

3,500 Hennepin County Workers Reject County's Offer and Authorize a Strike

By AFSCME LOCALS 34 AND 2822

AFSCME Locals 34 and 2822 have rejected Hennepin County's latest labor contract offer. The County is attempting to stagnate wages, pass business costs on to employees, and is blatantly ignoring COVID risks employees are enduring during the pandemic. AFSCME Local 34 and Local 2822 members include social workers, human services representatives, service center representatives, and library workers.

On Monday December 13, workers represented by AFSCME Locals 34 and 2822 voted to reject Hennepin County's "Last, Best, and Final Offer," and authorize a strike. The no vote comes one day after members of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49, representing county snow plow drivers and other workers also rejected the county's offer.

Collectively AFSCME Locals 34 and 2822 represent 3,545 workers at Hennepin County, the two largest bargaining units who work at the county.

Throughout the negotiations process, AFSCME has made it clear to the employer that its members demand wages that keep up with inflation, real compensation for the COVID costs, and respect.

AFSCME also made it clear that the county's take-backs were unacceptable, including introducing a two-tiered system eliminating sick and vacation leave for new hires (leaving PTO as the only option), and attacks on the union's power by shifting costs of the arbitration process.

The county is in excellent financial shape with the highest bond rating and hundreds of millions of dollars in

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A SOLSTICE WISH

Here's to new light,
ancient light,
deep rest! Good ears!
Inner fires!



East Phillips Needs Harm Reduction Solutions for the Drug Problem

By STEPHEN GREGG



Insite offers wrap-around services, in addition to safe injection supplies and supervision. Photo courtesy of PHS Community Services Society.

In the eight years I've owned my home near 26th St and Bloomington Ave, I have been stuck by a discarded syringe, seen multiple overdoses, two deaths, and countless ambulances and police vehicles. I have watched in horror as entwined problems increase: the number of people experiencing homelessness, open air drug use, and crime. When approaching neighborhood issues, I try to practice empathy. From the beginning I've wanted to be involved in the work to find solutions, attending countless neighborhood meetings of all sorts. The problems here are deep-rooted and complex. I'm not a social worker—actually I'm an agricultural plant scientist. So I also comb research for solutions to problems. And this search has pointed me strongly towards harm reduction practices and services, practices endorsed by the CDC. Harm reduction has the potential to reduce short term

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New Council Brings New Hope for Environmental Justice in East Phillips

By STEVE SANDBERG

As Minneapolis residents waited to see what change would result from the November 2021 election, 75 to 100 community members gathered on Saturday, December 18th at the East Phillips Cultural Center gymnasium to lift up their ongoing work to bring community led development to the 7.6 acre Roof Depot site in the East Phillips neighborhood. Led by EPNI staffer Joe Vital, the meeting highlighted EPNI's work

to save the 230,000 square foot Roof Depot building for aquaponic farming, affordable housing, solar development, and a youth-led coffee shop, event center, and bicycle repair and assembly facility. Local BIPOC businesses displaced in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd are also supporting this community led effort. The meeting featured appearances of City, County and State level representatives. Restating their long-held support for the

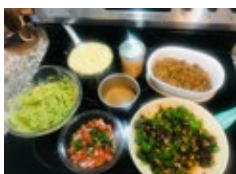


Photos provided by East Phillips Neighborhood Institute

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thealley

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"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 December 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 to 8 PM
Wednesday	12 Noon to 8 PM
Thursday	12 Noon to 8 PM
Friday	9 AM to 5 PM
Saturday	9 AM to 5 PM
Sunday	12 Noon to 5 PM

LIBRARY SERVICE AND COVID PRECAUTIONS

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

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 pre-

dictable fees and no overdraft penalties.

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

FAIR ambassadors will be in the Franklin Library community room

January 28 from 1 pm - 4 pm to answer questions and sign up new people who may be interested in the program.

Can't make it to the library? FAIR is also hosting a virtual event on January 22 from 10 AM to 2 PM.

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

PHOTO DISPLAY

Franklin Library is featuring a new exhibit of archival photographs in the upstairs display case. Salvage for Victory documents supply shortages during World War II. There are some great parallels to current supply chain issues caused by the pandemic. Check it out!

HELP FINDING RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

The Bridge for Youth visits Franklin Library the fourth Wednesday of each month, 2 to 5 PM. 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 Avenues.



JESSIE MERRIAM

FREE FOOD FROM EVERY MEAL

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

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 exploring early literacy activities. Wednesdays at 4-6 PM; this month on January 19 and 26.

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 you fill out about what sorts of books you like, and what sorts you 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 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.

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

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Metro Transit

Happy New Year, People of Phillips!

By JOHN CHARLES WILSON

Well, the year 2021 is drawing to a close and 2022 is just now starting. As a transit enthusiast, I have a lot to be disappointed in and a lot to look forward to, and I hope alley readers feel the same.

What was disappointing was primarily that the

pandemic has decimated transit usage to the point where many bus and train routes have been curtailed. I had hoped things would be back to normal by now, but I suspect this is the new normal. The rise in attacks on innocent transit users, especially on unsupervised trains, is very disconcerting. There are people who now eschew the light rail for slower buses because they are perceived as safer. The fact that there is a shortage of bus and train drivers doesn't help any, either.

However, there are reasons to be hopeful for a better future: Maybe even if humans don't beat coronavirus, we may find a way to have an uneasy truce with it. Maybe

we will find a happy medium with security/law enforcement where really harmful behavior is suppressed without them having to be so brutal about it. (Hint: the powers that be should study how other countries handle this stuff.) Maybe the Met Council will find a way to make driving a bus equally lucrative to what it was in the 1970s and 1980s.

There have been some accomplishments in 2021: The Orange Line went into service, connecting downtown Minneapolis with Burnsville. Plans are chugging along for the E Line on Hennepin and the B Line on Lake Street. Construction is underway for the D Line on Chicago Avenue. Work is being done to expand Bus

Rapid Transit to Saint Paul. I have written 58 columns, one each month since March 2017. One thing I've learned is there isn't always enough Phillips-specific transit news to justify a monthly column. Therefore, as of January 2022, this column will only appear in the Alley when there is sufficient local transit news to justify it. That will be a minimum of once every three months, as that's how often Metro Transit enacts "picks" or schedule changes. I may start using other means to publish my thoughts on transit in non-Phillips contexts, and I will let you know if I do. Thank you for being loyal readers.

Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery

By SUE HUNTER WEIR
192 ND IN A SERIES

“They Have Wandered Into an Unknown Land”

The inscription carved on the Corrie family’s marker undoubtedly referred to life after death, but it also accurately captured the lived experiences of thousands of people buried in Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery. They are the ones who traveled thousands of miles to establish new homes in Minneapolis. Once settled, they tended not to travel far. They may have moved from house to house but for the most part they rarely strayed far from their first neighborhood—near to jobs, churches, family members and friends.

The Corrie family came to Minneapolis from England by way of Canada. Frederick Charles Corrie, the patriarch, was born in 1852. When he was 30 years old, he moved with his wife, Frances (Fannie) Hill, and their oldest son, also named Frederick, to Quebec. Two more children, Herbert and Tenice Rose, were born there. In 1889, they made one more major move—this time to Minneapolis. After traveling more than 4,000 miles, they were finally home.

Fanny gave birth to three more children. In 1890, she had twin girls, Edith and Ethel, and in 1892, she gave birth to Ralph. Ethel died from pneumonia in 1893. In 1909, Herbert, known as Bert, died from appendicitis at the age of 24 and was buried next to his little sister..

Frederick Sr. found work as a plumber and in 1896 bought a home at 2825 East Lake Street. The area was relatively undeveloped at the time but a little less than ten years later one of the city’s major attractions, Wonderland Park, was built two blocks east of their home. Wonderland was just that—a wonder that attracted thousands of visitors every weekend—but it was regarded as a nuisance by many of the families who lived nearby.

In 1905, Frederick Corrie Sr. gave a deposition in a lawsuit that pitted the congregation of Elim Presbyterian Church, located at 32nd Avenue and Lake Street, against the owners of Wonderland Amusement Park. Elim’s members sued to keep the park closed on Sundays. They were in the right—the park was in violation of a law dating back to Minnesota’s territorial days that prohibited nonessential businesses from opening on the Sabbath. The law was enforced erratically, but still on the books. Although Frederick Corrie did not attend the church, he weighed in on the congregation’s side:

“ T h e Wonderland show makes a great deal of noise both in day time and night time and gathers a very noisy crowd to its grounds, particularly on Sunday...I can distinctly hear the great noise from the Wonderland grounds in my house with all of the doors and windows shut. The scenic railway, the merry-go-round, the band, and the miniature railway all make a great deal of noise as well as the outcries of the people on the grounds so I can hear all of them in my house with the doors and windows shut tight.”

Although he didn’t mention them in his deposition, fireworks at the park’s eleven o’clock closing time, every Tuesday and Friday night, very likely kept many of the neighborhood’s early-to-rise, blue-collar workers up at night.

The park’s management company offered to move the church several blocks down the street but the church’s pastor refused as a matter of principle. In his eyes, the park would still be violating the Fourth Commandment. A trial date was set but postponed for several months and something clearly changed in the interim, though what it was is a mystery. Some type of settlement must have been reached since the congregation, though not the church building, did move and Wonderland stayed open on Sundays.

The Corries remained in their home for several more



Corrie Family Marker

years. The elder Frederick C. Corrie died from bladder cancer on May 15, 1914. Fanny outlived her husband by 32 years. She was one of about 85 people who met the criteria to be buried in the cemetery after it was closed to future burials in 1919. She died on February 10, 1946, from bronchial pneumonia, at the age of 85. She had given birth to six children in three different countries. She is buried in the family’s plot, Lot 90, Block N. Frederick J. Corrie, the couple’s oldest son died in 1961; on his death certificate his father’s name was listed as Frederick I, perhaps a tip of the hat to the family’s British roots. He is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.

Minneapolis Edible Boulevards is Hiring Youth!



