

Why I Voted to

STRIKE

3,500 Hennepin County workers will walk out in February unless a last minute deal is made, and I will be one of them.

By LINDSEY FENNER

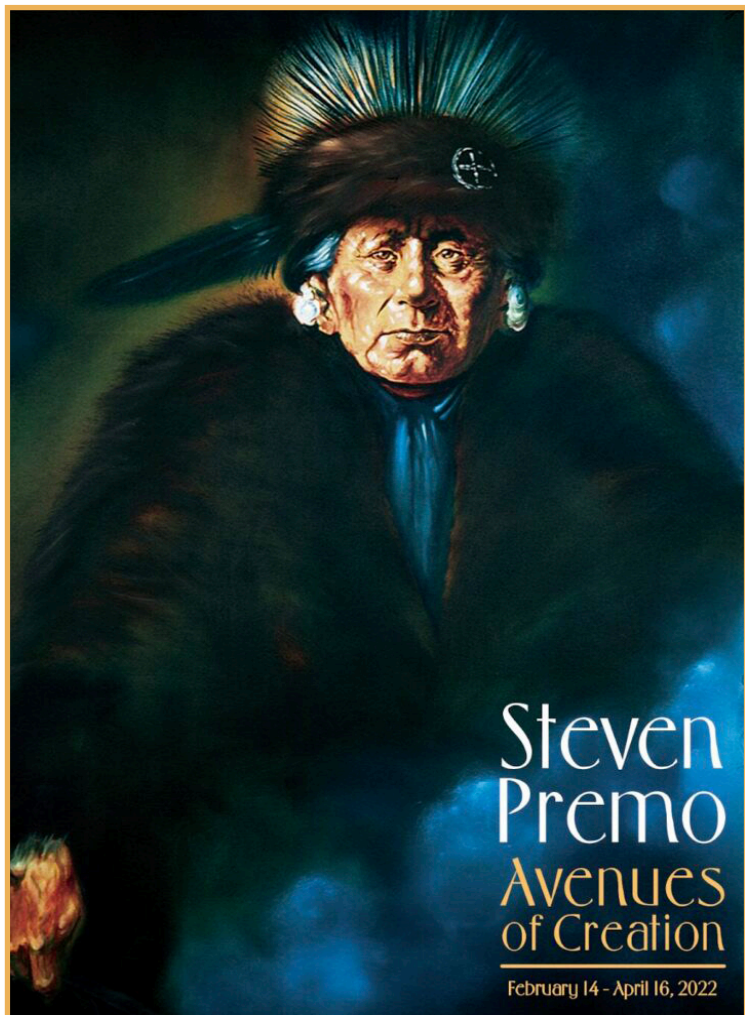


Library workers and community supporters at an informational picket in front of Franklin Library at Franklin 13th Avenues in Phillips. Library specialists and associate librarians are some of the 3,500 Hennepin County workers who might strike beginning in February.

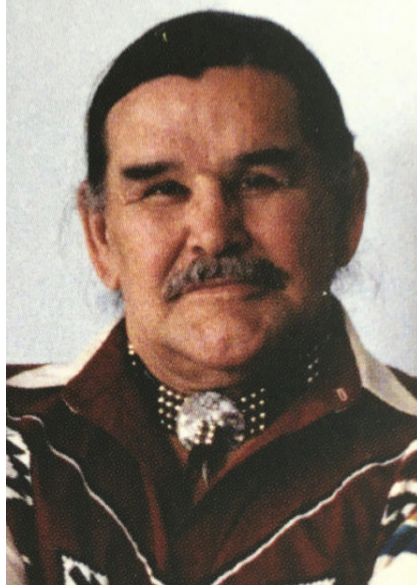
As you may have read in last month's *alley*, Hennepin County AFSCME workers in Locals 34 and 2822 voted to reject Hennepin County's last contract offer and authorized a strike. In mid-January, our negotiation team went back to the table with the County and received the exact same offer our memberships already voted to reject. After this latest insult and show of bad faith, our locals filed an intent to strike on January 19. If a last-minute deal can't be made, we --3,500 County social services workers and clerical workers-- will be walking out at the beginning of February.

I'm a member of Local 2822, which represents about 1,200 clerical workers at Hennepin County. We work in every department of the County, doing the support work that is often invisible

Continued on page 7...



Giga-Waabamin Nee-Gon-Way-We-Dun



Neegonwaywedun "Thunder Before the Storm" A.K.A Clyde Bellecourt, Co-Founder of American Indian Movement

Prominent Indigenous elder to local and nation-wide communities Nee-Gon-Way-We-Dun (Thunder Before the Storm in Ojibwe), also known as Clyde Bellecourt (White Earth Nation), passed to the spirit world January 11th, 2022.

His dedication and steadfast work for the lives and heritage of Indigenous people worldwide -- fighting against police brutality; establishing and keeping Little Earth of United Tribes; initiating programs for health, education, safety, language, legal rights, cultural heritage, and education; advocating against racist sports names, icons, and mascots; and co-founding the American Indian Movement (AIM) -- was obvious locally

Continued on page 6...

Anishinabe III:

Addressing Homelessness and The Opioid Epidemic

By TINA MONJE

In December of 2021, The American Indian Community Development Corporation (AICDC) opened the doors of Anishinabe III, another permanent supportive housing building added to their roster. Built over the summer of 2021, this four story building on Franklin Avenue sits between the American Indian Center and the Hiawatha overpass, right across the street from the long fenced-off Wall of Forgotten Natives, on what used to be the Anishinabe Campus lawn. Nearly 30 years after the first inception of AICDC as an Indigenous-led task force, this building stands as a testament to the Corporation's commit-



Anishinabe III, a new supportive housing building on at 16th and Franklin Avenues, opened in December 2021.

ment to ever-evolving needs of their neighborhood and their relatives.

Travis Earth-Werner, AICDC's Program Project Manager, says this project is a reflection of AICDC's longtime, core mission to address homeless in the Indigenous community in South Minneapolis. Anishinabe III is their continued response to the growing crisis of inaccessible housing. And like their other buildings,

Continued on page 8...

"Avenues of Creation" opens at All My Relations Gallery February 14

Through his lifelong artistic career, multi-disciplinary artist and designer, Steven Premo, of the Mille Lacs Band of the Ojibwe, learned that there are many different avenues for creation, and each requires a particular medium. In his Twin Cities solo exhibition debut, Steve reflects his pride in his Ojibwe heritage through a variety of retrospective works highlighting narratives of the Mille Lacs Ojibwe people and the evolution of Ojibwe art forms. "My own art is a reminder of our history and the continuation of our existence and expresses our cultural influence across the community and beyond.." - Steven Premo

Study in Blue, 1998, oil on canvas, Steven Premo

All My Relations Gallery
1414 E Franklin Avenue

<http://www.allmyrelationsarts.com/>

On View: February 14th -- April 16th 2022

Opening Reception: Thursday, February 17th,
6-8:00 p.m.

Community Art Activity: March 26th, 1-3 p.m.

Artist Talk: March 3rd 6-7 p.m.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

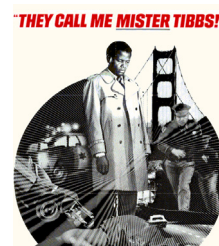
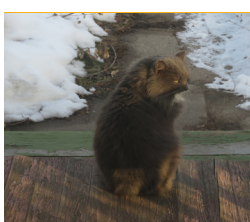
TAX SEASON TIPS &
WHERE TO FIND FREE
HELP! P2-3



EDIBLE BOULEVARDS P4



HAVE A HEART FOR
HOMELESS CATS P 8-9



SIDNEY POITIER TRIBUTE,
MOVIE CORNER P10

MITTEN
SHOWCASE
P11



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

Governed by Directors: Cathy Strobel-Ayres, Pres.; Thorbjorn Adam, Eric Angell, Kyle Cranston, Steve Dreyer, Lee Leichtenritt, Frances Mendenhall, Steve Sandberg.

Operated by Editorial Leadership Team: Lindsey Fenner, Laura Hulscher, Mary Ellen Kaluza, Carz Nelson, Minkara Tezet, Harvey Winje, and Jessie Merriam

Facilitated by: Graphics Designer and Coordinator, Jessie Merriam.

Page Coordinators: Steve Dreyer and Daniel Dorff, VV News; EPIC News; Sunny Sevigny, MPNA News; Mira Klein, PWN. Social Media: Jessie Merriam, Susan Gust, Lindsey Fenner

February content contributors to the alley :

All My Relations Arts, Roberta Barnes, Cultural Wellness Center and CWC Health Hub, Daniel Dorff, Steve Dreyer, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Lindsey Fenner, Vivi Grieco, Susan Gust, Linnea Hadaway, Patrick Cabello Hansel, Ben Heath, Hennepin County Libraries and Covid-19 Response, Dwight Hobbes, Mike Huffman, Sue Hunter Weir, Mary Ellen Kaluza, Mira Klein, Marti Maltby, Tim McCall, Howard McQuitter II, Jessie Merriam, Michelle Shaw, Midtown Global Market, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Assoc., Jayne Mikulay, MN COVID-19 Response, Tina Monje, Dave Moore, Carz Nelson, Peter Molenaar, Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, Kali Pliego, Steven Premo, Sarah Santiago, Sunny Sevigny, Brad Sigal, Ventura Village Neighborhood Organization, Harvey Winje, Laura Waterman Wittstock

DONATIONS

Thank you to neighbors, readers, advertisers, subscribers, GiveMN, and Community Shares MN donations. Alley Communications is a Not-for Profit 501C-3; donations are tax deductible.

