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SPECIAL INSERT: see community journalism in action! pgs. 7-10

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Community, Health, Education, and Labor Leaders Unite in Call at City Council to Close HERC Trash Burner Hearing

Newly proposed resolution would call for a shutdown date for the facility and seeks restitution for residents impacted by the incinerator

DEVON YOUNG CUPERY

By ZERO BURN COALITION

The Minneapolis City Council's Climate & Infrastructure Committee held a public hearing on October 10 focusing on a resolution to support the permanent closure of the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC). The resolution marks a significant step in addressing decades of environmental and health concerns raised by local residents, scientists, and environmental advocates.

The resolution calls for a definitive closure date for HERC, restitution for communities impacted by the facility's 35 years of operation, and frontline community leadership in determining the future of the site. It also urges the City to implement its 2017 Zero Waste Plan, aiming to reduce waste and promote sustainability.

For over three decades, local residents and health experts have been vocal about the harmful effects of waste incineration at



Attendees at an October 10th hearing on the permanent closure of Minneapolis' HERC trash incinerator.

HERC, which disproportionately affects low-income and marginalized communities. The closure of HERC is seen by many as a crucial step toward environmental justice and a healthier future for Minneapolis.

"I am honored to represent a Ward who cares so deeply about the health of their children, neigh-

bors, and elderly, and who are showing us how we move beyond our current systems of waste and pollution. I am proud to fight alongside my constituents on the Northside to bring the era of HERC and environmental racism to a close," said Councilmember

Continued on page 3...

Building Dignity and Respect Program Enlists Local Developers

Compiled by HARVEY WINJE

Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL), located at 3715 Chicago Avenue, announced on October 9th that the first developers have committed to join their groundbreaking Building Dignity and Respect (BDR) Program. The developers are Alliance Housing and Hope Community, two mission driven housing developers.

Background

For more than two years, workers have raised concerns about the crisis in the Twin Cities

non-union construction sector, including rampant wage theft and misclassification, dangerous

conditions, and a pattern of criminal activity. Workers have been calling on developers to join the

BDR program, which utilizes an independent monitoring model to ensure compliance with labor protections on construction sites. The model, known as Worker-

driven Social Responsibility, has proven effective at eradicating abuse in complex industries like U.S. agriculture and international garment industries. This event marks a historic milestone in workers' efforts to ensure all workers' rights are respected in the development process.

CTUL

CTUL is a worker-led organization where workers organize, educate and empower each other to fight for a voice in their workplaces and in their communities. CTUL partners with other organizations and leaders to build a movement to win racial, gender and economic justice, to identify the root causes of injustice, and to shift the balance of power between those who have it and those who don't to improve lives in our communities for present and future generations.

Hope Community

Remarks on the Commitment to BDR from Hope Community by Will Delaney, Hope Community Co-Executive Director:

- Hope is a nonprofit community development organization, 611 East Franklin Avenue, who believes in a comprehensive approach to community development. We do build affordable housing, but also focus on organizing, engagement, and community building. We are rooted in a strong belief in the power of people to shape their own lives, their communities, and the systems that impact all of us.
- We are also rooted in listening to our community. We were drawn to the BDR

Continued on page 4...

Election Information You Need

By LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MINNEAPOLIS

Residents of Minnesota for 20 days who are at least 18 years old and have affirmed US citizenship are able to vote now until 8 pm on November 5. Minnesotans who are living in their communities and are not currently incarcerated for a felony conviction are eligible to vote. In addition, 16-and-17-year-olds can pre-register so that they will be automatically registered on their 18th birthday.

For Minnesota to regain our top voter turnout spot, voters must get the trusted election information they need. As a voter, you have the right to time off work and can still vote from the comfort of your home. You can also now enter your ballot directly into the tabulating machine beginning 18 days before election day.

Beneath the prominent presidential race, you can make your mark on local ballot initiatives, candidates for MN House, and county and local races. You can learn about the candidates and issues on your ballot at vote411.org. Another "one-stop-shop" for nonpartisan election information is mnvotes.gov, where you can register to vote, request an absentee ballot, and locate your polling place. Make your voice heard by voting this election!