Ingredients for making walnut meat taco bowls from December’s cooking class. Photo provided by Minneapolis Edible Boulevards

BY MICHELLE SHAW

Together with Growing North Minneapolis, Julius Rennie, Kelly Shay, and Caring is Culture, Minneapolis Edible Boulevards is hiring youth from the Phillips and Cedar Riverside neighborhoods to work through March 31, 2022. Applications will be open until the positions are filled. If you're 14-18, enjoy engaging with your community and making a difference, and have a passion for growing food, we'd love to have you apply. You can find an application on our Minneapolis Edible Boulevards Facebook page, or send an email to minneapolisedibleboulevards@gmail.com.

In other news: join us on January 22, 2022, for another free cooking class on Zoom! You buy the groceries and cook from your own kitchen; we provide instruction with Kelly Shay of Harmonious World. In December we made Walnut Meat Taco Bowls, which were absolutely delicious, and while we're deciding what to make in January based on feedback from our attendees, we'd love to have you sign up. You can find the registration link for the event on our Facebook page. If you don't do Facebook, reach out using the email above. We can't wait to cook with you!

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

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from 9am to 3pm

for DINE-IN and TAKE-OUT

Masks required inside.

Closed for a winter
break through Jan 13

AVOID*SPOT*TREAT

FROSTBITE & HYPOTHERMIA

***** AVOID *****

When the weather is extremely cold, try to stay indoors.

If you must go outside dress properly

NOSE

EARS

TOES

A SCARF OR KNIT MASK THAT COVERS FACE & MOUTH

A HAT

A WATER-RESISTANT COAT

MITTENS OR GLOVES

SEVERAL LAYERS OF LOOSE-FITTING CLOTHING

WATER-RESISTANT BOOTS

CHEEKS

CHIN

FINGERS

***** SPOT *****

FROSTBITE

A victim is often unaware of frostbite because frozen tissue is NUMB

Signs & Symptoms

- Redness or pain in any skin area may be the first sign of frostbite.

Other signs include:

- a white or grayish-yellow skin area
- skin that feels unusually firm or waxy
- numbness

HYPOTHERMIA

often occurs at very cold temps, but can occur above 40°F if a person is wet (from sweat, rain, or water) and becomes chilled

Signs & Symptoms

Adults:

- shivering
- exhaustion
- confusion
- fumbling hands
- memory loss
- slurred speech
- drowsiness

Infants:

- bright red, cold skin
- very low energy

and know who is at high risk for hypothermia or frostbite.

Older adults lacking proper food, clothing, heating

People outdoors for long periods: homeless, hikers, hunters

Those who consume a lot of alcohol. Drug use also contributes.

Babies - outside or sleeping in cold rooms

Continued from page 1...

Strike, cont.

reserves. In 2020 the county received \$224 million in federal aid for COVID, and in 2021 received \$246 million through the American Rescue plan, with the last round of relief specifically earmarked by President Biden to go to hazard pay.

Despite receiving nearly half a billion in COVID funding, the county has not offered hazard pay to workers to account for the risks they're taking while serving Hennepin County residents directly during the COVID-19 pandemic, or compensate its workers for the increased costs of working from home.

"It's clear from our vote that our AFSCME members have rejected Hennepin County's efforts to stagnate wages and continue to shift business costs onto us, despite the County having the means to offer wages that keep up with inflation, reimburse us for shifted costs, and provide hazard pay for COVID risks," said social worker and Local 34 President Grace Baltich.

"Many of us are working two to three jobs and are still not able to afford housing in



Hennepin County AFSCME workers and supporters at an informational picket at the Hennepin County Government Center on November 10

the county. Still others are on or eligible for welfare while working for the County! A 2.5% wage increase with inflation going up 7% is completely unacceptable. We care about the people we serve, but we need to be able to survive ourselves. Respect and fair wages mean great service to the community," stated AFSCME Local 2822 President Ali Fuhrman, clerical worker at the Downtown Minneapolis Library. "We call on the county to take us seriously now, and make a real offer that our members can accept."

A strike would begin no ear-

lier than January 11, but the union may elect to begin its strike later.

Community members can support county workers by contacting their Hennepin County commissioner and telling them they should support county workers in their contract fight for better wages and respect!

If you live near Phillips or Powderhorn, your commissioner is **Angela Conley**. Send her a message or call her! angela.conley@hennepin.us Phone: 612-348-7884

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/staysafe/index.asp>

***** TREAT *****

If a person is experiencing hypothermia or frostbite...

1 SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

2 GET THEM INTO A WARM ROOM OR SHELTER

3 REMOVE ANY WET CLOTHING

4 WARM THEM UNDER DRY LAYERS OF BLANKETS AND CLOTHING

5 PLACE AREAS AFFECTED BY FROSTBITE IN WARM-TO-TOUCH WATER

FROSTBITE CAUTION

Since skin may be numb, victims of frostbite can harm themselves further. Use caution when treating frostbite and:

1 UNLESS NECESSARY, DO NOT WALK ON FEET OR TOES WITH FROSTBITE

2 DO NOT USE A FIREPLACE, HEAT LAMP, RADIATOR, OR STOVE FOR WARMING

3 DO NOT USE A HEATING PAD OR ELECTRIC BLANKET FOR WARMING

4 DO NOT RUB OR MASSAGE AREAS WITH FROSTBITE

Peace House Community - A Place to Belong

Just Visiting... Unfortunately



Marti Maltby

By MARTI MALTBY

This month, I want to say a few things in praise of the Phillips neighborhood. I don't live here, but I often wish I did because of its character and vibrancy. I live in the northern suburbs, and by comparison my neighborhood is bland and boring.

I look forward to receiving the alley each month because there's so much going on. From the Native American community's efforts to preserve and promote the original "American" culture, to the current residents' community building efforts (everything from beautifying the neighborhood to community kitchen events); from the atmosphere in the Somali Mall to the American Swedish Institute's calendar of events, there is never a shortage of

opportunities to meet new people and experience something new in your own backyard. I especially appreciate the movie reviews of Howard McQuitter II, but I enjoy all the contributions that help me understand the heritage and vibrancy of this neighborhood.

This neighborhood values its history, but also moves proactively to protect its future. I've rarely seen residents and neighborhood groups so active in defining what their community will look like. It has found a wonderful balance between preserving what has been and moving decisively into the future, even as "outsiders" like City Hall try to impose a different vision.

I first discovered the Phillips neighborhood in 2007 when I began working at Our Saviour's Housing. I attended the monthly

Continued on page 15...

First Black police chief in Minneapolis leaves much undone



Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo details the city’s preparations for the trial of former police officer Derek Chauvin. Photo by Max Nesterak/Minnesota Reformer.

By DWIGHT HOBBS

This commentary first appeared on the Minnesota Reformer, <https://minnesotareformer.com>

It is difficult to countenance Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo’s betrayal of the Black citizens who greatly helped put him in that job.

Indeed, before he assumed the position in 2017, it would’ve been unthinkable. But, well, here you have it. Rondo, as he’s informally known, did nothing concrete about the department’s occupying-army treatment of a population desperately in need of a strong ally, beyond mandating body cams. His ordering fewer marijuana stops is laudable but not much more than politically correct. And he hardly deserves a pat on the back for the no-brainer of firing Derek Chauvin and his accomplices, taking a bow by testifying in court. At length, however, he sided with the enemy, then, with the announcement that he’s retiring next month, he blithely went on about his business.

When Arradondo’s name came up for consideration, the roar of support from Black folk, led by the likes of such veteran activists as Rev. Jerry McAfee, Spike Moss and Bill English, was not to be ignored. Had it been denied, all hell likely would’ve broken loose: pro-

tests up and down the streets and sidewalks in front of City Hall, demands for Mayor Jacob Frey’s head on a spike, the whole nine.

Rondo rode that wave of popularity to a position that gave him the opportunity to make change in which people could actually believe. And he’d proven himself the perfect person to do it. Rondo, hometown hero, came up through the ranks and, importantly, there was a time he was committed to improving the MPD. As a lieutenant, alongside Sgt. Charlie Adams, Lt. Lee Edwards, Lt. Dennis Hamilton and Lt. Don Harris, he filed suit to do something about the department’s entrenched racism, specifically a history of systemic discrimination and a hostile work environment for Black officers. The city settled for \$740,000.

Arradondo told reporters in June 2020, “We will have a police department that our communities view as legitimate, trusting and working with their best interest at heart.” Hogwash. That department hadn’t materialized in the previous four years, has yet to materialize since then, and he is leaving with that job undone, failing to keep his word.

More to the point, last year, he turned on Deputy Chief Art Knight like a snake. Knight, calling a spade a spade, had

the floor yanked from under him for his candor. He said what everybody knew.

“The MPD needs to improve how it recruits, trains and promotes minorities and women,” he told the Star Tribune. “If you keep employing the same tactics, you’re just going to get the same old white boys.”

Instead of standing behind Knight for that gutsy statement, Arradondo threw him under the bus. Unnecessarily. He could’ve kissed the right behinds with a suspension perhaps, some sort of mere slap on the wrist for not being p.c., but you don’t demote a man for saying what is plain as the nose on one’s face.

When those same revered community leaders who’d had his back called on him to reinstate Knight as deputy chief/ chief of staff, Arradondo flatly refused. Knight has since sued the city.

When Arradondo walks away from the job, it won’t be with any sort of lasting legacy. He will have amounted to an affirmative action token from whom great things were expected but who, instead, did a meet-the-new-boss-same-as-the-old-boss.

Dwight Hobbes is a long-time Twin Cities journalist and essayist.

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Ebenezer Tower Apartments | 612-879-2243

Ebenezer Loren on Park | 612-871-4574

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CDC'S ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING

CARBON MONOXIDE

Carbon monoxide, also called CO, is a toxic gas that you cannot see or smell.

CO CAN BE DANGEROUS IN YOUR HOME.

You may be exposed to unsafe levels of CO by:

- Using poorly maintained or improperly vented fireplaces, woodstoves, heating equipment, ovens, water heaters or other appliances;
- Using a gas stove, grill, or oven to heat the home;
- Running a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove, or other gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside your home, basement, or garage or near a window.
- Cooking with a charcoal or gas grill inside the home or other enclosures.

Although CO Poisoning can be prevented, each year, **approximately 438** people in the U.S. die as a result of unintentional, non-fire related exposure to this toxic gas.

WATCH FOR SYMPTOMS OF POISONING

Breathing CO can cause headaches, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion.

If CO levels are high enough, you may become unconscious or die.