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.

Board meetings: 6:30 PM 2nd Tuesday by Zoom. Editorial Leadership Team 2nd Monday 8:30 -10:00am, 4th Thursday 6:30-8pm by Zoom and virtual conversations as needed.

Correspondence becomes the property of the alley and may be published.

Journalists' opinions in *the alley* and social media are not the opinion of Alley Communications, et al.
P.O. Box 7006
Mpls., MN 55407
submissions: copydesk@alleynews.org
ad inquiries: businessmanager@alleynews.org
design: design@alleynews.org

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



Library News

By CARZ NELSON

All information listed here is accurate as of January 15, 2021. For the most recent information, check out the library website at www.hclib.org.

FRANKLIN LIBRARY HOURS

Monday	9 AM to 5 PM
Tuesday	12 Noon -8 PM
Wednesday	12 Noon -8 PM
Thursday	12 Noon -8 PM
Friday	9 AM to 5 PM
Saturday	9 AM to 5 PM
Sunday	12 Noon -5 PM

LIBRARY SERVICE AND COVID PRECAUTIONS

Everyone must wear a mask in the library and in all county buildings; children under 5 years old are exempt. People who tested positive for COVID 19, or who are experiencing symptoms, should not enter the library.

DISPLAYS AND EXHIBITS - CLYDE BELLECOURT AND MORE

There are several new exhibits at Franklin Library, including one featuring Clyde Bellecourt. Other presentations include a display highlighting Minnesota Black authors, and an exhibit of archival photographs in the upstairs display case. *Salvage for Victory* documents supply shortages during World War II.

MORE MAGAZINES COMING

The selection of periodicals available at Franklin Library continues to grow. The Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder is now available. Other titles that are due to arrive soon include American Indian Quarterly, Essence, First American Art, and J-14.

FAIR AT FRANKLIN-GET HELP MANAGING YOUR MONEY

Have trouble opening and keeping a banking account? FAIR is a program that can help you with banking services. Their goal is to help people cash their paychecks, build credit and increase their financial literacy. FAIR offers

accounts with predictable fees and no overdraft penalties.

In partnership with Build Wealth Minnesota, FAIR is hosting a series of pop-ups this winter. All accounts opened at these events will receive a **\$25** opening deposit or a gift card.

FAIR ambassadors will be in the community room at Franklin Library on **February 25, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.**, to answer questions and help people who are interested to sign up for the program.

Register in advance for either of these events at fair-financial.org/events. For more information, you can call Build Wealth Minnesota at 651-262-2173.

HELP FINDING RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

The Bridge for Youth visits Franklin Library on the fourth Wednesday of each month, 2 - 5 p.m. They connect people with resources and provide hygiene items and other supplies. Look for them in their outreach van on the corner of 14th and Franklin Avenue.



To honor his life and the legacy of his activism, Franklin Library has compiled a list of recommended books about the American Indian Movement: <https://bit.ly/HCL-Recommend-AIM>.

FREE FOOD

Franklin Library is collaborating with Every Meal to distribute free meal bags. Bags are located inside the library entrance, and while supplies last, they are free for anyone to take.

HOMEWORK HELP

Both Franklin and Hosmer Libraries provide free one-on-one tutoring for K-12 students.

Franklin:
Wednesdays 3:30-7:30 PM and
Thursdays 3:30-7:30 PM
Hosmer:
Mondays 4-7:30 PM and
Saturdays 1-4 PM

CONNECT AND PLAY AT HOSMER LIBRARY

For young children and their caregivers. Connect with your child during this drop-in program that explores early literacy activities.

Weds Feb 2 & 9, 4 - 6 p.m.

Books and reading

Explore books, reading and writing through library events and classes, book clubs, eBooks and other resources.

Ask Us for reading suggestions

We can help you find a book that fits your needs in the format of your choice. We'll email you suggestions that may include authors, specific titles or book lists.

You can also Ask Us for reading suggestions by phone, chat or in person at any Hennepin County library.

Name (optional)

Email (required) *

What reading age level are you interested in? (required) *

Select One

What are your preferred book formats? (optional)

Book formats

- Jump to
- Events
 - Mary Ann Key Book Club
 - Book clubs
 - Ask Us for reading suggestions
 - Read This Newsletter
 - Author alerts
 - Online resources
 - MN Writes MN Reads
 - Zine Collection

READING SUGGESTIONS

Looking for a good book to read? You could ask a librarian. At hclib.org, towards the bottom of the page, you'll find the link, "Ask us for reading suggestions." This leads to a form to fill out about what kind of books you like, and don't like. Fill in the form and you will get an email with reading recommendations. If you don't want to fill out a form, you can always ask librarians for recommendations in person, over the phone, or via chat.

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 at

612-543-8850

Monday through Friday,
10 AM to 5 PM.

ASK THE LIBRARY

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 5pm

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

HM00B/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.

Tax Time!

By MARY ELLEN KALUZA

Tax season creates a lot of anxiety, even if you expect a refund. Filing seems to get harder every year. You'd think Congress would like to make it as easy as possible for us, but the poor IRS has been woefully underfunded for years, leaving the agency with seriously outdated technology and far fewer employees to process the hundreds of millions of tax returns they receive each year. Add a pandemic into the mess and... Hopefully this information can ease some of your anxiety.

A Few Tips To Help Manage Tax Filing

Whether you are doing your own taxes or having someone

This year's filing deadline: April 18, 2022.

else prepare them, gathering all your information in advance will speed up the process. Find a list of most common info needed at <https://prepareandprosper.org/free-tax-preparation/what-to-bring/>.

File electronically for faster processing.

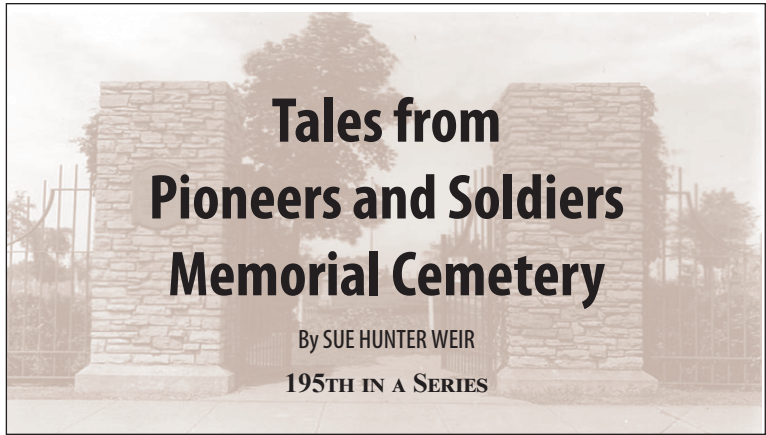
Choose to receive your refund by direct deposit to get it a month or more sooner.

File early to beat the rush, and more importantly, to help prevent tax identity theft.

Special For This Year

- **Advance child tax credit payments:** Families eligible for child tax credits need to be aware that advance payments already received in 2021 are subtracted from the total child tax credit you can

Continued on page 3...



A Grandson Remembers His Grandfather

William Gaspar had a dog named Brownie, who loved to eat chocolate-covered peanuts. When William went to visit his son Joseph, in Loretto, Minnesota, he would walk Brownie to his son’s grocery store and buy him a treat. These are small things, and certainly not the most important things that William did in his life, but they give us a sense of who he was, that other types of information - lists of dates and places - cannot.

Emilie Gaspar, William’s wife, was the second person buried in the cemetery after the City Council reconsidered an earlier decision not to allow burials after 1919. Emilie met the criteria for an exception—she owned a plot, and other members of her family were already buried there.

Emilie’s mother, Mary Ann Klapperich Kelly Gaspar, was buried there, as were Mary Ann’s first two husbands. She married Frank Kelly on January 26,

1861, but he died from typhoid before they had been married a year. The date of his death was not recorded on his burial card, but he died before their daughter Elizabeth was born on December 23, 1861. On January 26, 1862, on what would have been the first anniversary of her marriage to Frank, Mary Ann married Frank’s older brother Nicholas. He died on October 12, 1863, three days after their daughter Emilie was born, and less than two years after he and Mary Ann had married. Cemetery records indicate that he died from “congestion of the bowels,” but some of his descendants believed that he was killed in an accident in a flour mill, and both of those could very well be true. He was 32 years old when he died.

