coronavirus that really deeply uncovered the systemic issues of racism in our society, and then the subsequent murder of George Floyd, I declared racism as a public health crisis,” Jenkins said. The East Phillips Urban Farm project is the neighborhood group’s alternative to the City of Minneapolis’ Hi-

awatha Campus Expansion Project. The City’s project would bring further pollution and environmental injustice to the diverse East Phillips neighborhood. “I see this project as a way to mitigate some of those harms and begin to really address the inequities that have been foisted upon our communities of color, particularly in the East Phillips neighborhood,” Jenkins said. “I can’t in good conscience continue to support unsustainable, unimaginable policies that continue to disrupt our communities.”



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Tag your local officials and tag #EPNIUrbanFarm
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WHAT CAN YOU DO?
Check out our website at:
<https://www.eastphillipsneighborhoodinstitute.org/>

SIGN OUR CHANGE.ORG PETITION
supporting the East Phillips Urban Farm at
<http://chnng.it/nmKXM5VkfX>

DONATE to our environmental justice legal fund

SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL LIST ON THE WEBSITE

Contact Communications Coordinator Michelle Shaw to learn more at michelle@eastphillipsneighborhoodinstitute.org

Continued from Page 4

Random alley news



the topic of “reimagining the future of Mayday,” was scheduled for February 23. The second online meeting, on the topic of organizational changes and the “Avalon Theatre Cohort,” is scheduled for **March 2, 6-7:30PM**. Registration is required. To register or to read HBOT’s report,

visit www.hobt.org.

- ▶ **Facial Recognition Technology:** The Minneapolis City Council unanimously passed an ordinance prohibiting City’s use of facial recognition technology on Friday February 12 with narrow exceptions; prohibiting the City from buying facial recognition technology or using data derived from it.
- ▶ **Sabathani Community Center Senior book Club**

Please join the start up of our book club project with Hosmer Library and Mn Black Community Project.
-The first session will be Wednesday March 17 from 1-2pm
-First Session: “Author Talk” Featuring Anthony Scott and The Minnesota’s Black Community Book
-Format is 1 hour, featured personality 45 min and Q&A 15 minutes.
For more information call 612-821-2307

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Movie Corner

Cicely Tyson (1924-2021): And That's the Way She Was

By HOWARD MCQUITTER II

Whether it was screen, television, or stage, Ms. Cicely Tyson shined, breaking way for many more African American thespians, especially for African American women. She refused to be pigeonholed into the usual Black stereotypes of maids or cooks. When looking



Howard McQuitter II

to *Bountiful*. (The role was originally played by white actress Geraldine Page in a film of the same title in 1985).

Early in her career she starred with Sammy Davis Jr. in the black and white film *A Man Called Adam*



Cicely Tyson on location in the Netherlands, 1973

at her in the earliest of her career, you saw a woman with big beautiful eyes, rich chocolate skin, fronting an Afro - at that time criticized for wearing it even by many Black people, preferring she straighten her hair as was common for Black women of the day.

Tyson's first film *Carib Gold* (1957) came at a time when Black actresses had few decent roles in Hollywood, including talent like Dorothy Dandridge, Pearl Bailey, Ruby Dee, Eartha Kitt, Juanita Moore, Hazel Scott, and Beah Richards. Indeed, Cicely Tyson would become known to all people. However, in Black households she was a household name gracing the front covers of African American magazines *Ebony* and *Jet*.

In her lustrous career she appeared in at least 68 television series, including playing Kunta Kinte's mother in the TV miniseries *Roots* (1977). In 1978, she played Coretta Scott King in the NBC miniseries *King*, about the last years of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. She took on the role as Harriet Tubman with the Underground Railroad in *A Woman Called Moses* (1978). Fast forward to 2013 on Broadway when Tyson starred by playing Carrie Watts, an elderly woman who goes back to her hometown before she dies, in *The Trip*

Raise Your Voice

CCC: Applause, Applause

By PETER MOLENAAR

Yes, yes, yes...!

In response to decades of popular mass action and the concerted effort of such stalwarts as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ilhan Omar, President Biden has signed an executive order to create a Civilian Climate Corps. This CCC, reminiscent of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the Great Depression, will train and employ (hopefully) millions of people in environmental careers. The restoration of public lands, parks, and waters... storm water management systems, solar panel installations, toxic waste clean up, and urban garden development is foreseen. Hey, with this new impetus, will the East Phillips Urban Farm proposal advance to transform the Roof Depot

building? Better believe it!