Seek medical help and get outside to fresh air if you think you may have CO poisoning and are feeling dizzy, light-headed, or nauseous.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Install a battery-operated CO detector in your home and check or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall. If the detector sounds leave your home immediately and call 911
- Make sure all fuel-burning appliances, fireplaces, and wood stoves are properly vented
- Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year
- Only use generators outside, more than 20 feet away from your home, doors, and windows
- Never use a generator, grill, camp stove, or other gasoline or charcoal burning devices inside the home, basement, or garage or near a window, door or vent
- Do not use a gas cooking range, grill, or oven to heat your home
- Do not run a car or truck inside a garage attached to your house, even if the garage door is left open
- Do not burn anything in a stove or fireplace that isn't vented

LEARN MORE!

Visit CDC's Environmental Public Health Tracking Network to learn more about carbon monoxide poisoning

www.cdc.gov/ephtracking

www.cdc.gov/co

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- **Family Friday Nights:** 5-7pm (every Friday), plus kids meal specials at Andy’s Garage
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- **Jan. 6:** Three Kings Event

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Kids events & activities



Saturday Sounds



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sustained through
current times

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A New New Year’s Resolution

By MARY ELLEN KALUZA



January always brings up the whole New Year’s resolution business – a promise to change our behavior. As I thought about resolution ideas, I found myself getting cranky. Resolving to do anything besides making it through the day in the darkest and coldest time of the year is insanity. The last thing I will do in January is throw away the remaining Christmas cookies or go out in the cold to exercise more. The failure rate of New Year’s resolutions is 80%. Eighty percent! Why would we set ourselves up for failure only to feel worse about ourselves? Yet, it comes up every year: we are asked to set a goal we almost certainly will not achieve.

That is not to say we shouldn’t set goals that will help us prosper, live longer, and enjoy those longer lives. I propose we hold off on making promises to ourselves until the sun is higher in the sky and we aren’t so cranky to increase our chance of success. “Fourth Month of the Year’s Resolution” doesn’t roll off the tongue quite as neatly as “New Year’s resolution”, but I can live with that.

What should your Fourth Month of the Year’s resolution be? We all face different challenges and desires in life – no one resolution fits all. These dark days are the perfect time to think about what we want, what we need, what we have, and what fears weigh on us...

easy enough to do from the couch. Having those lists will be helpful when the Fourth Month comes around.

For me, growing older creates the most anxiety. What if I develop a serious health issue that requires difficult decisions; or I become a burden on my family? Your fears or desires might be more immediate: The car is running on borrowed time; you really want to buy a home; you finally know what you want to do with your life but your defaulted student loans are in the way; or maybe your doctor is warning you

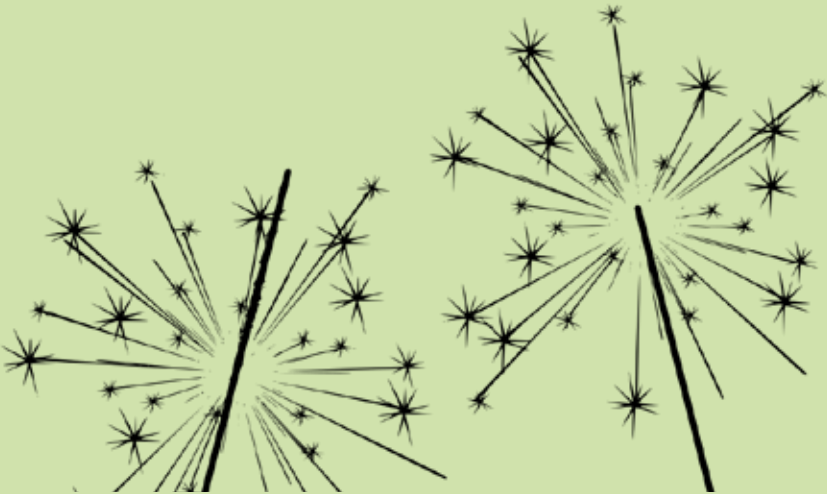
about diabetes. (That last one was a plug for eating well and exercising more – still very good resolutions.)

When the Fourth Month of the Year is nearing we can pick our goals under the warm spring sun with renewed hope. I may resolve to complete my healthcare directive to save my loved ones the difficult decisions, and select my Power of Attorney for when I can no longer make sound financial choices. You might decide to set up a dedicated savings account for that newer car or your own home; meet with a

student loan counselor to get your loans on track and pursue your dream career; or join a gym.

Just think – no cookie will regretfully have been tossed out when we needed it the most, and we will have a fighting chance to be in the 20% of resolution success stories! And, hey, no rules against getting it done before that Fourth Month. Happy New Year!

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



Alley Communications

Annual Report 2021

It belongs to YOU!!!!

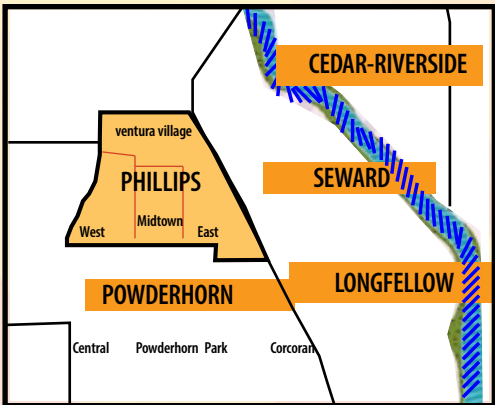
From the Editorial Leadership Committee

2021 was a year of activity and evolution for *the alley* Editorial Leadership Committee. Highlights were -

- ▶ Welcoming new volunteers Tina Monje, Vivi Grieco, Laura Hulscher
- ▶ Continuing our in-depth, local pandemic coverage through the summer and into the transition back to in-person school
- ▶ Covering the Ward 6 and 9 City Council races and publishing voter education articles from The League of Women Voters
- ▶ Partnering with the Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts to distribute *The Phoenix of Phillips* literary magazine, Volume VII
- ▶ Moving to a more local printer to help with printing and delivery schedules
- ▶ Working to expand paid positions, including the first business manager and website improver - Ben Heath!
- ▶ Participating in community events as the post-vaccine world began to open up, including tables at the Phillips West Fall Festival and the American Swedish Institute Neighborhood Night. Look for us at upcoming neighborhood events!
- ▶ Collaborating with artist and new *alley* designer Jessie Merriam on developing the distinctive visual feel of *the alley*

ELC Hopes and plans for 2022 and beyond -

- ▶ Expanding cultural coverage of the Phillips community
- ▶ Forming school partnerships to feature youth and student voices
- ▶ Highlighting Phillips' small businesses and the diverse people behind them
- ▶ Building our community volunteer base to help fulfill these hopes and plans!

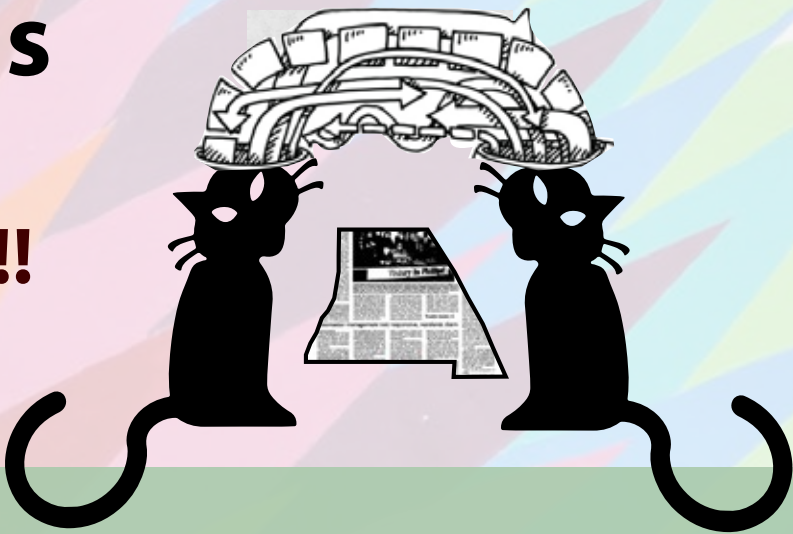


News is put in *the alley*. Where are *alleys* put?

The alley Newspaper in print is available in and around the Phillips Community and online at alleynews.org. Print copies of *the alley* are brought to the homes of 3,000 people in the Phillips Community and 3,000 copies to 150 businesses, institutions, and apartment buildings in Phillips and nine neighborhoods surrounding Phillips.

2,000 newspapers are delivered to 75 places in the Phillips Community--35W to Hiawatha Av and E94 to Lake Street.

1,000 newspapers are delivered to 75 places in Seward (20), Corcoran (18), Longfellow (15), Powderhorn (12), Central (6), and Cedar-Riverside (4) Neighborhoods. The number of copies and locations change as closely monitored by the delivery person to ensure availability to readers, decrease waste, and control printing costs. A recent count of a previous month's copies on newspaper racks when delivering the next month was only 100 papers (3.3%) of the 3,000 delivered.



Why I Contribute to *the alley*

DAVE MOORE, CARTOONIST (WITH LINNEA HADAWAY),
Dave's Dumpster, Spirit of Phillips

1. Tradition. I've been in *the alley* almost monthly since the mid-80s.
2. Wendell Phillips. Our neighborhood is named after this freedom fighter. Linnea Hadaway & I are proud to illustrate quotations from his speeches.
3. I like sharing art with my neighbors. I wish some would say "I can do better than that" and send in their own.

DWIGHT HOBBS, WRITER, *Something I Said*
Because it is the only community newspaper I've written for that doesn't serve a publisher's propagandist agenda first and the community as an afterthought.

MARTI MALTBY, WRITER, *Peace House Community*
I started writing for *the alley* because they asked me to contribute a column each month from PHC, which seemed like an easy way to contribute to the neighborhood. As I've gotten more used to writing the columns, I've grown more comfortable being a voice for PHC's community members and trying to find positives in trying circumstances. It's a chance for me to help others understand important issues and to recognize a lot of special people.

PETER MOLENAAR, WRITER, *Raise Your Voice*
This person of northern European descent opposes all manner of terroristic threats. In its essence, *the alley* is the opposite of White-Nationalism.

PATRICK CABELLO HANSEL, WRITER, *Returning*
I contribute to *the alley* because it's a constant presence in the midst of an ever changing world. (And because you print my stuff!)