At the age of 21, Mary Ann was a widow with two daughters under the age of two. She moved to her parents’ farm in Delano, Minnesota, where she met and later married Theodore



Emilie and William Gaspar with their children.

Gaspar. They did not have children, but her two daughters took his last name. Theodore died in Hennepin County in 1883, but the location of his grave is unknown. Mary Ann died of “old age” on September 9, 1910. She was 68 years old.

On May 3, 1881, Emilie married Theodore’s nephew, William Frank Gaspar. They were married in Loretto, Minnesota, and made news for walking twenty miles to Minneapolis for their honeymoon.

Emilie was interested in genealogy, and in 1927 wrote to the President of the Town Council in Einsiedeln, Switzerland, who returned a letter outlining her father’s family history back to 1778. The family name was originally Kaelin but her father and his brother changed it to Kelly after they arrived in

America. Her mother’s family came from Germany and arrived in the United States sometime before 1855.

Emilie died on August 14, 1935. She and William had been married for 54 years. William went to live with their son, Henry (Hank) but also spent time with another son, Joseph. It was Joseph who owned the grocery store where William bought Brownie his treats. It was Joseph’s son, Jim Gaspar, who wrote about his grandfather, a man he very much loved: “It was always fun when he and Brownie (his dog) came. Daily he scolded Brownie for jumping in bed to sleep with him, but Brownie was always invited.” Jim remembered that his mother opened the windows and doors the minute that William left to rid the house of the smell of

William’s pipe. Jim was in the Navy when his grandfather died on June 18, 1946. He was granted leave to attend the funeral but missed it because he mistakenly thought that it would take place in Eden Valley rather than Minneapolis. As sad as he must have been about missing the funeral, he did his grandfather a great service. He ensured that he would be remembered by writing stories about him that would be passed on to future generations of his family. Jim Gaspar died on October 22, 2002, and we can only hope that someone will take the time to write something nice to remember him by.

Frank Kelly, Nicholas Kelly, Mary Ann Kelly Gaspar, Emilie and William Gaspar are buried in Lot 90 Block A.

Continued from page 2

Tax Time! Cont.

- claim on the 2021 tax return. *Look for and save Letter 6419 mailed from the IRS.*
- **Economic impact payments** (aka stimulus checks): If you didn’t receive any or all of the payments, you may need to file a tax return for 2020 for the first two payments and one for 2021 for the third payment. *Look for and save Letter 6475 mailed from the IRS for the third payment information.*
- **Charitable deductions:** We can deduct \$300 (individuals) or \$600 (married joint filers) of qualifying donations without itemizing deductions.

Thanks to Prepare + Prosper for gleaning much of this information from the IRS website and sharing it with us. (Saved me some mind-numbing reading!) Find the full list of IRS tax tips at: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-tax-tips>.

WHERE TO GET HELP

- **Prepare + Prosper:** Income limits:
 - Individual \$35,000
 - Family \$55,000
 - Self-Employed \$55,000(see the website for other special conditions for self-employed filers).
<https://prepareandprosper.org/free-tax-preparation/>
Find other MN tax prep at <https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/free-tax-preparation-sites>.
- AARP Foundation Tax-Aide: https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/locations/

DO IT YOURSELF HELP

- **Prepare + Prosper:** <https://prepareandprosper.org/do-it-yourself-tax-prep/>
Limited to folks with income of \$73,000 or less. Get access to a free TaxSlayer account, weekly live or recorded webinars, and support via email or phone.

- **IRS Free File:** <https://www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free>.
File your free federal return with an adjusted gross income of \$73,000 or less using free online tax filing software. You are directed to a list of IRS Free File providers to choose from. NOTE: You must access the provider via IRS.gov to file your federal taxes free. Some state tax preparation and filing are free.
- **Free File Fillable Tax Forms:** Available at the IRS website above. These are electronic forms like the paper 1040 forms that can be filled out online. Available to all income levels.
- **Paper tax return:** Order forms directly from the IRS to be mailed to you: <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/forms-and-publications-by-us-mail>, or call 800-829-3676. You can also download and print forms from the same website address, or check with libraries, the post office, or office supply stores for paper forms.

MINNESOTA TAX RETURN

- **MN Department of Revenue:** <https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/file-income-tax-return>, 651-296-3781. You can file the Minnesota Individual Income Tax return electronically or by mail. You may qualify for free electronic filing if your income is \$73,000 or less. Due date is April 18, 2022.
- **Property Tax refund:** <https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/filing-property-tax-refund>, 651-296-3781. You can file online, by mail, or using a software product. Due date is August 15, but you have up to one year to file for the refund.
- **Renter’s Property Tax Refund:** <https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/renters-property-tax-refund>, 651-296-3781. You can file for the refund through a software provider or by paper. Same due dates as Property Tax Refund.

As you are navigating filing taxes and no doubt grumbling along the way, it helps to bear in mind what our tax dollars do for us. Think roads, bridges, social security, public health and safety, schools, parks... That should cheer you up!

Mary Ellen Kaluza is a Certified Financial, Housing, and Reverse Mortgage Counselor.



Last Free Edible Boulevards Cooking Class of the Winter

By MICHELLE SHAW

Join Minneapolis Edible
Boulevards this month on
February 19
from 11:30AM-1:00PM

(note the change in time) for our last free cooking class of the winter on Zoom! You buy the groceries and cook from your own kitchen; we'll provide the instruction from Kelly Shay of Harmonious World. In January, we made Hoppin' John, a Southern dish that's

traditionally served on New Year's Day to bring prosperity and good fortune for the year ahead.

You can go to our Facebook page to find the registration link for our event. If you're not on Facebook, please reach out at minneapolisibleboulevards@gmail.com for the registration link. We can't wait to cook with you!



In January, we made Hoppin' John, a Southern dish that's traditionally served on New Year's Day to bring prosperity and good fortune for the year ahead.

70+ Minnesota artists

 **THE
ART** **SHOPPE**

at Midtown Global Market

A collaborative of Minnesota artists with an online shop at
theartshoppemgm.com

Or visit our shop at
Midtown Global Market,
920 E. Lake St., Minneapolis
612-562-5871

*Mention this ad for a **10%** discount off your purchase.*
See website for special offers and more info.

East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC)

EPIC's February Community Meeting Thursday, February 10 6:30pm-7:30pm

Join us to hear about an opportunity for public space at the Hi Lake intersection. Come share your ideas about what this space could look like!

Join VIA ZOOM (Zoom link to join at eastphillips.org). Watch eastphillips.org for updates on whether there will be an in-person meeting option at East Phillips Park.

If you would like to request interpretation, contact Sarah at (612) 354-6802 or sarah@eastphillips.org

Visit eastphillips.org to learn more

Follow us on Facebook for neighborhood updates and resources:

facebook.com/eastphillipsepvc

Save the date for EPIC's Annual Meeting!

**Saturday
March 26th
10am-11am**

We are planning for a hybrid meeting, watch our Facebook page and website for updates on whether we will be able to meet in person.

Are you interested in getting more involved in your neighborhood? **Do you want to run to be on the EPIC board?** EPIC board members do the important work of making sure that EPIC is a functional and legally compliant organization while pursuing its mission.

Go to eastphillips.org for the nomination form and for more information on being a board member

Random alley News



By LINDSEY FENNER

► Phillips-area Cultural Malls Receive State COVID Relief Grants:

At the end of 2021, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) awarded funds of up to \$300,000 each to twelve “cultural mall operators” throughout Minnesota, including the four listed below in the Phillips area. The \$3 million program is part of the \$70 million Main Street COVID Relief Grant packages passed by the State Legislature in 2021. To qualify, facilities had to have 50% or more tenants identifying as Black, African American, Asian or Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Latinx, American Indian, Alaska Native, or other racial or ethnic minority.

Support our vibrant Phillips businesses here:

- 24 Mall**, 912 E 24th Street
- Midtown Global Market**, 920 E Lake Street
- JigJiga Business Center**, 1516 E Lake Street
- Mercado Central**, 1515 E Lake Street

► New Workers Unionize at Allina’s Abbott Northwestern Hospital:

220 lab workers at Abbott have recently voted to join SEIU Healthcare MN (Service Employees International Union). According to SEIU, worker organizing focused on relief from understaffing and heavy workloads and increasing wages for healthcare workers. Newly organized workers include Cytotechnologists, Histotechnicians, Laboratory Assistants, Medical Laboratory Scientists, and Medical Laboratory Technicians. They join other SEIU and Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) unionized workers at Allina.

► North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems (NāTIFS) Receives Award for Excellence in Human Services:

Based out of the Midtown Global Market, NāTIFS Indigenous Food Lab was honored by the State of Minnesota for mobilizing to get healthy indigenous meals to neighbors in need. Over the winter of 2020-2021 NāTIFS with community partners distributed 80,000 culturally appropriate meals to tribal elders and families across Minnesota. Founded by the Sioux Chef, NāTIFS is “dedicated to addressing the economic and health crises affecting Native communities by re-establishing Native foodways.”