Cautionary note: "Small government" voices and associated militias will denounce this New Deal as "socialist tyranny."

Again from the local front: Our Powderhorn headquartered Land Stewardship Project deserves huge scoops of praise. LSP has developed and introduced a bill to our state legislature which dovetails perfectly with Biden's CCC. HF 701 will provide "motivating resources" to ensure that agricultural soil health practices are profitable from day one. "We can reach 100% soil health farming in Minnesota by 2040—clean our water, prevent erosion and run-off—sequester carbon [organic matter] as well as foster healthy pollinators, wildlife, people and more."

Will the new CCC address the problem of homelessness? Everyone knows that homelessness has seriously vexed this neighborhood. Tragically, the camps have been largely Native American, and yes, heroin was in the mix. However, I know from experience:

addicted persons long to prosper as contributing members of society. It follows that in addition to the resolution of logistical questions, the new CCC must become culturally aware and sensitive. Moving forward on the basis of the past: The historic CCC camps were mostly segregated by race, and the "she, she, she camps" were few and far between. Integration is now the order of the day, but anti-racist supervision is called for. Obviously as well, "man camps" must not be allowed to pose a threat.

On the other hand, Native Americans have the right to choose culturally specific camps. An agreement that they occasionally share their culture might resolve this contradiction.

Reminder:

Our 'popular front' strategy has knocked the fascists off their heels. Yet, we remain in the quantitative phase of the revolutionary process. For now, let us advance in quantitative leaps with the "qualitative leap" in mind.

Tips from a COVID-19 Case Investigator

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or changes. Some of these changes give an advantage to the virus over their human hosts, making these new versions "variants of concern." As of early February, two different COVID variants of concern have been detected in Minnesota: B.1.1.7 (first seen in the UK), and P.1 (first seen in Manaus, Brazil). We are still learning about these variants, but from what we know from data from the UK and Europe, B.1.1.7 seems to be about 50% more transmissible, which means it is easier to catch from someone else. We know less about P.1, but scientists are concerned by

early evidence that suggests this variant may be able to evade immunity, potentially making re-infection more likely.

These variants are detected in the US through what is called "surveillance testing," where random test samples are selected to have "whole genome sequencing." This means they look at the virus' entire genetic code to see which variant it matches.

In Minnesota, when these variants of concern are detected, MDH re-interviews those people to get more epidemiologic information about how they may have acquired these variations of the virus. From these interviews, it seems that there is already community spread of B.1.1.7 in MN. The two cases of P.1 detected in MN as of early February were both associated with travel to Brazil.

However, right now in the US, we don't sequence enough of these random samples to get a clear picture of how widely these variants are truly spreading. It is important that we all do everything we can to minimize the spread of these variants as we work to get as many people vaccinated as quickly as possible.

What you can do:

All of the COVID precautions we have been taking will still help reduce the risk of getting these variants. But I know we've all been doing this a long time, and we're all sick of it, so some reminders:

- Wear a mask, especially indoors. **It is important that you have a mask that fits**

well!

- Avoid the three Cs: Crowded Places, Close-contact settings, and Confined and enclosed places
- Avoid unnecessary travel. I know it has been a long pandemic winter, but the less we travel, the less we move these variants arounds.

I can't predict what March will look like for COVID-19 in Minnesota. But I do know that no matter what uncertainties we face with vaccines or variants, spring is on its way!

Lindsey lives in East Phillips and has been working a COVID response reassignment in local public health since May 2020. Can that really be almost a year?! Her opinions are her own.

For questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, call 651-297-1304 or 1-800-657-3504

Mon.-Fri.: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE
Call: **CRISIS (**274747)

COVID COMMUNITY COORDINATORS:
► **Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES):** 651-768-0000, Mon - 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)
Mon-Fri 8:00 am to 8:00 pm; On call evenings/weekends: English, Oromo, Spanish, Somali

STAY SAFEMN

Who can get the vaccine?



Everyone 16 years and older is recommended to get the COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to them. This includes people with medical conditions, who have had COVID-19, and those of different ages, races, and ethnicities. The vaccine is safe for people who are pregnant and those with weak immune systems, but they should talk to their doctor before getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

Minnesota has a plan to give the first, limited doses of vaccine to those who are at highest risk to get COVID-19 and/or to get very sick from COVID-19.

We will provide updates through many news channels for who can get vaccinated, when they can get vaccinated, and where they can get vaccinated.