**VOTE ON TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 5TH**

Did you know?

The Office of the Secretary of State is introducing a free SMS text service to text all your questions to. You will not be added to any lists or signed up for any reminders. This number is part of the Office's Call Center, with real people on the line who will answer any questions you have.

**Text: 651-217-3862.
Make sure you have all the info you need right at your fingertips.**

The League of Women Voters has been a trusted source of nonpartisan voter information for over 100 years, serving communities across the state to ensure free, fair and safe elections. More info and join us at lwvmppls.org.

Five things to know about the East Phillips Urban Farm Project at the former Roof Depot site



By EAST PHILLIPS NEIGHBORHOOD INSTITUTE

1. We're fundraising! Learn more and donate online at bit.ly/EPfuture
2. The Outdoor Farm team is interviewing applicants for three new positions funded by Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC)
3. November Community Meeting about rainwater recycling at the Roof Depot site, with Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) Find event details at epnifarm.org/events
4. December Community Meeting about geothermal energy possibilities, with Cooperative Energy Futures (CEF)
5. We recently won a one-year extension of our purchase agreement deadline with the City of Minneapolis, and will be advocating to recoup funding from the State Legislature in 2025

Learn more and get in touch online at linktr.ee/epnifarm

thealley

Alley Communications is a Not-For-Profit organization.

The Mission of Alley Communications is

- promoting art and culture,
- advocating for issues,
- building healthy community,
- facilitating deliberation,
- lifting every voice,
- documenting history,
- agitating for change,
- giving truth and democracy a jog forward.

Guided and Informed by:
Phillips residents

Governed by Directors: Steve Dreyer, Susan Gust, and Ciriën Saadeh

Operated by Editorial Leadership Committee: Mara Brooks, Laura Hulscher, Mary Ellen Kaluza, and Harvey Winje

Business Facilitated by: Erick Boustead

Production Facilitated by: Graphic Designer + Coordinator, Mattie Wong

Page Coordinators: Steve Dreyer and Daniel Dorff, VV News; EPIC News; MPNA News; Roberta Barnes and Jessie Merriam, Back Page.

Social Media: Jessie Merriam, Susan Gust, Ciriën Saadeh

November contributors to the alley: All My Relations Arts, Amikogaabawikwe (Adrienne Benjamin), Augsburg University, Ari Baum-Holmes, Dreamworks Animation, Steve Dreyer, East Phillips Neighborhood Institute, Four Sisters Farmer's Market, Katherine E. Nash Gallery, Bill Kingsbury, League of Minnesota Cities, League of Women Voters, Linnea Hadaway, Hinterhands, Laura Hulscher, Sue Hunter Weir, In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, Mary Ellen Kaluza, Tim McCall, Howard McQuitter II, Midtown Global Market, City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Peter Molenaar, Dave Moore, Kelly Morgan, Native American Community Development Institute, Norway House, Open Eye Theatre, Courtney Perry, Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, Pillsbury House + Theatre, Kali Pliëgo, Quatrefoil Library, Ciriën Saadeh, Owen Saarinen, Soomaal House of Art, Robin Stramp, Amanda Theisen, Ventura Village Neighborhood Organization, Harvey Winje, Mattie Wong, Zero Burn Coalition

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

Opinions in **the alley** newspaper and its social media are those of the authors and artists and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Alley Communications, its Board, Editorial Leadership Committee, or other neighbors or writers.

Alley Communications
P.O. Box 7006
Mpls., MN 55407

submissions: copydesk@alleynews.org

ads: businessmanager@alleynews.org

Submissions due the 12th day of the previous month



Franklin Library News

By ARI BAUM-HOMMES

All information listed here is accurate as of October 12th, 2024. 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 PM to 8 PM
Wednesday	12 PM to 8 PM
Thursday	12 PM to 8 PM
Friday	9 AM to 5 PM
Saturday	9 AM to 5 PM
Sunday	12 PM to 5 PM

***Hennepin County Libraries will be closed Monday, November 11 for Veterans Day and Thursday, November 28 for Thanksgiving.**

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

CONNECT AND PLAY (ALL AGES)

Thursdays, 5-6 PM

For children of all ages and their caregivers. Connect with your child during this drop-in program exploring early literacy activities.