SUE HUNTERWEIR, WRITER, *Tales from the Cemetery*
Tales from the Cemetery is intended to be a reminder that the Phillips community has a long, interesting history. It was the first, and for many years, the only cemetery in Minnesota listed in the National Register. It is the home of thousands of immigrants, many members of the City's early African-American community, and thousands of children who would have survived if they were born today. I write for *the alley* to keep their stories alive.

BEN HEATH, BUSINESS MANAGER, PHOTOGRAPHER
The Phillips community. Without which there would be no *alley* newspaper. The purpose of the paper is to provide a voice for the people who call our streets home. It's the people who bring their views, histories, experiences, wishes, fears, sorrows, and share them from I-94 to E Lake St, Hiawatha to 35W (and beyond). It's the people who make our neighborhood a community, and that makes *the alley* worth working for.

LAURA HULSCHER, EDITORIAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE,
COPYEDITOR, CONTRIBUTOR

I volunteer for *the alley* because I appreciate community news... and for the adventure. Papers like *the alley* shine a light on issues local to global in a way that big media can not. They have been a lifeline for many in the Twin Cities, especially in recent times. As for adventure, how could I pass up the opportunity to help operate a collaboratively-run neighborhood newspaper!

VIVI GRIECO, COPYEDITOR
I volunteer with *the alley* because I am continually inspired by the authenticity and integrity put forth in every issue. I love working for a publication that is written by the people it is written for. That the issues and happenings of one neighborhood can fill an entire publication reminds us to recenter, ground ourselves, and pour our energy into our immediate community. *the alley* is a display of abundance, and I treasure my involvement.

JOHN CHARLES WILSON, WRITER, *Transit News*
I am a transit enthusiast. I started collecting bus schedules as a hobby when I was a child, and now I like to write about public transit, its history, and ways it can be made better in the future. That is why I write the Metro Transit column for *the alley*.

JESSIE MERRIAM, DESIGNER AND CONTRIBUTOR
I work for and volunteer for *the alley* because it is thoughtful, heartfelt, and useful! And collaborative. The beautiful people who contribute have their eyes on labor movements, development, the stories told by cemeteries, library hours, growing food, health issues, environmental and social justice, poetry, movies... The people who make this paper happen are inspiring to me. And they let me make silly doodles and play with colors. I have only lived in Minneapolis since 2018 but *the alley* makes it feel more like home--people have each other's backs.

HOWARD MCQUITTER II, WRITER, *Movie Corner*
Writing for *the alley*, (especially During COVID-19,) is fun and challenging. Yes, people have a lot to say and are terrific writers in *the alley* at a time when the Internet and other digital age weigh against newspapers in general- and small newspapers even more so. So many of the city's neighborhood newspapers have demised in recent years. Thank God for *the alley*! Thank God for all the writers!

2021: a year of the alley



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VOL. 46, NUMBER 1

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JANUARY 2021

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Raley
Communications
Full color ad
pages 7-9

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF AICDC

by CYNTHY FENNER

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

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

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF AICDC

HOMEROUND BOUND, AICDC's new 24hr Shelter opened on Monday, Jan. 7th. Executive Director Michael Gossert expressed his deep appreciation for the many people that have worked tirelessly to make it happen including: lawyers, KMS Construction, subcontractors, Rory Walempo for the art, and most of all the staff of AICDC.



Tips from a COVID-19 Case Investigator

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VACCINES ARE HERE IN MINNESOTA

Brighter days are ahead.

STAY HOME

Garbage

BY MYRIEL LARSON

Myriel Larson was approximately 80 years old and lived on 16th Avenue near 20th Street where she wrote this letter. The new Garbage Recycling Station was never built.

"Over fifty years ago I took a course in Chemistry at the University of Minnesota. The professor who taught the course was Dr. W.D. Harkness. He was very special. He was a dedicated scientist and environmentalist. He taught me how waste materials could be transformed into useful products. One such product was called garboline which could be used for energy to run automobiles."

We asked him why methane gas was produced by the

Continued on page 11.

inculcance continue to support responsible policies that continue innovation. I really support this new initiative for us in our City." — Minneapolis City Council Member and Council Member Andrea Jenkins

will become a community and affordable enterprise incubator featuring low-hydrocarbon, suspended, open-plan living including a work market, community kitchen, central storage for spaces for people of color, and the largest art alley in Minnesota.

Andrea Jenkins, president of the Minneapolis City Council, spoke passionately

continued on page 6...

INSIDE...

How to get involved in the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute p 6

Excerpt from Lewis's column, *Indivisible*
Majoring (and All That) p 8

Financial & Tax Tips and assistance p 8

Cultural Wellness Center rears in neighborhood coalition programs p 8 & 12

STAY INVOLVED WITH THE LINGERS
 ABOUT 100,000 OF THE 100,000+ DISPERSED
 REMAINERS OF THE 1960S-70S ARE STILL
 OFFICIAL, BUT NOT YET OFFICIALLY OFFICIAL

moderately attracted consumers from all over the Upper Midwest. Hilly started making tie Hugs in 1974, the first year the location was at 400 and Franklin Avenues.

That was the year that Edger's, opened in 1988. The book stores relocated to 2604 Chicago Avenue in 1986. They were friends in the Phillips neighborhood for 36 years.

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

overcome. Hilly's to answer the question: "Do you want to be a part of the Department of the City of Minneapolis?"

Minneapolis City Council is implementing a new program of licensing of businesses. Many of the businesses are looking at licensing as a way to get a new license.

Now Loving on the Edge

READ NOT TO CONTRIBUTE AND CONFUTE, NOR TO BELIEVE AND TAKE FOR GRANTED. BUT TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER"

FRANKIE BROWN

the *lingers* invites you to consider writing a note or letter to the editor, for feedback or to publish!

the *lingers* BELONGS TO YOU



This Garden Started!

By MARY ELLEN RUZZA

March in Minnesota. It's noticeably longer to have dirt in your hands than in the long of winter. The garden is still dormant. There's still snow on the ground. It's the perfect time for the garden started.

Book Starts Spotlight Is 'Sistas'

Continue on page 8.



The days are long and the nights are under so long that it's hard to tell the time to sleep.



Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

What you need to know is a guide to help you understand the vaccine and how to get it. This is not a medical consultation. For more information, visit www.covid19vaccine.pfizer.com.

WHY SHOULD I GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

- Reduce your risk of getting COVID-19
- Help you get back to work, school, and other places
- Be the same as BCG and other vaccines that protect you from other diseases
- Making your own choice



Pfizer

Learn more about the vaccine at www.covid19vaccine.pfizer.com

to the person who's shot. I know that's frustrating, but there's no one up on getting your vaccine. I will be absolutely terrified to get my vaccine when my time comes. It is not a good idea to have questions about these new vaccines. I encourage everyone to ask questions to the healthcare providers, but the Massachusetts Department of Health (MDH) website (www.mass.gov/dhs) and the CDC website (www.cdc.gov) have information on the COVID-19 vaccine, call the MDH COVID-19 helpline at 617-624-2044, or call the CDC at 1-800-232-6233. We will have a lot of questions and need to trust our healthcare providers and experts about your vaccination or concern. You can find more about vaccines on the www.mass.gov/dhs website. **Pragmatically,**

Variables. The more virus strains spread and replicate, the more they start to develop mutations.

continued on page 10.

experts when you vaccine

Photo credit: iStockphoto.com/Andrey Kozlov

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

Photo credit: iStockphoto.com/Andrey Kozlov

[illegible]

“In my courses on community engagement we talk a lot about how staff at institutions can build relationships with communities. Community media is an important resource in this process. It helps us to learn about: what issues are being discussed in the community, what events are happening that we might attend and support, and who is doing work in the community that is related to the mission of our institution.

*One of the ways we demonstrate this in class is by reading current and back issues of **the alley** to prepare us for our work with the Cultural Wellness Center and the Community Health Hub.”*

Sara Axtell, Ph.D.
Lecturer,
Family Social Science
University of Minnesota

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AUGUST 2021

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Hennepin County Library Permanently Closes the Franklin Learning Center

Franklin Learning Center, c. 2012

by LINDSEY FINNER

First shuttered due to the Franklin Library remodel project in 2019 and then COVID-19 in 2020, Hennepin County Library (HCL) has decided to permanently close the Franklin Learning Center (FLC), the adult education facility at Franklin Library. Hennepin

County Library has made no public announcement about ending the valued community resource as of July 13, when the city contacted them for comment.

Josh Yerman, HCL's deputy director, declined to answer questions about why the decision

Continued on page 8...

East Phillips Urban Farm Faces Crucial City Council Vote in August

by LINDSEY FINNER

The future of the East Phillips Urban Farm will reach a crucial turning point in August when the City Council will have a staff report on the future of the City's Public Works expansion at the Red Depot site at Longfellow and 26th Street, and vote on an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for East Phillips. An EAW is a document that reports on the facts of a project and determines the need for a further review called an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

At the end of April, the City Council approved a staff directive that passed the City Council's support of the Public Works expansion at the Red Depot site, with a required report to the City Council Committee of the Whole meeting on Thursday, August 5. The report will include information on the financial and operational impact of ending the Public Works expansion project and recommendations for selling the property to community groups.

The Public Works expansion

The East Phillips Urban Farm is a community garden, workshop with local shops with local products.

The East Phillips Urban Farm is a community garden, workshop with local shops with local products.

Neighbors, community members, and others have been fighting for another vision of the Red Depot site, the East Phillips Urban Farm. The community project would include urban agriculture, affordable housing job training, and a small business incubator.

Continued on page 4...

Arts, No Chaser

A Great Run: Interview with Jack Reuler

by JESSIE HODGES

Mixed Blood Theatre (used to be known as multicultural arts) 45 years ago and remains at the fore. Owing to the vision of neophyte output, founding artistic director Jack Reuler who recently resigned, leaving Twin Cities considerably stronger than he found it. Reuler spoke with our reporter about the history and the future of the theatre, and the importance of the arts in our community.

Did you have any idea when you were doing when you started Mixed Blood?

In 1976, at 21, I wanted to explore a particular world and didn't know anything about theatre. I had a job with a social service agency, the Center for Community Action, to identify

James Cameron, director of War & Peace, and Steven Spielberg, director of E.T. and the Ewok Adventure.