SIDE EFFECTS

Some people have side effects after getting the vaccine. Side effects usually last one or two days and usually do not prevent you from daily activities. You may have:

- SORE ARM
- MUSCLE ACHES
- TIREDNESS
- HEADACHE
- FEVER/CHILLS

If you have serious side effects, go to a hospital or call 911.

Keep yourself and others safe

It will take a long time for everyone to get vaccinated. Even after being vaccinated, you still have to do all these things to help keep your community safe:



Wear a mask.



Wash your hands.



Stay 6 feet from others.



Stay home if you feel sick.

THE VACCINE DOES NOT HAVE:

- Preservatives
- Pork products or gelatin
- COVID-19 live virus

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CHANGE MAKERS

At the same time, Kaluza was supporting tenants in the Whittier neighborhood as they fought to claim their buildings from a landlord who charged high rents without maintaining the buildings. After a long legal fight, the tenants won the right to own their buildings in the summer of 2020. Kaluza worked with the tenants group named Cielos sin Limites (Sky Without Limits) to create a mural that celebrates the struggle and victory of the tenants.

During the uprising in late May and early June, Kaluza focused on connecting community: organizing fire brigades, setting up lines of communication to keep community abreast of minute-by-minute changes, and starting the process of political education. As the situation calmed in the Twin Cities, Kaluza continued the long-term work of education, pointing out that community safety is more than “police or no police” — it is everyone having needs met.

Political education coupled with direct action is work

Kaluza is engaged in at the local level as well as in the wider city and state. Their work focuses first on housing and then on climate change and immigration rights. Kaluza speaks with passion about the need for housing that people can afford to live in safely and with dignity. Without this, they argue, other fights are impossible. “We can’t work on climate change or immigration rights if we don’t have places to live.”

Wide-Angle View

As a child, Kaluza spent the school year living in the Phillips neighborhood in south Minneapolis and the summers in rural Guatemala with their father’s family.

Growing up, their mother characterized Phillips as a microcosm of what is going on in the world. When the Hmong fled Vietnam, many found refuge in Phillips. When people fled the drug epidemic in Chicago, they moved to Phillips. As people leave east Africa, you can see it reflected in the Phillips neighborhood. At the same time, the social issues that plagued the world, and the ways that U.S. foreign policy impacted other countries, were on display without subtlety in Guatemala. They recalled look-

ing around at the Guatemalan community and seeing darker skinned people than Kaluza, yet the ads and billboards featured people who were lighter.

Kaluza grew up engaged in social justice. They were taught early that they have the power to act and can change the direction of the world. They cannot be a neutral actor, instead they have an obligation to be a positive force.

Kaluza’s connection to art also is rooted in being bicultural. “Growing up across two cultures really drove home a deep desire for solidarity and understanding across so-called borders — cultures, identities, class, races.”

This drive to connect brought Kaluza into the arts, specifically storytelling. In high school, they participated in a spoken word workshop, which led to joining Palabristas, a group of Latinx spoken word and slam poets. Through Palabristas, Kaluza had the opportunity to travel around Minnesota performing, in hope that it would inspire others to share their own stories.

Kaluza believes art creates space for vulnerability, which in turn creates deeper relationships. “Talk to one another — in neighborhoods, apartment buildings, places of worship, workplaces. In those conversations, practice being vulnerable. If we share our stories about how we and our loved ones are impacted, the people we speak with will also have their own stories to share. By sharing vulnerability, we build deeper relationships. We need deep relationships to face what’s coming — floods, heat waves, climate refugees.”

Magdalena Kaluza believes that the pandemic has given us an opportunity to collectively

reject systems of racism, patriarchy, and capitalism. To create solidarity around what we need, Kaluza says, more people need to tell their stories and to actively listen to the stories of others.

Read about other Change-makers at: <https://www.womenspress.com/category/newsactivism/powerful-everyday-women/>.

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TAX SEASON TIPS

MARY ELLEN KALUZA

File Even If You Don’t Have To

- Recovery Rebate Credit – Didn’t receive your stimulus money or the full amount? You will need to file 2020 Form 1040 or 1040-SR.
- New for 2020 tax year – Filers can claim a charitable deduction up to \$300 for cash contributions in 2020, even if you don’t itemize.
- Earned Income Tax Credit (and other tax credits) – If you have any verifiable earned income but not enough to be required to file income taxes, you could be eligible for a tax refund.
- Property tax refund for renters and homeowners – file this with the MN Department of Revenue. You do not have to file an income tax return to file for the property tax refund.

File Early

- Reduce the chance of someone filing a fraudulent return in your name.
- Receive your refund faster.
- Eliminate filing deadline stress.