► New City Council Sworn In, Adapting to New “Strong Mayor” Structure:

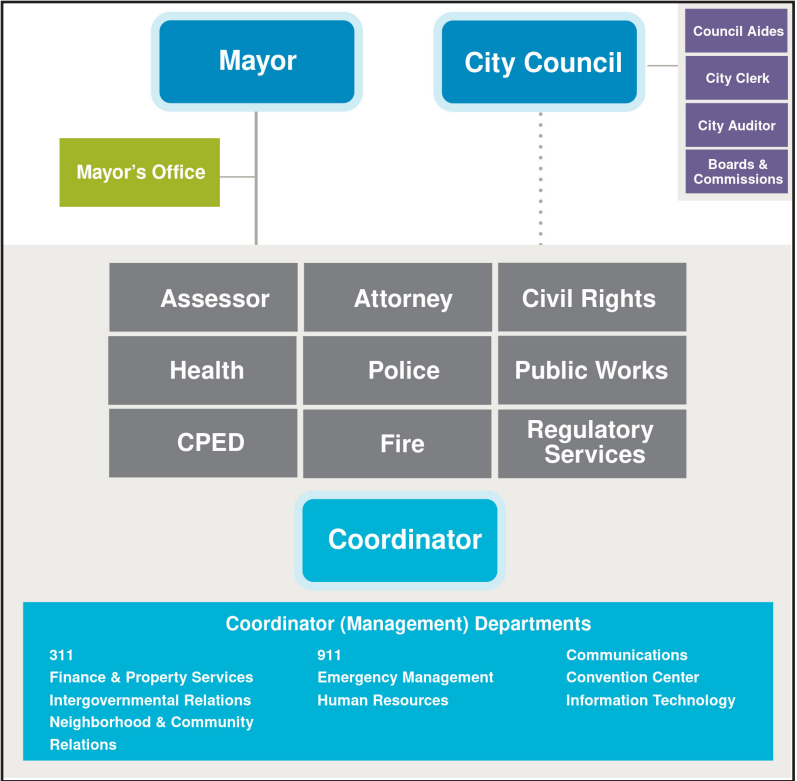
The City Council term began in January, with the most diverse council in Minneapolis history. The Council elected Ward 8 CM Andrea Jenkins as Council President, and Ward 13 CM Linea Palmisano as Council Vice-President. The Minneapolis City Council will be taking on a more legislative role after Minneapolis voters in November approved a city charter amendment giving more executive authority to the Minneapolis mayor.

Committee Assignments of Phillips City Council Members:

Ward 6 CM Jamal Osman: Vice-Chair, Business, Inspections, Housing & Zoning (BIHZ) Committee

Ward 9 CM Jason Chavez: Vice-Chair, Committee of the Whole; Vice-Chair, Race & Equity Subcommittee; Member, Business, Inspections, Housing & Zoning (BIHZ) Committee; Policy and Government Oversight Committee

All council members serve on these committees: Budget, Committee of the Whole, Intergovernmental Relations Committee



The new Minneapolis government structure. Chart provided by the City of Minneapolis

MAY-DAY
C . a . f . e

CLOSED TIL FURTHER NOTICE
Check facebook to support the staff, and check for updates on COVID-safe reopening.

Is there something going on in Phillips that should be noted in the alley?

Let us know all about it by sending your sentences and/or photographs to:
copydesk@alleynews.org

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

Do you read “the alley”?
Want it to continue, grow, improve, and land at your doorstep or on a newsstand as a “free newspaper” each month?

Contribute!
Go to Alley Communications on GiveMN, or send a check to P.O. Box 7006, Mpls., MN 55407

ARTS PHOTOS EVENTS

Peace House Community - A Place to Belong

What World Do You Live In?

By MARTI MALTBY



Marti Maltby

I’m often struck by how wildly different people’s experiences (and, as a result, their worldviews) can be, even when they seem to have a lot in common. For instance, most of my friends avoid coffee after 4:00 p.m. because it ramps up their adrenaline and keeps them awake, but I often joke that, at Peace House Community, caffeine and sugar are actually sedatives. As long as we have a good supply of those items, our community members are content, but heaven help us if we run out and face an angry, jittery mob suffering withdrawal symptoms. That’s when you really see people run on adrenaline.

As I’ve gotten older, I’ve become more aware of how dif-

ficult it can be to get out of your own world. If you are forced into a new situation or make a deliberate effort to expand your horizons, it can happen, but in general humans seem to be programmed to run off habit. We experience something, and generalize that experience to others. So often, when someone doesn’t meet our expectations based on our worldview, when they don’t follow our script for them, we assume they are either trying to deceive us or they are not smart enough to understand the world.

I’d love to say this is changing as we have more exposure to different people’s experiences. The internet allows us to gather information from around the world. The diversity of restau-

rants exposes us to new tastes and styles of cooking. Television and radio stations cater to any number of cultures and languages. And yet, many of us simply dabble in new experiences and then retreat to what is safe and known. Worse, many people actively look for confirmation of their current worldview from more sources, rather than seeing if they can gain new insights.

As Alan Bleasdale once wrote, many people get into trouble when they read one book, decide it has all the answers they need, and stop there. “Why not read two books?” he asked. “Read Three. Get a rounded view of the world instead of the flat earth version. You may still come to the same conclusions, but is there any danger in knowing more?”

We live in a divided society, where many people seem incapable of moving beyond their own viewpoint. However, there have been much greater divisions in many civilizations than the divisions we face today. I hope that enough of us can expand our worldviews enough and get beyond our own experiences to understand others, even when we don’t agree with them.

Urban Adventures Start with a GREAT Place to Call Home!

Schedule a tour and find out how to join our senior living communities:

Ebenezer Park Apartments | 612-879-2233 or 711 for voice relay
Ebenezer Tower Apartments | 612-879-2243
Ebenezer Loren on Park | 612-871-4574
Ebenezer Care Center | 612-879-2262 or 711 for voice relay

©2021 Fairview Health Services
900949

Continued from page 1...

Bellecourt Tribute, cont.

and has been chronicled, in part, by the alley newspaper since the paper’s beginning in 1975.
The alley newspaper is honored to memorialize him with this excerpt from a New Years reflection by Laura Waterman Wittstock, published in the December 1991 issue:

The question must be asked: Who would, knowing all the statistics and knowing the general prognosis, step forth to battle the tide? That person in the 1960s was and still is, Clyde Bellecourt.

As is typical of a traditional point of view, Clyde would be the first to say that he is not a lone fighter, or that his vision is unique. His detractors, of which there are several, would say that he continues to lead despite a shrinking followership and in disregard of the negative image he carries from an incarcerated past. Others, pointing in a different direction, say that Clyde is grooming no successors. Still others say that he is not traditional enough.

Quite aware of all these criticisms, Clyde laughs good naturedly and replies that grooming someone to take his place is tantamount to expecting things never to be better. If things go right, there will be no need for another fighter of Clyde’s tenacity and relentless forward motion. As to no followership, Clyde’s telephone, which never stops ringing, refutes that claim. The negative image he does not think too much about. Those who must make something of it will, no matter what he says.

It is as if Clyde has adopted a public philosophy based on his private spirituality. Friends observe how amazed they are at his capacity

to forgive those who seek to bring him down. And they are equally impressed with his ability to fend off the criticisms of those outside the native community who say that someone else should be in the leadership. Without these qualities, friends, say, Clyde would have succumbed long ago to what took down so many others: personal collapse or the building of walls to keep others out. Indeed, Clyde seems to have hung his vulnerability and accessibility out for everyone to see. He has turned what for many natives is a burden into an asset and even a weapon.

But all of this has not come without enormous cost to his family’s privacy, with the subsequent loss of personal time together and a work week that never ends. Alone among the founding leadership of the American Indian Movement, Clyde remains close in the circle of his first family.

The struggle to recover from the deep dive which began when the wars of the 19th century opened up native lands to encroachers has produced many casualties of native practice, celebration and philosophy of life. But, as these things go, they were never totally eradicated, and the people have from time to time picked leaders who would most appropriately lead the fight back to recovery. Clyde Bellecourt is that choice and 1992 looks the better for it.

- Laura Waterman Wittstock, Heron clan from the Seneca Nation, passed to the spirit world in January 2021.