THE EAST PHILLIPS URBAN FARM IS OPEN FOR VISITATION BY THE PUBLIC. VISITATION IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL. VISITATION IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL.

NEW AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE EXHIBITION, P. 11

THE EAST PHILLIPS URBAN FARM IS OPEN FOR VISITATION BY THE PUBLIC. VISITATION IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL. VISITATION IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL.

TWO EVENTS IN AUGUST:
 1. AUGUST 10, 2021, 7:00 PM
 2. AUGUST 17, 2021, 7:00 PM

MINNEAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
 Streaming online
 YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...

City Council TV: https://www.mn.gov/citycounciltv/

Jack Reuler

city community needs. Shortly before, Enter Hudson was at Theatre In The Round Players' work.

Continued on page 2...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND RENTER'S RIGHTS, P. 5

NAMED CHIEF VOTING UO CO TO MINNEAPOLIS, P. 6

SPS VOTES FIRST APARTMENT P. 10

MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT LINE 1, P. 11

NEW AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE EXHIBITION, P. 11

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Continued on page 10...

Red Lake and NACC Set to Open New Healthcare Center

by TRIA MOORE

Red Lake and NACC Healthcare Center

In September 2020, Red Lake and NACC set to open a new 100,000-sq-ft healthcare center. The center will be located at the intersection of Highway 1 and Highway 2, near the intersection of Highway 1 and Highway 2.

In partnership with NACC, Red Lake and NACC set to open a new 100,00-sq-ft healthcare center. The center will be located at the intersection of Highway 1 and Highway 2.

Dr. Danielle Myhre, MD, is an enrolled member of Red Lake Nation, and the new clinic's director.

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Continued on page 10...

a gallery of front pages & community partners

thealley

PHILLIPS CLEAN SWEEP OCTOBER 9

VOL. 46, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 2021

In The Heart of the Beast Theatre Update

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

In the heart of the beast theatre update. The theatre is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The theatre is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The theatre is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

COVID-19 Back to School

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

COVID-19 Back to School. The school is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The school is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The school is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

City Council Committee Votes to Halt Hiawatha Public Works Expansion, Future of Urban Farm Uncertain

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

City Council Committee Votes to Halt Hiawatha Public Works Expansion, Future of Urban Farm Uncertain. The city council is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The city council is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The city council is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

yödoishendahgwa'geh A Place For Rest

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

yödoishendahgwa'geh A Place For Rest. The place is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The place is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The place is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

Help for Voters Living with Disabilities

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

Help for Voters Living with Disabilities. The voters are a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The voters are a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The voters are a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE! The issue is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The issue is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The issue is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

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PHILLIPS CLEAN SWEEP OCTOBER 9

VOL. 46, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 2021

Open Eye Theatre presents THE RED SHOES

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

Open Eye Theatre presents THE RED SHOES. The theatre is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The theatre is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The theatre is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

City Council Candidate Questionnaire

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

City Council Candidate Questionnaire. The questionnaire is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The questionnaire is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The questionnaire is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

Bridge Fest: Celebrating the New 24th Street Foot Bridge

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

Bridge Fest: Celebrating the New 24th Street Foot Bridge. The bridge is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The bridge is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The bridge is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

Naloxone Shortage: What's Happening and What You Need to Know

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

Naloxone Shortage: What's Happening and What You Need to Know. The shortage is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The shortage is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The shortage is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

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PHILLIPS CLEAN SWEEP OCTOBER 9

VOL. 46, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 2021

Ingebreten's Celebrates 100 Years

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

Ingebreten's Celebrates 100 Years. The celebration is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The celebration is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The celebration is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

biskaabiyaang returning to ourselves

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

biskaabiyaang returning to ourselves. The group is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The group is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The group is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

City Moves Forward with Public Works Expansion in Phillips

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

City Moves Forward with Public Works Expansion in Phillips. The expansion is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The expansion is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The expansion is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

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PHILLIPS CLEAN SWEEP OCTOBER 9

VOL. 46, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2021

Never Homeless Before 1492

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

Never Homeless Before 1492. The history is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The history is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The history is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Is Building New Multifamily Housing. Is this a good thing?

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Is Building New Multifamily Housing. Is this a good thing? The housing is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The housing is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The housing is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

Response to 2744 and 2740 12th Avenue Proposed Development: Ensuring Gentrification and Income Inequality by Policy and Design

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

Response to 2744 and 2740 12th Avenue Proposed Development: Ensuring Gentrification and Income Inequality by Policy and Design. The development is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The development is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The development is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

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thealley

PHILLIPS CLEAN SWEEP OCTOBER 9

VOL. 46, NUMBER 13

JANUARY 2022

CULTURAL WELLNESS CENTER

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

CULTURAL WELLNESS CENTER. The center is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The center is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The center is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

PHILLIPS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

PHILLIPS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD. The neighborhood is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The neighborhood is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The neighborhood is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

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PHILLIPS CLEAN SWEEP OCTOBER 9

VOL. 46, NUMBER 14

FEBRUARY 2022

PHILLIPS WEST Fall Fest & ANNUAL MEETING

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

PHILLIPS WEST Fall Fest & ANNUAL MEETING. The festival is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The festival is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The festival is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

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PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

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PHILLIPS CLEAN SWEEP OCTOBER 9

VOL. 46, NUMBER 15

MARCH 2022

LAKE STREET RECOVERY #4

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

LAKE STREET RECOVERY #4. The recovery is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The recovery is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The recovery is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

SEMIJILLA CENTER'S NEIGHBORHOOD ART PARTIES

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

SEMIJILLA CENTER'S NEIGHBORHOOD ART PARTIES. The parties are a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The parties are a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The parties are a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

PHILLIPS CLEAN SWEEP

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

PHILLIPS CLEAN SWEEP. The sweep is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The sweep is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The sweep is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

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PHILLIPS CLEAN SWEEP OCTOBER 9

VOL. 46, NUMBER 16

APRIL 2022

VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD. The neighborhood is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The neighborhood is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The neighborhood is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

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PHILLIPS CLEAN SWEEP OCTOBER 9

VOL. 46, NUMBER 17

MAY 2022

EAST PHILLIPS IMPROVEMENT COALITION

PHOTO: JESSIE MONTGOMERY

EAST PHILLIPS IMPROVEMENT COALITION. The coalition is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The coalition is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area. The coalition is a beautiful space with a large stage and a large audience area.

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12 Writers and Artists of *the alley* Each Month

There are “Gems” in *the alley* Newspaper--- written, drawn, and photographed “Gems.” Creators of those “Gems” are also “Gems.” The Community that owns and governs *the alley* Newspaper is a “Gem,” too.

“This month, I want to say a few things in praise of the Phillips neighborhood. I don’t live here, but I often wish I did because of its character and vibrancy. I look forward to receiving *the alley* each month because there’s so much going on...I enjoy all the contributions that help me understand the heritage and vibrancy of this neighborhood.”

(EXCERPT FROM JAN 2022 *alley* PEACE HOUSE—A PLACE TO BELONG, BY MARTI MALTBY)

Twelve contributors in *the alley* Newspaper every month and the year each began:

Dave Moore and Linnea Hadaway: Dave’s Dumpster and Spirit of Phillips Series, 1986; combined total of 300 cartoons.

Peter Molenaar: Raise Your Voice, Feb. 2000.

Howard McQuitter II: Movie Corner Feb. 2002.

Sue Hunter Weir: Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery, July/Aug. 2003

Tim McCall: Tales photography, 2003.

Patrick Cabello Hansel: Searching, a 33 Chapter novel, Mar. 2009. Returning, Searching: Sequel, June 2020.

Lindsey Fenner: Library News, Tips from Covid-19 Investigator, Random *alley* News, Random *alley* Labor News, Apr. 2016

John Charles Wilson: Metro Transit, Mar. 2017

Marti Maltby: Peace House—A Place to Belong, Mar. 2019.

Dwight Hobbes: Something I Said, Arts No Chaser, Hobbes in the House, Reprinted articles of his from MN Spokesman-Recorder, Mar. 2019.

Mary Ellen Kaluza: Personal Financial Advice, Food and Recipes, Gardening Advice, Jan. 2020.

Carz Nelson: Library News, Reported articles, Jan. 2020.

Jessie Merriam: Graphic Design, Reported news, Jan. 2021

Also Many Writers and Designers: create the Engagement Partnership Pages—Cultural Wellness Center, East Phillips Neighborhood, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood, Phillips West Neighborhood, and Ventura Village Neighborhood.

There are scores of other past writers and current writers who have contributed columns, reported news, investigated reporting, tributes, and photography who are also the gems in *the alley*.

if time or creativity is your currency, read on about other ways to join the community!



givemN
ignite Generosity • Grow Giving
GiveMN.org
<https://www.givemn.org/organization/Alleynewspaper>

THE ALLEY
The Phillips Community Newspaper



the alley Board 2021 Year in Review

ALLEY COMMUNICATIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The coronavirus pandemic continues to challenge our ability to connect in person with our partners, sponsors, and our Phillips community members. The pandemic has limited our ability to strengthen our relationships, and to host in-person fundraisers. In spite of these challenges, we have successfully continued to publish *the alley*, and we have increased our capacity to find new writers in the Phillips community, who bring a more diverse array of stories and information to you. For this, credit is due to **the Editorial Leadership Committee**, a group of Phillips volunteers dedicated to telling the stories of our neighborhood through community-led journalism.

The Committee was formed a few years ago, to focus on distributing the work of storytelling and copy-editing our monthly content to more community members, to better support our mission of community led and community informed journalism.

While fundraising continues to be a challenge, we are happy to report that we were awarded a grant from the Swedish Institute to reach and highlight the work of small businesses and artists of color, to support and promote their work to a wider audience. We raised significant revenue from *alley* readers and supporters. We also increased the number of sponsored pages, produced by organizations that wish to reach the Phillips community. Currently, four city-funded Phillips neighborhood organizations sponsor half- and full-page spaces to communicate their work, their community happenings, and to promote engagement with the people they serve. Additionally, the Cultural Wellness Center sponsors the back page each month to promote their community wellness initiatives.