Resources for Filing

Prepare + Prosper: <https://prepareandprosper.org/free-tax-preparation/>
 AARP Foundation Tax-Aide: https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/

SPIRIT & PHILLIPS
 WENDY MOORE + J. HADAWAY

Wendell Phillips (1811-1884) Our Neighborhood Namesake

AGITATE, WRITE, TALK; HOPE ON! NEVER GIVE UP!

STOP Enbridge Pipeline!

10% of World's Fresh Water

Me Tar Sand, you drain!

You've heard of #1 and #2 - Enbridge gonna go #3!

Trail of Oily Tears

Jobs! (& trafficking)

Frack you very much!

Oops, sorry! Who'd have thought it would leak?



COVID VACCINE & TESTING

STAY ATTENTIVE TO BOTH

Even though there are two vaccines approved for emergency use, it will still take time before everyone can get it. There are currently a limited number of vaccine doses available to states from the federal government. This means there is not enough vaccine for everyone who wants one yet.

The goal for the first, limited doses of COVID-19 vaccine is to **immunize for impact** – meaning the vaccine is offered to those at highest risk of getting COVID-19 and those most at risk of severe disease and complications if they get COVID-19. The first groups to get vaccinated include health care workers and people who live and work in long-term care facilities. These people will be contacted by their employer or facility when they are able to get vaccinated. More information on the next eligible groups will be available in the coming weeks.

Minnesota is also vaccinating a limited number of adults age 65 and older as well as educators (pre-kindergarten through grade 12), school staff, and child care workers. **Because of limited vaccine supply, there are only a small number of appointments available.**

The **Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Connector** is a tool that helps you find out when you will be **ELIGIBLE** to get your COVID-19 vaccine. Insurance and identification are **NOT** needed, and signing up is **FREE**.

TESTING

SOURCE: MN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WEBSITE



Health care workers, long-term care facilities

65 and older

Educators & School staff, childcare workers

visit mn.gov/vaccineconnector

WHO CAN AND CANNOT GET THE VACCINE

Vaccines are intended for adults

At this time, the available COVID-19 vaccines are intended for adults; the Pfizer vaccine allows vaccination of people 16 years and older and the Moderna vaccine allows vaccination for people 18 years and older.

There are few reasons that someone should not get vaccinated.

A person that had a life-threatening reaction to a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine should not receive any further doses. Additionally, if a person has had a life-threatening reaction to any ingredient in the vaccine, they should not be vaccinated. People who have had anaphylaxis after taking other medicines, particularly medicines given by injection, may be vaccinated but should be observed for 30 minutes after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.



WHETHER YOU HAVE BEEN VACCINATED OR NOT--STAY VIGILANT!

There is daily progress getting Minnesotans vaccinated. As of February 18, 2021, nearly 1 million Minnesotans have received their shots. The light at the end of the tunnel is growing brighter, and there is continued reason for optimism. Vaccine availability is expanding, hospitalizations are down, and COVID-19 cases are lower than they've been in a long time.

Progress is being made to end the pandemic, but we must continue working to protect ourselves and each other.



Wash hands often

Stay home when sick

Wear a mask
(required in indoor settings)

Stay 6 feet apart

COVID Community Coordinator HOTLINE

612-249-9528

**OPEN 24 hours
Monday to Friday**
and Emergency Weekend Calls

Talk to Hotline Staff to find out WHERE you might locate resources such as

- Food Insecurity
- Medical and Mental Health Services
- Employment
- Housing
- Childcare
- Legal Rights
- Other COVID-19 related issues

The Cultural Wellness Center is partnering with the Minnesota Department of Health to keep communities of color safe. This hotline will help African and African-American Minnesotans navigate available resources to cope with the health, economic, educational, and cultural impacts of COVID-19.

The Cultural Wellness Center will have navigators on the ground in HENNEPIN and RAMSEY Counties with a focus on the following neighborhoods:

<p>Minneapolis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phillips Neighborhoods • Powderhorn • Corcoran • Central • Other South Mpls. Neighborhoods 	<p>Saint Paul:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frogtown • Midway • Arundel • East St. Paul • Other St. Paul Neighborhoods
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Cultural Wellness Center
Health · Heritage · Harmony

Hotline and resource support are made possible through the Minnesota Department of Health.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON COVID19

Call the **Cultural Wellness Center's Covid Community Coordinators Hotline** at 612-249-9528.

Or visit www.mn.gov/covid-19 call the MN Helpline at 651-297-1304.