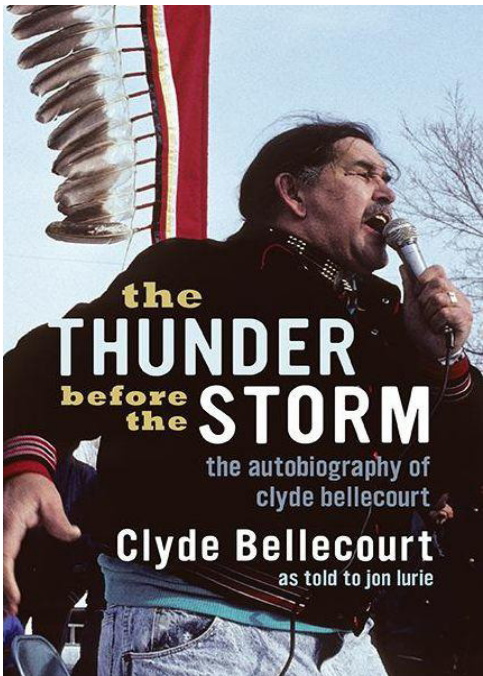
And here are a few words from Bellecourt himself, from page 3 of “Thunder Before the Storm.”

Prologue: THE DAMN TRUTH “YOU CAN PRAY ALL DAY AND NIGHT, but if you don’t work damn hard you ain’t gonna get what you want. That’s the way I believe, you know? You see a tornado coming, know what you do? Put your tobacco out and pray. You know what you do next? Head for the basement. The Creator will help you, but you’ve got to help yourself.

We in the American Indian Movement made a decision when we formed in 1968: if need be, we’d give our lives for what we believed. No longer would we allow our people to be victimized without fighting back.”

- 2018, The Thunder Before the Storm: The Autobiography of Clyde Bellecourt by Clyde Bellecourt, as told to Jon Lurie

Find this book and other related books at the Franklin Library special display in Bellecourt’s honor.



Minnesota Historical Society Press

Advertise with us!

If you have or know of a small business that could use exposure to the over 20,000 Phillips residents who receive the paper each month,
ADVERTISE WITH the alley

OUR AD RATES ARE VERY COMPETITIVE AND WE CAN WORK WITH YOU ON RATES, SIZES, AND DESIGNS. EMAIL businessmanager@alleynews.org

Get free at-home COVID-19 tests

<https://special.usps.com/testkits>

Place Your Order for Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests

Residential households in the U.S. can order one set of 4 free at-home tests from USPS.com. Here’s what you need to know about your order:

Limit of one order per residential address

One order includes #4 individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests

Orders will ship free starting in late January

MORE INFO AT <https://www.covidtests.gov/>

KIDS DESERVE A SHOT!

\$200

Get kids 5-11 vaccinated.
Get \$200.

January 1 — February 28

At home in South Minneapolis since 1921

INGEBRETSEN'S
SINCE 1921
NORDIC MARKETPLACE

1601 EAST LAKE ST MINNEAPOLIS, MN
612.729.9333 | ingebretsens.com

2022 ANNUAL MEETING

February 22, 6-8pm

Visit www.midtownphillips.org for links to join meeting by Zoom.

Featuring Speakers:

- Michael A Goze, CEO, American Indian Community Development
 - Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Superintendent Al Bangoura
 - City Councilmember Jason Chavez
-
- Hear the annual report of MPNAIs activities & projects during 2021
 - Learn about our partner organizations, upcoming initiatives & more



MIDTOWN PHILLIPS
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INC.
www.midtownphillips.org • info@midtownphillips.org

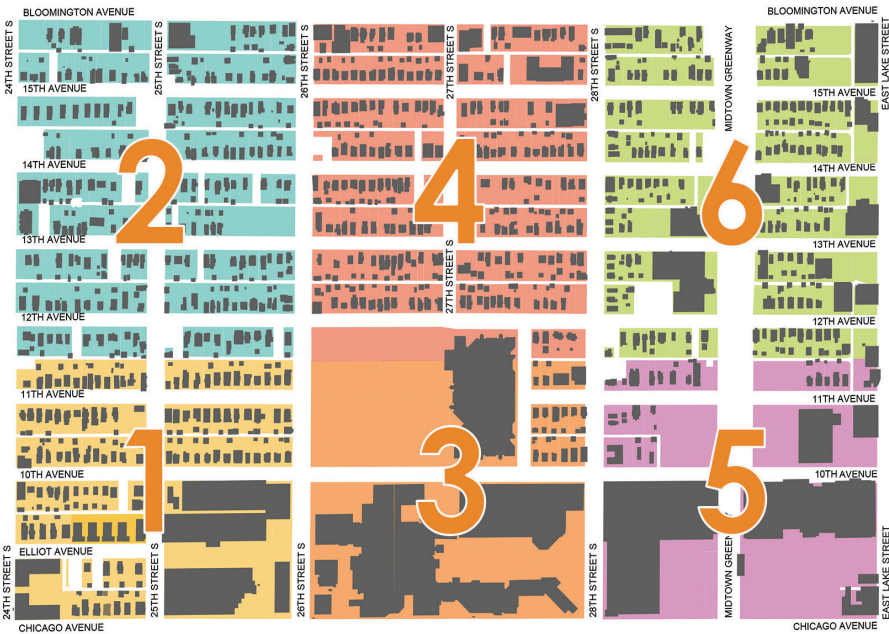
Join the MPNAI board

Candidates must live, own property, or represent a business or organization within the neighborhood boundaries as listed below

OPEN POSITIONS:

- Midtown Phillips Board President
- District 1: 24th to 26th & Chicago to 12th Avenue
- District 2: 24th to 26th & 12th Ave to Bloomington Ave
- District 3: 26th to 28th & Chicago to 12th Avenue
- District 4: 26th to 28th & 12th Ave to Bloomington Ave
- District 6: 28th to Lake & 12th Ave to Bloomington Ave
- (2) At Large Representatives

Visit www.midtownphillips.org/elections-2022 for more information on the election and board guidelines.
To nominate for a board seat: email info@midtownphillips.org



Continued from page 1...

Strike, cont.

but absolutely essential for every other County worker to keep serving County residents. We are among the lowest paid workers in the County, and more likely to be women and workers of color. Many of us qualify for the same County assistance we help County residents access. We are paid like we’re disposable.

We are also the workers the County furloughed en masse at the beginning of the pandemic and the first workers called back into buildings (indeed, some of us NEVER stopped working in buildings). We’ve seen our staffing cut, so we’re always working short-staffed, even without waves of pandemic illness. We are treated like we’re disposable.

We haven’t received a cent of hazard pay.

I should stop here to say that I know we have it better at the County than a lot of workers. We have paid COVID sick leave, which is perhaps the most important employer support during a public health emergency. We have decent health insurance and paid holidays, all fought for by workers and our union with every contract. And in some regards, the contract we rejected this time around is better than the contract we accepted the last time we were in contract negotiations three years ago.

So what’s different THIS time?

I voted to strike because the County needs to understand it’s workers aren’t disposable.

I work at Hosmer Library, at the corner of



BRAD SIGNAL, WWW.SIGNALPHOTOS.COM



BRAD SIGNAL, WWW.SIGNALPHOTOS.COM



36th Street and 4th Avenue in South Minneapolis. Between getting all the books where they need to go (which in itself is a physically grueling job) and encouraging literacy and the free-flow of ideas and information, we do so much more. I help keep neighborhood kids fed and safe; help patrons in crisis access critical resources or scan, email, print, copy, fax critical documents; provide a warm space with running water for unsheltered folks; all while enforcing pandemic mask-wearing and making sure no one dies of a drug overdose in the building.

Some days this is easy. But most days this is emotionally brutal. We serve people who have fallen through the cracks, neighbors who didn’t know where else to turn, so they came to us. And we never treat them like they’re disposable.

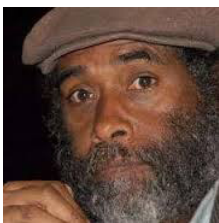
And we, the workers, aren’t disposable either. Will I see you on the picket line?

Hennepin County AFSCME workers and allies braved -15 degree wind-chills at an informational picket at the Hennepin County South Human Service Center at 2215 E Lake Street on January 19.

Having a Heart for Homeless Cats

By DWIGHT HOBBS

If, as the Good Book says, the Lord gave humans dominion of animals, there are those of the mind that dominion doesn't just mean being in charge. It means providing care. Accordingly, consider the plight of homeless cats that are hungry with no roof overhead not because they ran afoul of a landlord or having applied for housing are stuck sitting on a long waiting list. They are in



Dwight Hobbes

their condition because some owner's child no longer thinks kitty is cute, got bored, and no one in the house can be bothered. Or, because a family moves into a dwelling that doesn't allow pets and, instead of searching out one that does, they simply dropped the defenseless creature off on the street. From there, the felines naturally procreate, resulting in a steadily increasing population that, over-running areas, has no way to fend for itself. They make a nuisance of themselves, scrounging around in garbage cans, hiding under porches and in abandoned garages for shelters. Fortunately for them, some folk do what they can to help out. Some feed and water them, leaving bowls where they can eat and drink, close enough to the make-do refuge that the cats don't starve and can scurry to safety at a moment's notice. I did this for a clutch of felines who settled in behind my apartment building and an upstairs neighbor complained: "Stop feeding those cats." At

sance of themselves, scrounging around in garbage cans, hiding under porches and in abandoned garages for shelters. Fortunately for them, some folk do what they can to help out. Some feed and water them, leaving bowls where they can eat and drink, close enough to the make-do refuge that the cats don't starve and can scurry to safety at a moment's notice. I did this for a clutch of felines who settled in behind my apartment building and an upstairs neighbor complained: "Stop feeding those cats." At



"Wobbly"

Continued on page 9...