This success allowed us to hire a part time business manager, Ben Heath, to manage tasks that Harvey Winje and Susan Gust have performed for many many years, when we could not even think of hiring someone to do the basic operations of *the alley*. We are also very proud to have Jessie Merriam as our graphic designer and layout expert. Jessie is very grounded in the Phillips and surrounding communities, which has helped us reach more grassroots community endeavors, and to highlight more of the wonderful work our community produces.

Finally, as a Board of a small nonprofit, we are always looking for new members to support the work of all the wonderful people who produce *the alley*. We are currently discussing new ways to operate and meet our mission with fewer monthly meetings, and with a more focused effort on our core functions. We would love to hear from you.

GET INVOLVED

the alley is not static--you can help create the neighborhood paper you want to see

- ▶ JOIN THE BOARD your perspective matters! A few hours a month can make a difference
- ▶ GRANTWRITING experience? FUNDRAISING experience? Get involved on the board or for one project or event.
- ▶ Write for *the alley* – cover events, critical issues, controversies, local personalities, inspiring neighbors...
- ▶ Found some new hobbies and communities in the pandemic? Any new recipes? Share them with the community!
- ▶ Stretch your creative wings with poetry, humor, cartoons, drawings...we love to include local art on the cover
- ▶ Attend a neighborhood event? See a cool new mural? Send in a photo, or make a little photo series for the paper!
- ▶ Do you have a small business? Tell your story, and/or consider a small ad in the paper! Or sponsor an ad for your favorite small business.

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

Zoomers, Millennials, Gen-X, all generations welcome

BILINGUAL WRITERS
MARGINALIZED VOICES

FUNDRAISERS, GRANT-SAVVY ORGANIZERS

HISTORIANS, STORY TELLERS, INVESTIGATORS

DOODLERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, SOCIAL MEDIA IMAGINERS

If you would like to find out more information or discuss, please go to the website and reach out via <https://alleynews.org/volunteer>

HOME ABOUT PDF ARCHIVES VOLUNTEER

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 22ND 2021

Search

Did you know that you can write for the alley?

Just drop a line to copydesk@alleynews.org

Volunteer

How do you want to help?

☐ Board Member

☐ Editorial committee

☐ Copyeditor

☐ Distribution

☐ Fundraising

☐ Contributor (writer, photographer etc)

The alley relies on our wonderful volunteers to get the paper to our readers. Check the role(s) you are interested in for more information!

Tell us a little about your skills and interests:

JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Do you care about the voice of the Phillips community and have a few hours each month?

Email Carley

carley@alleynews.org

Call for Sculpture Concepts Deadline Extended

By ABDI HASSAN JR. AND TIM SPRINGER

The deadline has been extended for proposing designs for a new Midtown Greenway light-emitting sculpture. An advisory team composed of East Phillips residents who live near the site of the future sculpture voted to extend the deadline for responses. The previous deadline was December 3, 2021. Now artists have until February 4, 2022, to submit sculpture concepts.

The sculpture will be in the public space above the Midtown Greenway entrance ramp at 18th Avenue South, where it will provide joy, light, and wayfinding. It will be owned and maintained by the Midtown Greenway Coalition. The 29-year-old nonprofit organization stewarded

the creation of the Midtown Greenway and currently serves as the community’s voice in promoting Greenway improvements, maintenance, and use.

The revised Call can be found linked at www.midtowngreenway.org.

The most important criteria the Advisory Team will use when selecting three finalists is the desired impacts on viewers. Our neighborhood went through a lot in the year of 2020 which brought us together to make this a beautiful neighborhood, a safe place for our families, and a cared for area to live in. The installation of this sculpture will have a meaning of unity behind it. The desired impact we’re



An example of whimsical art on Portland Avenue.

looking for is to amaze neighbors and Midtown Greenway trail users. We want Greenway users to look forward to showing this beautiful art to their friends and families they take on this trail. Submittals from artists prior to the December 3 deadline will be automatically

kept in the running. Those artists may also submit revised proposals or submit entirely new sculpture concepts. Three finalists will be selected by the Advisory Team to have their sculpture concepts presented to the public for voting. Eligible voters will

include people who live on the two most impacted blocks, plus East Phillips residents and Midtown Greenway trail users.

WHAT DO RESIDENTS OF PHILLIPS WEST WANT?



COMMUNITY SAFETY

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

FOOD ACCESS



We asked those who live, work, and go to school in the Phillips West neighborhood about their concerns. Three very clear priorities emerged from the results:



As this process has made clear to us, we need ongoing, creative, & diverse engagement methods embedded into the future work of the organization. This does not mark the end of our efforts, it is only the beginning. For more information please visit phillipswest.org/strategic-plan



Way back in Spring 2021, PWNO launched a community survey to help us learn more about what our neighbors care about and establish priorities for our work over the next three years. There were three priorities that emerged from the survey results: community safety, affordable housing, and food access. Now that 2021 has come to a close, we are excited to share ways for our neighbors to get involved in pursuing these three goals!

Curious about how to get connected to work in one (or more) of these priority areas? Here's how:

1. Take the PWNO 2022 Membership Survey to tell us about how you'd like to be involved: bit.ly/PWNOMembershipSurvey
2. Join one of our committees: Safety, Housing, and Food/Garden! You can join by filling out the member survey or getting in touch directly via our website, email, or phone.
3. Sign up for our email newsletter and follow us on social media for updates about upcoming events and opportunities to get involved. You sign up/ follow through our website: phillipswest.org

PWNO worked with artist Taylan de Johnette to design graphic representations of our neighborhood priorities just like what you see to the left here. You can find more of Taylan's work at tdejohnette.com!



Student Loan Program Changes Could Help Forgive Your Debt

By SHANNON DOYLE

This is a partial reprint with permission from LSS Financial Counseling Sense and Centsibility Blog

If you are paying off student loans, you probably have noticed recent headlines about making student loan forgiveness possible for more borrowers. The U.S. Department of Education (DOE) is making (temporary) fixes, officially called a waiver, to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program. Here's your guide to understanding the DOE's changes and navigating the system so you can get your payments counted towards forgiveness.

If these changes affect you, it's crucial that you take action as soon as possible. The waiver will end on October 31, 2022.

What is Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)?

College graduates working for government agencies and non-profits are typically paid much less than their counterparts in private indus-



try, yet they need the same level of education. Congress passed legislation in 2007 creating the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program to make public service more appealing to graduates. PSLF offers forgiveness on the remaining balance of qualifying federal student loans after 120 qualifying payments, while working for a qualifying employer.

What Changes is DOE Making to PSLF?

The Department of Education created this waiver — finally — after years of complaints and a dismal rate of loan forgiveness. PSLF has been riddled with poor communication about program processes, confusion over what payments qualify for forgiveness, poor servicing and administrative foot dragging. The DOE has approved a mere 1% - 2% of PSLF applications since the first loans have been eligible for forgiveness in October of 2017. That's only 16,000 borrowers out of millions who work in public service!

- According to the press release from the Department of Education, its changes to PSLF will:
- Count all prior payments made by student borrowers toward PSLF, regardless of the federal loan program.
 - Simplify what it means for a payment to qualify for PSLF.
 - Eliminate barriers for military service members to receive PSLF.
 - Review denied PSLF applications.
 - Identify and correct errors in PSLF processing.

While these changes are a fantastic step forward, they don't resolve all issues and they are temporary — only in effect for payments made on or before October 31, 2022. Keep up on all the details by visiting StudentAid.gov.

Author Shannon Doyle is a Program Manager with LSS Financial Counseling.

Learn more about the changes and the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program

Read the entire blog at: <https://www.lssmn.org/financialcounseling/blog/student-loan-program-changes-could-help-forgive-your-debt>. Schedule a free student loan appointment with LSS Financial Counseling by calling 888.577.2227. Visit www.lssmn.org/financialcounseling for more information.

Returning Chapter 16

Split Screen

By PATRICK CABELLO HANSEL



Patrick Cabello Hansel

Picture this if you will: in one frame, Brian Fleming lording it over our poor family; drawing out the encounter in the basement in search of his own twisted pleasure. Luz has faced his evil before, as a young girl, an encounter that scarred her, but one which she has overcome through tears and sheer force of will. Angel, her husband, knows but a little of this part of his wife's story. He is trying to keep his anger in check so as to not antagonize this man, who holds — somewhere, God knows where — his beloved daughter Lupita as ransom. Ransom for what, Angel can only guess.

In another frame, little Lupita is sitting on a rug with a race track pattern. The asphalt lanes abut images of the pit stop, grandstand and concession areas. She was playing with a Match Box Car, racing it around the track, but now she is playing with an old stuffed rabbit, who looks as if he has been in too many scrapes with angry gardeners. One of the rabbit's ears has been stitched back onto his head, and the fur on his belly worn down. But Lupita doesn't care. She has stopped — for a moment — calling for her mama and papa. She has stopped crying. If you just saw her in the frame, you would think she is like a typical two year old. But as the frame widens, you will see an elderly woman, sitting in a chair, holding knitting needles. If you look close at her hands, you can see them shaking.

Look back now at the first frame. Brian Fleming is leading Luz — and only Luz — through a steel door at the back of the basement room. You can see Angel's fear, his powerlessness, his shame. On

Luz' face, there is a look of determination. And on Brian's face? Brian Fleming is the kind of man that never shows his real face to anyone. There is a condescending smile he puts on, an impatient sneer at employees, and only when absolutely necessary, the rage that strikes fear.

Back to the second frame: as you look closer, you can see the face of the elderly woman, and you realize it is Agnes, the one who found our little family on the street, who brought them to warmth and food and safety, the one who betrayed them to Brian Fleming and his terrible enterprise. If you look closely at her face, you can see the grief over having betrayed this family, mixed with the fear of what Brian Fleming has told her he would do to her family if she didn't do what he told her to do. There is a battle between these two emotions, one that cannot be contained.

And then, back to our first gaze into this drama. Little Angel has pulled his father's phone out and is about to call 911, as soon as the evil man leaves. He's not sure what he will say, but he remembers the number painted over the garage they are in. 2647. He knows it means the address, he knows this is his moment to act, but he needs one more thing. He turns to his father and asks,

"Papito, what avenue are we on right now?"

Angel looks at his son like he's crazy, then reconsiders.

"I think we're between 17th and 18th," he says to the boy.