Continued from page 1...

Anishinabe III, cont.

this new project does more than address housing. Their programs address the unique issues that arise for Indigenous people from the legacies of colonization at the intersection of healthcare and housing. Anishinabe III is an expansion of the Anishinabe Campus, the first building of which opened in 1996. Anishinabe Wakiagun, "The People's Home" in Ojibwe, was AICDC's first housing development project. It has 45 single room occupancy units dedicated to Indigenous adults living with chronic inebriation statuses - those who have a high rate of detox center usage, those living with permanent health effects of alcohol use, and those who continue to use alcohol, etc. AICDC expanded the Wakiagun building and their services, and in 2016 opened Anishinabe Bii Gii Wiin, "People Come Home" in Ojibwe, which offers 30 single room occupancy units to Indigenous people whose goal involves sobriety and sober/chemical free housing. Earth-Werner says that "back then, it was alcohol - and today, it's drug use." Referring to the absence of accessible and non-stigmatizing healthcare and housing systems, AICDC Lead Case Manager Autumn Dillie says that "whatever we're doing is either not enough, or just not working." Despite representing just over one percent of Minnesota's total population, Native Americans are affected by the opioid use and overdose epidemic at higher rates than any other racial group. Minnesota is one of the country's leaders when it comes to opioid death disparities. So, while the new building is open to unhoused Indigenous people living with general chemical health and mental health concerns, preference goes to those struggling

with opioid use. As with their other facilities, Anishinabe III will utilize a housing-first, harm reduction model to help stabilize people wherever they are in their journey, whether or not that involves treatment and abstinence. Residents are admitted by referral, either through the Hennepin County Coordinated Entry System (CES), or through the Diversion and Recovery Team (DART). Since opening, 18 of the 40 single room occupancy units have been filled. Residents will receive case management services, access to naloxone (i.e., Narcan) and safer-use supplies, access to AICDC staff therapists, and referrals to area services, including medication assisted treatment (MAT) programs and other health resources. When asked what other needs she sees in the South Minneapolis Indigenous community, Dillie points to housing. "We need more housing," she says, and "more afford-

able housing." She also sees a need for more overall support: case management, transitional programs that assist youth and adults on a path towards education and employment, more culturally specific suboxone and methadone programs, and, referencing a naloxone shortage she sees every year, greater access to the life-saving overdose reversal drug that is regularly used by outreach workers and healthcare providers, but used mostly by people who use drugs. Earth-Werner also sees a need for more chemical health treatment programs offered in the metropolitan area to Indigenous people. When asked what projects are coming next for AICDC, Earth-Werner offers the potential for Indigenous treatment programs. For now, Anishinabe III, in addition to all other AICDC housing development projects, paves a unique, integrative, and culturally-specific path into the future of addressing chronic homelessness.



TINA MONJE

Anishinabe III, a new supportive housing building on at 16th and Franklin Avenues, opened in December 2021.

Returning Chapter 17

By Sure Force

By PATRICK CABELLO HANSEL



Patrick Cabello Hansel

Either by sure force of luck or Divine Providence, little Angel's phone call to 911 coincided with a massive blackout for the entire neighborhood of Phillips. The hospitals and fire station automatically switched to backup, but houses, stores and the garage numbered 2647 were plunged into instant darkness. The garage, where Brian Fleming was holding our little family hostage, was plunged into total chaos. The lights in the basement went out immediately, emergency lights and piercing alarms came on. Upstairs, they could hear people cursing and moving around, bumping into furniture. Only the space behind the steel door that Brian was leading Luz through was illuminated: the central nervous system of the whole operation, where money and lives were manipulated through the dark web. Brian had installed huge, sophisticated batteries in a sub basement dug deep into the ground. They would keep the servers and computers running for a long time. He didn't care about the sex workers on the second floor of the huge garage; he only cared about the students learning on the first floor if they helped him get more funding. But he cared about his money. He cared about the golden machine of greed and fear he had built. Then, either by sure force of luck or Divine Providence (or most likely by the effect of basic run-of-the-mill stupidity), a group of boys on the block decided that a blackout

would be a great time to shoot off fireworks they had leftover. Big ones. Faulty ones. One landed near the back of the garage and started a fire. A neighbor called 911—the second call in less than 5 minutes—and soon multiple sirens came calling. Brian and his crew were distracted enough that they didn't notice 4-year-old Angelito talking on the phone. Who could a four-year-old be talking with, anyway? But the boy, incredibly calm in the midst of pandemonium, kept telling the 911 operator: "they've taken my sister...we're in a big garage at 2647...yes, 2647...my daddy says it's between 17th and 18th...yes, my mom is here, but she's being bothered by a bad man..." And on and on. So as the fire grew, and the smoke began to seep into the basement through the vents needed to keep the servers from overheating, and the sirens grew closer, Brian Fleming had to make a choice. If he took only Luz with him, Angel and his son would tell the police what was going on. If he took the whole family, who would guard his varied treasures? There was not a lot of time to think. Brian pulled out a gun and yelled at the family: "You are coming with me, into the tunnel!" And by sure force of luck or Divine Providence, or the blessing of a young boy's spirit, little Angelito kept the phone turned on, as they moved into a tunnel that appeared out of nowhere. To be continued...

Continued from page 8...

Homeless Cats, cont.

length, she ratted me out to the landlord who didn’t do anything, so she complained to animal control.

When they came to the door, I stood my ground. “Who is it hurting for those cats to have a mouthful of food?” Which is how I learned food can be put down for three hours, then has to be removed. “Three hours? What I give them little critters is gone in three minutes.”

However well intentioned, this is a stop-gap measure, not a solution to merely help keep them alive. Effective efforts, though, are being taken to more concretely address the issue of population control.

The Minnesota Humane Society website states, “Studies on how to deal with this growing problem have shown the most successful method is trap-neuter-release. Once sterilized, these cats can no longer reproduce. Trap-neuter-release also involves a feral caregiver who helps manage the food, water, shelter and when needed, medical care for the cats in the colony. While a loving home is an ideal

situation, this method allows these cats to live out their lives as comfortably as possible — without adding to future generations of misery.”

As confirmed animal lover Julie Plagemen of St. Paul attests, the Humane Society takes an active role in reducing the stray cat population by holding well-advertised and free sterilization events. Owners who can’t afford these services via traditional veterinarian clinics can become responsible pet owners without breaking the bank.

There’s also Project Rescue’s Trap-Neuter-Return program, which looks after community cats living on the streets of Minneapolis and St. Paul by spaying and neutering to reduce suffering and overpopulation. Individuals interested in volunteering to help this effort by registering as a Minneapolis cat colony caregiver can reach them at Clinics@PetProjectRescue.com.

Cats born in the wild are in considerably more danger simply because, unless abandoned domestic cats, these felines never learned to trust humans and will flee as soon as they see one coming. Accordingly, it’s harder to help them. It can be done, though.

Information at Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) states that they take a humane and effective

approach for stray and feral cats. Now in practice for decades in the U.S. after being proven in Europe, scientific studies show that Trap-Neuter-Return improves the lives of feral cats, improves their relationships with the people who live near them, and decreases the size of colonies over time.

It is exactly what it sounds like: Cats are humanely trapped and taken to a veterinarian to be neutered and vaccinated. After recovery, the cats are returned to their home — their colony — outdoors. Kittens and cats who are friendly and socialized to people may be adopted into homes.

Julie Plagemen notes, “In my experience, feral cats are difficult to rehabilitate. Unless cats have human contact from birth, they don’t develop the need for that contact. While trap and release programs don’t lengthen or significantly improve the life of feral cats, they do reduce the population so future cats don’t have to suffer the same fate.

“Spaying and neutering feral cats also helps solve many of

the problems associated with feral cats such as noise and spraying,” says Plageman. “Trap and protect programs help provide a healthier life for feral cats by providing nutrition and observation of disease and injury. “Cat communities can provide protection if a caring person regularly provides food and observation.” She sums up, “I have taken in strays who have had human contact from birth and it proved to be a fulfilling experience. I have taken in a feral kitten and we never did create the bond necessary to make

her a good pet, but I did take comfort in knowing she had a home and she lived for 19 comfortable years with my other pet cat. There are few things better than a purring cat.”

Ultimately, homeless cats certainly didn’t ask to be in their predicament, and there is something the species responsible for it can do.

Dwight Hobbes is a longtime Twin Cities journalist and essayist. This article first appeared in the Minnesota Spokesman Recorder.