The boy looks at the phone he has been hiding, and touches the three numbers: 9-1-1.

To be continued...

ON SOLID GROUND

Soil Dedication

10:00am | Monday, January 24, 2022
Free event for all | Norway House

It's important that Norway House, like any good house, has a solid foundation to build upon. Much of our pride and our connections to Norway today were forged by the immigrants who came to settle in the United States. Many had very little to start with, but nonetheless, built sustainable and supportive communities throughout the country.

We'd like to honor your roots in these early stages of our building process.

On January 24th, at 10:00am, we invite you to bring a jar or cup of soil from your hometown--the place that raised you--to pour into the foundation of Norway House. The names of each town or city will be recognized near the entrance of the building. Help us ensure a solid ground for all who visit in the years to come.

To RSVP and learn more, visit norwayhouse.org

Nils Nisse, our campaign troll, reminds us of this important bit of advice:

*"Don't build a house on sandy ground.
No--you've got to build your house on a mountain!"*



Nils Nisse, the Norway House campaign troll

continued from p.1 ...

Harm Reduction, cont.



Insite in Vancouver. Photo courtesy of PHS Community Services Society.

harms while creating space for long lasting change. The city is already funding harm reduction services, such as the work of Southside Harm Reduction, who do street outreach and provide needle exchange.

According to the National Harm Reduction Coalition website, harm reduction principles are a set of practical strategies to reduce the consequences of drug use, based on a belief in rights for people who use drugs. Some of these include: acknowledging the realities of intersectional causes of drug use; ensuring that people who use drugs have a voice in the creation of solutions; NOT minimizing or ignoring the real harms and dangers caused by illicit drug use; and creating non-coercive and non-judgmental services. At this point, I can hear countless neighbors in meetings saying, “We don’t want to enable drug users.” And without much support from the city, the primary tactic that comes up is for neighbors to move people experiencing homelessness off a given block, inevitably resulting in them moving to another nearby. This is all neighbors feel they can do, but it makes the problem worse by further scattering used needles, causing more stress and harm to unhoused folks, and disconnecting them from case workers and services (see CDC guidelines during Covid).

The fundamental short-term issue is that people experiencing homelessness have no place to go. There is little affordable housing and extremely limited and/or high-barrier shelter beds.

Many city and county empty lots and neglected spaces have been fenced off, leading people to move onto private land—yards, sidewalks, and parking lots of housed neighbors, which causes clashes between these groups. We need a community center where people can go during the day, where they won’t be harassed or arrested, and

we need to combine this with strong Housing First policies. A community center can provide wrap around services for participants, a proven strategy for increasing use of services such as addiction counseling and housing programs.

One site that does this is Insite in Vancouver, British Columbia. This site opened in 2003 as the first overdose prevention site (OPS) in North America, an epicenter for drug addiction in Canada. Since opening, Insite has seen almost 4 million visits by people to inject drugs, with 6,400 overdoses. To date, astoundingly, 0 deaths have occurred. And on top of that, according to a 2014 review paper summariz-

ing 75 studies on OPS sites, nearly 60% of people who use Insite enter addiction treatment. Studies also show that these sites do not increase drug use or crime in the areas where they operate, including drug sales. They do reduce the number of people injecting in public and syringe litter by half or more. Over 120 of these sites exist around the world, many of them for decades.

You may know that these kinds of sites are technically illegal on the federal level in the U.S. But things are changing fast. So much so that, with strong support on the state level, New York City opened two such sites in Manhattan in November of this year. In the first day, two overdoses were reversed. With a growing sense of urgency, there are signs that the federal government is willing to let these pilot projects happen, although this is still a gray area. Despite this, overdose prevention sites (OPS) are endorsed by the American Medical Association and many physician groups, such as those in Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and California to name a few.

We are in an opioid epidemic and a housing crisis and we need overdose prevention sites in Minneapolis and across the country. Currently, a group of East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC) members along with harm reduction organizations are working to make this happen. Send an email to EastPhillipsOPS@gmail.com if you want links to the research or to get involved.

Want to learn more or get involved?

- Email **EastPhillipsOPS@gmail.com**
- Attend the January East Phillips Community Meeting for a presentation by Southside Harm Reduction Services (see **EPIC’s ad on page 14 for details**)

continued from p.1 ...

Urban Farm, cont

project were State Senator Omar Fateh and Hennepin County Commissioner Angela Conley. Neighborhood resident Karen Clark, who represented the area for 37 years in the state legislature, presented compelling documentation on disparities of income and wealth, as well as extremely elevated rates of asthma, childhood lead poisoning, and other environmentally related illnesses occurring in our majority BIPOC neighborhood. Her work for environmental justice over many years was the genesis of this project.

The greatest interest was in the changing political situation at the City level. This

is being led by 9th Ward Councilmember elect Jason Chavez, joined by Ward 1 Councilmember elect Elliot Payne, and 10th Ward Councilmember elect Aisha Chugtai. In the weeks before the 2021 election, a resolution to tear down the Roof Depot building was reinserted for a vote and passed by a 7 to 6 margin, but 4 of those 7 council members are no longer on the Council. So, in 2022, with optimism and anticipation, East Phillips again presents the Minneapolis City Council with the opportunity to reverse decades of neglect in favor of Green investment and Environmental Justice. “Urban Farm not Toxic Harm!”



Photos provided by East Phillips Neighborhood Institute

Bridge over Midtown Greenway closing to motor vehicle traffic

THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

Dec. 23, 2021 (MINNEAPOLIS) Beginning Monday, Dec. 27, the 10th Avenue bridge over the Midtown Greenway is closing indefinitely to motor vehicle traffic.

A load limit was placed on the bridge following a structural analysis. Since the load limit took effect, the City has observed many vehicles crossing the bridge that exceeded that limit. To prevent the bridge from degrading further, no motor vehicles will be allowed to cross the bridge until the City and Hennepin County can find a long-term solution to the problem.

The bridge and the greenway will remain open to bicycles and pedestrians.



10th Ave bridge crossing the Greenway (courtesy Google Maps)

Movie Corner



Howard McQuitter II

By HOWARD MCQUITTER II

PASSING
(2021 Netflix)



From a cinematic viewpoint, the rich black and white, crisp shadows inside and outside brownstone houses as well as the inside intimate jazz sessions are excellent. *Passing* displays for subtlety blossoms on celluloid.

Passing is Rebecca Hall’s debut film about two African American women, one is passing for white while the other is married to a dark-skinned Black man, at the time of the Harlem Renaissance when Black figures like Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, Alain Locke, Jean Tommer, Claude McKay,

Augusta Savage, Aaron Douglas, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Countee Cullen are on the scene particularly in Harlem.

Passing is based on the novel by Nella Larsen, who comes from a mixed background, similar to Hall. Hall gets to the central characters immediately with Clare Kendry Bellew (Ruth Negga) and Irene “Reenie” Redfield (Tessa Thompson). On one hot summer day sometime in the mid or late 1920s Irene, impeccably dressed and wearing a hat that partly obscures her face, enters a luxe white hotel. She’s uncomfortable sitting in a “whites only” hotel restaurant as she slowly turns her head by the gaze of a white woman sitting across from her. But there’s someone sitting several tables away who’s looking harder at Irene. It happens to be Clare. They’re high school friends from Chicago and haven’t seen each other in nearly a decade. Seeing Clare in New York City surprises Irene. Clare is passing for white and married to a white man, John (Alexander Skarsgard), who doesn’t know he’s married to an African American, and is vehemently anti-black. (From my naked eye neither Clare nor Irene can pass for white.)

However nervous Clare is about being “discovered” as a Negro by her white husband or other whites, she wants to be with her friend Irene at all costs. Like a breath of fresh air,



Clare delights in being Black when she’s around Irene and her dark-skinned husband Brian (Andre Holland), a medical doctor by trade. All three go to the Black nightclubs listening to jazz swing music and having an occasional dance.

Back at Irene and Brian’s house, Brian explains to his two young sons about some recent lynchings. Irene takes exception to her husband’s tell-

ing their sons about the lynchings (at least at their tender ages). Irene has just recently warned Clare what danger she can be if her true “racial identity” is discovered.

The uneasiness, the ever-present possibility of ostracization, the pretense of being white, the fear of being exposed for Black is the dominant theme in films such as Elia Kazan’s

Pinky (1949), John M. Stahl’s *Imitation of Life* (1934) and the remark, Douglas Sirk’s *Imitation of Life* (1959). Even Spike Lee’s drama-comedy-musical *School Daze* (1988) deals with the dark-skinned college students.

A film like *Passing* makes me pause and reflect on my own blackness even though I’m dark-skinned and have no chance of passing for white. Rebecca Hall has created a timely and well directed film. And that she did the film in glaring black and white. As for the two major actresses, Tessa Thompson and Ruth Negga, their performances are Oscar worthy.

Director: Rebecca Hall.
Screenwriters: Rebecca Hall and Nella Larsen.
Cinematography: Eduard Grau. **Original Music:** Devante Hynes. **Cast:** Tessa Thompson (Irene), Ruth Negga (Clare), Andr  Holland (Brian), Alexander Skarsg rd (John), Jutus Davis Graham (Ted), Antoinette Crowe-Legacy (Felise), Stu S. Becker (Cabbie), Gbenga Akinnagbe (Dave), Ashley Ware Jenkins (Zulena). **Production Companies:** Significant Production, Picture Films, Flat Five Productions, Film4 Productions, Gamechanger Films, Sweet Tomato Films, EndeavorContent. **Distributed by:** Netflix. **Running time:** 98 minutes, (PG-13).



East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC)

EPIC’s January Community Meeting
Thursday, January 13th 6:30pm-7:30pm

- Join us to hear from Southside Harm Reduction Services about Overdose Prevention Sites.
- Come learn about:
- 1) Various Overdose Prevention Sites around the world
 - 2) What East Phillips residents are doing to establish one
 - 3) And how it could benefit the community!

Join in-person at East Phillips Community Center (2307 17th Ave)
OR JOIN VIA ZOOM (Zoom link to join at eastphillips.org)

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

Sign up for swimming at the Phillips
Aquatics Center (2323 11th Ave)

- 1) Youth swim lessons.
East Phillips families pay just \$5
 - 2) Junior Swim Club.
East Phillips families pay just \$5
- Please call or stop in if you need swimwear. Limited options available.
- Stop in or call (612)230-6495 for questions and to register.