Independent Cats of Phillips. Photos by Ben Heath



“Pretty Mister” of Phillips.



wanna-be cat

RESIDENTS OF PHILLIPS WEST WANT HOUSING ACCESS



“ I want to see real **affordability**...(not what the city defines as affordable, which is not affordable) ...I worry about gentrification and the impact it will have on the affordability of the neighborhood, especially with inequalities that were further entrenched by Covid. ”

Other Upcoming Events and Ways to Connect

Thursday, February 3rd: PWNO Community Meeting
6:00– 7:30 PM, virtual (see online calendar for meeting access details)

Join one of our other committees! In addition to housing, PWNO has committees focused on community safety, food access, and events. Visit the Programs tab at phillipswest.org for more details.

Not sure where to start? We'd love to talk to you about it! Reach out to us via any of these contact channels.

Phillips West neighborhood priority 1/4: Housing Access

Each month for the first four months of 2022, PWNO will be featuring one of our neighborhood priorities based on our new strategic plan – including how you can get involved and learn more!

Want to get involved in addressing housing access in Phillips West?

1. **Join our new housing committee** and help us set our goals for 2022. How can Phillips West support resources for renters? Quality of life improvements? Affordable home ownership opportunities? Come to our February kick off meeting to share your thoughts! Check out phillipswest.org/calendar for more event details.
2. **Apply to join a working group focused on an upcoming development on 5th & Lake**, the current site of an encampment. We are particularly looking for applicants who live close to the site, who are interested in thinking through how this project can connect with work around dignified housing for our unsheltered neighbors, and folks interested in considering more broadly how we can engage as neighbors in development processes. Learn more at phillipswest.org/housing-support.

website: phillipswest.org
email: info@phillipswest.org
call/text (English): 612-642-1487
call/text (Spanish): 612-208-6250
social media: @PWNOmpls



PHILLIPS WEST
NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

Movie Corner

They Call Me Mister Tibbs!

Sidney Poitier (1927-2022)

By HOWARD MCQUITTER II

Sidney Poitier was (and is) a trailblazer for Black thespians in Hollywood and outside who, then and now, are undervalued on screen and elsewhere. (Including the NFL that touts a solid majority of Black players, but stingy about hiring Black head coaches, and to this day no Black owner of any of the 32 teams.) He’s a native of Cat Island, Bahamas, born on February 20, 1927. The youngest of nine children to Evelyn Outten and Reginald James Poitier, he grew up in abject poverty and little education. His family moved to the capital Nassau in 1937, after Florida stopped imports of Bahamian tomatoes, the life



United Artists

bread for the family. At the time, he had no knowledge of segregation which he would face at age 15 in Florida where he was sent to live with relatives. Lying about his age, the 16 year old young man joined the Army working as an orderly with the 126th Medical Detachment at a veterans hospital on Long Island. He did not last long in the Army because he faked a mental illness, was finally discharged in 1945, and returned to New York. He began to read the *The Amsterdam News* where he saw ads calling for auditions for actors at the American Negro Theater. His first audition

failed miserably. Speaking in a strong West Indian accent with a limited education seemed to get him nowhere. But another employee at the restaurant where he was working helped him with his English. As if an angel had guided him forward, he landed an audition with an all-Black production of *Lysistrata* in 1946, thanks to Harry Belafonte who couldn’t make the rehearsal. (*Lysistrata* received bad reviews from critics, however.) Mr. Poitier’s first full length film role on the silver screen, *No Way Out* (1950), features him as a doctor who’s being hounded by a virulent racist. Poitier’s point of view (as with other upcoming Black actors and actresses of the day) refused to play the earlier versions of Black thespians in Hollywood cast as “Stepin Fetchit” characterizations. Oscar Micheaux, grandfather of Black film, an independent filmmaker, rendered his cast members in dignified fashion in his films lasting from circa 1912 to 1948. Poitier, dark-skinned and handsome, had an infectious appeal not to mention the versatility to play a variety of roles

- doctor, school teacher, clergyman, freedom fighter, lover, detective, and much more. His contributions to the civil rights movement in the 1960s are inescapable, along with Harry Belafonte and others. At the historic March on Washington in 1963, he (as well as Marlon Brando, Charlton Heston, Shelley Winters, and others) showed up to make America do the right thing by creating equality for all Americans.

(1963), *A Patch of Blue* (1965), *To Sir, with Love* (1967), *In the Heat of the Night* (1967), *Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner* (1967), *They Call Me Mister Tibbs!* (1970), *Brother John* (1971), *Buck and the Preacher* (1972), *Uptown* (1974), *Saturday Night* (1974), *David and Lisa* (1998), *The Jackal* (1997), *Mandela and de Klerk* (1997), *Separate But Equal* (1991), *Let’s Do It Again* (1975).

He’s one of many, many examples of African Americans who have to climb much harder barriers in any field. Sidney Poitier, we won’t ever forget you.



Howard McQuitter II



Explore this multilingual resource to find the best school for your child.

Check out the only citywide school directory in Minneapolis.

AVAILABLE NOW AT



The 2022

MINNEAPOLIS School FINDER

A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR PARENTS

is here!



Every family deserves a great school for their child!

www.minneapolischoolfinder.org



Raise Your Voice

Headstone Markers

By PETER MOLENAAR



Peter Molenaar

Note: the stone for my own “resting place” has been chosen, hopefully ahead of time.

December 30, 2021...

Readers of *the alley* know Sue Hunter Weir is this neighborhood’s “master of cemetery.” It was at the American Swedish Institute’s open house that we chatted while tabling for the paper. She was stunned to learn from me that Lynne Mayo had passed away in September of 2020. I had only just recently come to know this myself... no thanks to COVID.

It was via the 17th Avenue Community Garden that Lynne had become a “significant friend” some 20+ years ago. As life went on, geography and our common activism created occasional encounters, the last one taking place at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, a venue that day for a global warming protest. Why had she turned her head away? I realize

now that a cancer was developing.

Hey, I am grateful for the imperfections within persons whose lives have been so much larger than my own. Consider the life of Clyde Bellecourt.

It was 30+ years ago that a misunderstanding occurred between the two of us. Then, a little more than a decade ago, I would balk before entering a discussion circle at the American Indian Center. Clyde was presiding, but he beckoned me to enter. It was always a cordial recognition between us after that.

Final encounters...

The COVID cloud had thickened. Clyde had written an article for *the alley* which upheld our Urban Farm proposal. Ten copies were to be delivered to his house. His prolonged reticence at the door made an impression, after which he received the paper every month without my knocking. In the end, it was the cancer, not COVID, which “brought him home.”

Missing from the nomenclature of phobias is a word designating fear of getting dressed up to enter a place of worship. Yet, that barrier was to be overcome in honor of Mel Reeves, the activist agitator who did succumb to COVID... a man whose spirit penetrated our community largely through the circulation

of his writing in the *Minnesota Spokesman Recorder*. Indeed, before entering the Shiloh Temple on Broadway Avenue North, a nice pair of dress pants were purchased from the St. Vincent De Paul Store. The ensuing memorial was a marvelous blend of scripture and revolutionary thought.

I will add here that Mel was an anti-imperialist who understood that socialism might truly flower in Cuba were our own U.S.A. willing to lift its brutal blockade. (Note: in my youth, I made this argument with regard to the Soviet Union). Actually, Mel and I were just a stone’s throw away from being comrades. In our last encounter, I did get a tad “up in his face”. He responded gently... all the while calling me “brother Peter.”

Just a few words now from the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.:

“We must see that the evils of racism, economic exploitation, and militarism are all tied together... you can’t really get rid of one without getting rid of the other.”

Yes, I am grateful for the imperfections within people whose lives have been larger than my own.

Locally grown and raised foods and natural wellness products since 1972.

317 E. 38th St. (Friendship Store)
2823 E. Franklin Ave. | www.seward.coop

Seward
COMMUNITY CO-OP

WELNA HARDWARE ACE

- KEYS MADE
- LOCKS RE-KEYED
- 5 GALLON PAINT
- EXCELLENT PRICES
- RUG DOCTOR RENTAL
- TRAILERS FOR RENT:
OPEN & ONE ENCLOSED
- EXPERT WINDOW/SCREEN REPAIR

Thank you

46

Years of
advertising!

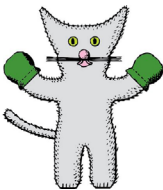
Welna in Phillips 2438 Bloomington Ave. 612-729-3526
Welna in Robbinsdale 4140 West Broadway 763-533-2758

Covid-19 Customer Service
Curbside Pick-Up and Delivery Available.
Call each store for most up to date Open Hours

OPEN AGAIN: 2438 Bloomington Av. 612-729-3526

STRIKKEKOS: The Cozy Norwegian Mitten Knitting Showcase

By NORWAY HOUSE



Sunday, February 20, 2022 4:00 PM
Norway House, 913 East Franklin Avenue

This winter at Norway House, we’re celebrating the busy knitting hands that warm our hands with an exhibit showcasing the art of MITTENS!

Norway has a long, rich history of warm knits and fiber art. Strikkekos is an expression of our love for the knitters in our community, featuring around 30 different Norwegian and Nordic mitten styles made by volunteer knitters from across the Midwest.

BRING IN YOUR MITTEN KNITS!

Along with the curated portion of the exhibit, we encourage knitters to bring in their own mittens and knitting stories to fill the room with even more strikkekos!

Pursuant to recent Minneapolis health & safety mandates/protocols, effective January 19, 2022, guests are able to visit Norway House as long as they show proof of vaccination (at least two shots), or proof of a negative test result from the last 72 hours (three days).

DAVE MOORE
MINNEAPOLIS
HAWTHAY

DAVE'S DUMPSTER

MY-CAR JACKIN'

KILLIE TEEN

THE KID
(IN THE BACK SEAT)
IS NOT MY SON

THE CAR IS MINE

OFF THE WALLET

IF I grow up, I'm a be a Corporate Raider!

GREATEST HITS

STARTIN' SOMETHIN' BAD

MAMA, LEAVE THE MOTOR RUNNING

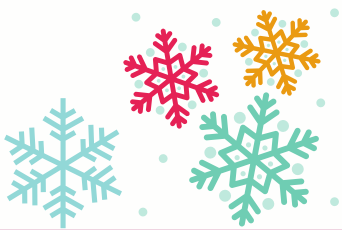
IT'S A THRILLER

JUST BEAT IT

BONUS JACK:
PRINTS—WHEN
GLOVES CRY



VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD



F E B R U A R Y ' 2 2 N E W S

venturavillage.org 612-548-1598 villageventura@gmail.com

Navigating the New Normal in Extraordinary Times

By: Mike Huffman, Executive Director

It wasn't long ago I let myself begin feeling optimistic about where we were headed with COVID in our settings at Our Saviour's Community Services. We upgraded ventilation in our shelter, deconcentrated our housing and shelter spaces, and even had several vaccine and booster clinics by late December. Fast forward just a few weeks, and we are now amid the worst outbreak in our shelter, seeing close to a 50% positivity rate. To ensure resident safety while some staff are out, other staff are working more hours than should be expected.

With not enough isolation shelter spaces for COVID positive guests, our shelter and every other shelter serving single adults in Hennepin County have struggled to navigate another new pandemic milestone – working with known positive clients. In a recent call with state public health officials, they shared that 30 shelter or supportive housing programs have active outbreaks. These outbreaks impact programs operating in eight of Minnesota's 10 continuum of care regions. In the last 30 days, 232 cases affecting 55 different shelter or supportive housing facilities have been identified.

We expect shelters will have to decide how to balance the risk of continually bringing in new individuals and exposing more of our most vulnerable neighbors to COVID, and the knowledge that there are not enough beds to meet the full need for those who stay outside or in places not meant for human habitation. Let us also acknowledge the fact that the type of congregate shelter offered is often not a good fit for every individual who needs it.

The way providers and the public think about homelessness as a public health issue continues to morph, just like COVID with each new variant. While the specific challenges we face today are unique, they only shine a spotlight on what we have long known: We must continue to push for more resources to address the housing crisis locally and across the state. If you want to learn more about the affordable housing needs in Minnesota, check out <https://nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state/minnesota>.

Graffiti - Crime or Art? - By: Steve Dreyer

At one time graffiti was something that caused a lot of emotion. Now it has become so common in our neighborhood that it is almost taken for granted. Minneapolis has acknowledged that they can't keep up with it by offering neighborhoods, organizations, and volunteers free supplies to eradicate it from public property.

In the past few months graffiti has sadly appeared at a place that shows how far apart our society is in 2021-22. At E. 18th St. and 16th Avenue South is a retaining wall that was long a graffiti target for rival gangs. In 2008 the Ventura Village Neighborhood Association helped sponsor a 40 foot mural that covered that wall. Bob Albee in an article in the September 2008 Alley described how it came about:

The mural was designed and painted by Ojibwe artist Lisa Brown. Lisa was a former Minneapolis College of Art and Design student who worked at the Minneapolis American Indian Center in the 1990's. The mural honored the memory of Angie Whitebird, a young Bad River tribal member who was the victim of a serial killer very near where the mural is located. Lisa spoke with family members and received their permission to honor Angie's memory with this painting. They were present when the mural was blessed at a ceremony in August of 2008 by the Red Lake Nation and several neighborhood groups.

The neighborhood association wrote 2 grants to secure the funds to pay for the mural. The Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center and Joe Selvaggio, former head of PPL also supported the project. The mural itself is a scene depicting a traditional Ojibwe drum group surrounded by jingle dress dancers and elder women preparing a feast..

For 13 years the mural served its purpose - the site was respected and left alone. But now in the past several months the mural has been defaced with graffiti. Graffiti on a plain public spot is numbing - graffiti on a place with a public purpose is disturbing.



3rd Precinct Welcomes a New Inspector

By: Kali Pliego, Crime Prevention Specialist

Beginning January 30, 2022, Minneapolis' 3rd Precinct welcomes our new Inspector, Jose (Frank) Gomez. Inspector Gomez was promoted from his previous position as the Middlewatch Lieutenant for the 3rd Precinct. He joined the department as a patrol officer in 1994, where he served in the 5th and 2nd Precincts. As a Sergeant, he worked as a patrol supervisor, Internal Affairs investigator, FBI Safe Streets Violent Task Force supervisor, and the Community Engagement Team. In 2020, Gomez was promoted to Lieutenant where he started out his assignment in Juvenile outreach and ended up in the 3rd precinct as the "Mids" Lieutenant.

Inspector Gomez said Community Engagement and Juvenile Outreach assignments have been the most rewarding. "They gave me the opportunity to develop partnerships with businesses and the community... to engage with the community and develop trust."

"I'm truly honored and can't wait to continue building trust and making new friendships/partnerships in the community. We cannot do this alone, and hopefully together we make Minneapolis a safe place for all," Inspector Gomez said when asked for his reaction to becoming the 3rd Precinct commander. Join me in welcoming Inspector Gomez!

New Market at Franklin-Chicago

By: Steve Dreyer

Almadina Market is a new option for shopping at the busy Franklin- Chicago intersection. The store at 811 E. Franklin is 2 blocks down from the Almadina Halal Grocery at 10th and E. Franklin. Almadina, by the way, means "The City" in Arabic. The former storage garage for Carlson Printing was extensively remodeled last year and is now a specious, well-designed, comfortable grocery store. It offers a variety of basic East African, Middle Eastern, Latin and U.S. grocery goods to its customers. The setback space offers accessible off-street parking and is a welcome neighbor to the Franklin-Chicago intersection.



Minneapolis' New Response to 911 Calls

By: Kali Pliego, Crime Prevention Specialist

On December 13, 2021, in a pilot program by the City of Minneapolis for Behavioral Crisis Response (BCR), employees from Canopy Roots began responding to incidents of non-violent mental health crisis. All crisis responders are mental health practitioners or professionals.

When on duty, these units will be responding to 911 calls involving community members with mental health challenges. The calls for service will be routed to the BCR teams when appropriate, per protocol. They do not have their own crisis line. The BCR teams will be equipped with portable radios. They will be assigned calls by dispatch.

BCR Teams will be responding in vans marked with the City of Minneapolis and Canopy Roots logo. They will be dressed in casual uniform with identifying insignia, "Behavioral Crisis Response"

BCR teams can transport individuals on a voluntary basis only. They will not transport individuals who are placed on a transportation hold (this is handled by EMS).

Note- per protocol, an officer must be dispatched to incidents involving persons in crisis who are believed to be mentally ill or developmentally disabled in the following situations:

- Firearms(s) or access to firearm(s) involved
- Weapons(s) currently in their possession or threatening the use of weapon(s)
- Physical violence has occurred or threats of physical violence toward others
- When injury has taken place that is life threatening (example: someone has ingested pills, taken more than prescribed medication, alcohol, etc.)
- Situations involving physical intervention to secure safety, i.e. someone on a bridge or ledge
- If a BCR team in on-site and determines that the scene is unsafe

If MPD may request a BCR team to respond to their call. BCR teams will defer to responding officers' instructions upon arrival.

MPD, MFD, or EMS may request BCR response as a resource when:

- The scene is secure, and a community member needs mental health support
- A crime victim needs mental health support
- Medical issues have been addressed onsite and a community member needs further mental health support
- A community member with known mental illness is in need of de-escalation or mental health support, and a non-police presence is preferred

Ventura Village Neighborhood News!

- At our January 12th Board of Directors meeting Melanie Majors was elected Chair, Elizabeth Ihde Vice-Chair, Steve Dreyer Secretary, and Ray Peterson Treasurer for the 2022 year.
- Our next general membership meeting will be Wednesday, February 9th, in person at ICCM Life Center, 1812 Park Avenue, or via Zoom by calling or emailing us before the meeting. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM.
- February is Black History Month and KRSM, our local neighborhood radio station, will have some special programming celebrating that. Listen for more details at 98.9 FM.