Visit eastphillips.org to learn more

Follow us on Facebook for neighborhood updates and resources:
facebook.com/eastphillipsepic

The next **EPIC Board Meeting** is Saturday, January 8
10am-11am

For links to join EPIC meetings go to eastphillips.org

Raise Your Voice

Sitting Bull vs Jeff Bezos

By PETER MOLENAAR



Peter Molenaar

This parcel of territory, this domain of *the alley*, if you will, has imprinted upon the writer’s mind since employment at Smith Foundry began in 1979. He was also, at that time, a volunteer at the Paul Robeson Marxist Bookstore, located in Dinkytown. A poster of the iconic Sitting Bull was prominent on the wall there.

So then, I was pleasantly surprised to find Curt Brown’s MINNESOTA HISTORY article (Star Tribune, Sunday, December 12),: “Looking back on Sitting Bull’s visits”. I had no idea that Sitting Bull had toured the Twin Cities on two occasions subse-

quent to Custer’s last stand. He actually attended mass at the Assumption Catholic Church in Richfield!

As far as the eye could see, far beyond seven generations, what spirit did the sitting bull manifest... reflection, contemplation, meditation, even serene contentment while chewing the cud? Such was the nature of his namesake.

These were whirlwind tours that were punctuated with press briefings, a telephone, ballet and theater, even an aborted assassination attempt. Federal agents intended to impress. However, there were starving people on the Dakota plains.

Even so, on a bitter cold day, “a beggar woman, with a worn wistful face and pleading eyes, stood in a supplicating attitude, her thin blue hands outstretched for alms.” From the proceeds of his autograph sales, Sitting Bull plucked out at least \$10 of silver—worth about \$280 today—and handed it to the woman... thus the opulence of tall buildings contrasted with her plight.

How does Jeff Bezos compare with Sitting Bull? From Wikipedia: “Jeffrey... American entrepreneur, media proprietor, investor, computer engineer, commercial astronaut... he is the founder of Amazon... with a net worth of around \$200 billion, he is the wealthiest person in the world...”

Okay then, Bernie Sanders put it this way: “instead of attempting to go to the moon, how about Jeff Bezos pays his workers a living wage?” Moreover, Bezos deploys an electronic monitoring system to enforce rapid repetitive motion on his workers. The result, for example: workers at the Shakopee facility suffer twice the injury rate of other Minnesota warehouse workers, also an extraordinary burn-out-turn-over rate, or otherwise a retired life with serious arthritis.

Hey folks, locally, it is largely our East African neighbors who have borne the brunt of Amazon’s brutality. Their effort to build worker’s power emanates from the Awood Center, housed within Bethany Lutheran Church, 2511 E. Franklin Avenue. Their struggle is our struggle. Right?

With Sitting Bull in mind...

In our approach to children, we should ponder Lenin’s thesis regarding the historical basis of the uneven development of peoples. It follows: Minnesota will, one day soon, develop a traveling cadre of Native American educators for the purpose of uplifting every child, including our white kids who all too frequently need special attention.

Continued from page 4...
Peace House cont.

Ventura Village Neighborhood Association meetings and watched as the residents made sure companies and social service agencies contributed to the overall good, rather than just setting up shop for their own benefit. After three and a half years, I moved on to another company located downtown and lost some contact with Phillips, but when I came to Peace House Community in 2018 I found the same attitude still prevailed: if you were willing to be a good neighbor, you

would have plenty of people to lean on. If you were just here for yourself, the neighborhood would let you know what was expected of you.

I know the Phillips neighborhood faces many challenges. Crime is high, resources are sometimes lacking, and the city often ignores even simple requests (like street sweeping the leaves before they freeze to the roads). The neighborhood carries on, however, and Minneapolis is richer because of it.

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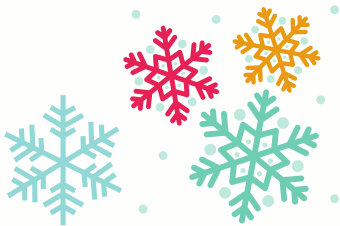
Johnson & Johnson: All adults 18 and older should get a booster 2 months after their single dose.

16-17 yr olds who got Pfizer should get a Pfizer booster, **18+ can mix and match**

Everyone 16 and older should get a COVID-19 booster shot.



VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD



JANUARY '22 NEWS

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

Our Saviour's Community Services: Same Name, Different Services

By: Mike Huffman, Executive Director

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Mike, and I'm the new Executive Director at Our Saviour's Community Services (OSCS). We provide dignified shelter and housing for single adults and education for adult English language learners through our two programs – Our Saviour's Housing and the English Learning Center. I wanted to take just a second to share some exciting changes happening with our services in the coming months.



As the pandemic continues to impact service delivery for many nonprofits, OSCS made a strategic decision to transition our emergency shelter to a medical-respite model, also known as a recuperative model. Beginning in 2022, we will specialize in providing temporary, emergency shelter with on-site healthcare staff and other supportive services to homeless adults who are being released from the hospital with a medical need that makes them too vulnerable to recover on the street or in a traditional shelter.

This change allows us to make the best use of our unique shelter facility, which was originally designed as a medical clinic, as well as our location near two major hospitals. More importantly, we will address a critical gap in homeless services – a need the pandemic has made painfully apparent – and help ensure that medically vulnerable, unhoused community members have a safe place to heal and recover as they search for permanent housing.

Changes are also taking place in our English Learning Center (ELC). This fall, we began providing both in person and virtual learning opportunities, which doubled our offerings and doubled the need for volunteers. The ELC is also starting to prepare for winter/spring term, which will run from January 3-April 28. We are resuming math classes in the evening, adding digital literacy classes, and hoping to start an afternoon drop-in tutoring lab if we can get interest



Photo by Amanda Steepleton

from volunteers and students. New volunteers are welcome at any time and can apply using the sign-up form on our website (<https://oscs-mn.org/elc-volunteer-application>).

OSCS started in this community with community members seeking to support recent refugees. While our mission has expanded to include housing and shelter, our focus on community remains in our name and our values. My hope for OSCS going forward is to continue to be a community asset located in the heart of the neighborhood, and I look forward to continuing to build those relationships. If you want to connect, please reach out to me.

Franklin-Chicago Anchor

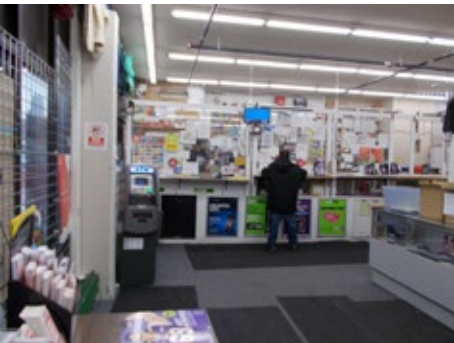
By: Steve Dreyer

Franklin Avenue in Ventura Village is dotted with a number of small businesses and markets. One such small retail business anchoring the busy Franklin - Chicago intersection is Two Amigos. Two Amigos is located in the PPL -owned building that served as its learning center and is now the Loring Nicollet Alternative School. Owner Richard Inamagua started Two Amigos at that location in

2003. The other Amigo was his brother-in-law who has since left the business, although Richard's sister is part owner. Richard came to the United States from Ecuador when he was 17. He worked in other small businesses and at one time owned a restaurant in another city.

Two Amigos specializes in check cashing, wire transfers, money orders, phone sales and repairs, bus cards and other related services...A large part of his business is with regular customers whom he built a relationship with. A big part of the store has a section that sells clothing, and does prints and designs.

The crime and drug dealing in that area is a big concern for Two Amigos and the other legitimate businesses and organizations nearby.



Ventura Village Neighborhood News!

- Our first meeting of 2022 will be Wednesday, January 12th, at 7 PM. We will meet in person at ICCM Life Center, 1812 Park, and you can attend via Zoom by calling or sending us an email.

Seasonal Increase in Automobile Theft

By: Kali Pliego

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

- Do not leave your vehicle running and unattended, including to 'warm up', or run a quick errand
- Use anti-theft devices such as steering wheel clubs, GPS trackers, and/or engine kill switches
- Be aware of unauthorized tow trucks in the neighborhood or other suspicious vehicles in the alley or on your block
- Call 911 when you witness any suspicious activity and/or people around your property or block
- Have your license plate and VIN documented in case you need to report your car has been stolen
- Meet your neighbors and watch out for each other – organize your block and share information – consider being a block leader to help facilitate information sharing.

For more information on block clubs, crime prevention tips, contact your Crime Prevention Specialist, Kali Pliego at kali.pliego@minneapolismn.gov

Youthline Program Information & Updates

By: Courtney Gillman, Youth Program Specialist

Youthline engages youth ages 12-17 in positive leadership experiences and recreational activities while connecting them to adult mentors in the parks. A Youth Program Specialist is returning for a special assignment. Sarah Chelstrom will be back at the Upper South Parks (East Phillips, Phillips Community Center & Stewart) in January 2022. There will now be three programmers – Courtney, Sarah & Seng.

Program Highlights:

- Stewart Park will be doing Archery, an Arts & Craft group, and Teen Hangout Time.
- Phillips Community Center has a Technology & Me group and a Self Defense class.
- East Phillips will have Work Hard Play Hard – where kids get homework help and then play gym games. There is also an Art and Cooking group meeting throughout the week.

Questions:

If you would like to see when and where programming is happening, you can look here: https://apm.activecommunities.com/minneapolis/parks/Activity_Search Or email cgillman@minneapolis/parks.org

ICCM Opens New Parking Lot/Community Space

By: Chris DeLaurentis

For over 30 years the 3 lots at the corner of Park Avenue and E. 18th St. sat vacant. Weeds, garbage, and a broken down chain link fence occupied the lot until ICCM Life Center broke ground there in September of 2020. It is now a parking lot and community outreach corner. Paving, curbs, landscaping, trees and shrubs have brought beauty and purpose to this underutilized space. Not only will it provide off street parking for the Life Center, but it will also be used for outdoor events, youth activities, and hopefully in the future farmers markets, and community yard sales..

We thank Ventura Village for its ongoing support as well as all the donors and volunteers who contributed to this improvement to our community.