HOMEWORK HELP

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30-7:30 PM

Saturdays, 1-5 PM

Find homework resources for K-12 students online and at all our libraries: history, language arts, math, science and more.

STEAM ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH (AGES 8+)

Wednesdays, 5-6 PM

Drop in for fun and creative STEAM (science, technology, engi-

How to write a LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are always welcomed. Three important criteria: no foul language, do no harm to an individual, must be "signed" by the author. Short and succinct is better - under 300 words if possible. Letters may be edited for length.

email your letter to copydesk@alleynews.org no later than the 12th of the month, by 5pm SHARP.

neering, art, math) experiments and projects! Materials provided. Led by Franklin Library's Teen Tech Squad.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

MOVIE MATINEE

Every Tuesday, 1:30-3:30 PM

Watch popular films every week with your Franklin Library friends and neighbors! In honor of National Native Heritage Month, we will be screening Indigenous films throughout the month of November. The movie series will continue through March. This program is funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Sponsor: Friends of the Hennepin County Library

COFFEE & CONVERSATION Second Wednesday of the month, 12:30-2 PM

Join Franklin Library staff for free coffee & conversations with neighbors. Next happening on October 9.

FLU VACCINE CLINIC

Wednesday, November 13, 12:30-2 PM

Prepare for winter sickness with this free, drop in flu vaccine clinic. No registration required. Collaborator: Fairview Health

ASK THE LIBRARY

Have a reference or library account question? You can chat, email, text, or call the library. Chat or email at www.hclib.org/contact, text to 612-400-7722, or call 612-543-KNOW (5669) to reach library staff by phone.

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.

Ari is a librarian at the Franklin Library.



Join the Board of Alley Communications

and help other volunteers grow the organization to more fully fulfill its mission- "to inform and engage the Phillips Community".

Email susanangust@gmail.com to discuss and learn more!



LMC

MAYOR FOR A DAY ESSAY CONTEST

"Mayor for a Day" Essay Contest Invites Students to Share Ideas for Improving Their Cities

By LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES

The "Mayor for a Day" Essay Contest, hosted by the League of Minnesota Cities, is now open for submissions. Contestants in fourth, fifth, or sixth grade may answer the prompt "What would you do if you were mayor for a day?" for a chance to win \$100 and recognition in *Minnesota Cities* magazine.

Essays must be submitted by Friday, Dec. 13. Students and parents/caregivers can submit essays via an online form, a PDF email attachment, or through the United States Postal Service mail. All contest details and materials are available at lmc.org/mayorforaday, including a primer on what it's like to be a Minnesota mayor.

The contest is in its 12th year and received 540 essays from all around the state in 2023. The winners were from Byron, New York Mills, Shoreview, and St. Louis Park. In addition, judges selected four honorable mention essayists from the cities of Dilworth, Grand Marais, Lauderdale, and Windom.

"I always look forward to learning the passionate and creative ideas of Minnesota students, but our 'Mayor for a Day' Contest is more than just a fun event," League of Minnesota Cities Executive Director Luke Fischer says. "It's an opportunity to inspire the next generation of civic leaders and let them know they can make a positive impact on their communities by serving in local government."

Winners only will be notified via email in January 2025.

The League of Minnesota Cities is a membership association dedicated to promoting excellence in local government. The League, governed by a Board of Directors consisting of local elected and appointed city officials, serves its more than 830 member cities through advocacy, education and training, policy development, risk management, and other services.

Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery

By SUE HUNTER WEIR
228TH IN A SERIES

Beulah Corneal: A Remarkable Young Woman

Phannie Corneal was willing to try anything to save her daughter's life. On January 18, 1911, she and her daughter, Beulah Corneal, set out for Denver, Colorado hoping that the change in climate would restore Beulah's health.

Three months earlier, Beulah had been diagnosed with what doctors initially thought was typhoid. A brief mention in the November 4th, 1910, issue of the *Appeal* newspaper announced that she seemed to be recovering, and a few weeks later offered an update indicating that Beulah was "able to get up, but still unable to go out." The following month, she was admitted to the hospital to be treated for tuberculosis of the skin.

Phannie and Beulah spent two months in Denver and returned to Minneapolis on March 18, 1911. Beulah died from tuberculosis on March 30, 1911, less than two weeks later. She was 23 years, four months, and two days old. Phannie's wishes for her daughter's recovery had gone unanswered.

Beulah was Phannie's fourth youngest child. Phannie had three older children with her first husband, Henry Botts. She and her second husband, William N. Corneal, had two daughters, Beulah and Grazia.

Beulah was a remarkable young woman. At a time when employment opportunities for African-American women were extremely limited, she worked as a doctor's assistant. Her employer, J. Francis Schefcik, was an "oculist" and "aurist", (i.e., a doctor specializing in diseases of the eyes and ears, respectively). She also worked at a number of other jobs, whether out of ambition or necessity is not clear. She was a dressmaker, a piano teacher, a social correspondent, and a sales representative for the local African-American newspaper *Twin City Star*. She and her younger sister were also talented musicians. Billed as the Corneal Sisters, they played numerous concerts in the Twin Cities, many of them benefit concerts. Beulah played the piano, and Grazia played the violin.

Phannie's daughters appear to have inherited her work ethic and ambition. During the ten or so years that she lived in Minneapolis, Phannie ran a boarding house and taught china painting and fancy needlework. In 1911, she opened "the Little Unique Ice Cream Parlor" which offered her customers "pure" ice cream, sodas, and cigars. And she still found time to do charitable



TIM MCCALL

The headstone for Beulah Corneal and her half-brother Harvey Botts.

work for St. Peter's AME Church, the Crispus Attucks Home, and the Sojourner Truth Chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Beulah's funeral was held at St. Peter's AME Church and was, according to the *Star*, "very impressive." Her casket was "covered with flowers." In June of that year, she was among those honored at a meeting of the Minneapolis Sunday Forum held at Bethesda Baptist Church. Charles Sumner Smith, publisher of the *Twin City Star*, delivered her eulogy.

Phannie and her children lived in Minneapolis from about 1909 until the early 1920s, at which point she moved to St. Louis, Missouri. The years that she spent in Minneapolis were marked by loss and could not have been happy ones. In less than five years, she lost three of her five children. A little over a year before Beulah died, Phannie had lost her only son, Harvey Botts, to tuberculosis on December 20, 1909. He was 28 years old and had worked as a bookkeeper. Josephine Botts Galbrath, Beulah's half-sister, also died from an aortic aneurysm on July 11, 1914. She was 30 years old and widowed.

Beulah, Harvey, and Josephine are all buried in the Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery. Beulah and Harvey are

buried next to each other and their names are inscribed on the same headstone. Josephine is buried in another section of the cemetery, and her grave is unmarked. William Corneal, Beulah's father, is also buried in the Cemetery, but it appears that he and Phannie were divorced. He died from pneumonia on January 19, 1917, and was buried in the paupers section.

Phannie spent the last 20 or so years of her life living with or close to her daughter Grazia in St. Louis. The exact date of Phannie's death and her burial location are unknown, but she appears to have died sometime in the 1940s. She was living with Grazia in 1940, but was no longer living with her when the 1950 census was taken.

Sue Hunter Weir is chair of Friends of the Cemetery, an organization dedicated to preserving and maintaining Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery. She has lived in Phillips for almost 50 years and loves living in such a historic community.

HERC, cont.

Continued from page 1...

Ellison, who represents a ward that is heavily impacted by HERC and is a co-author of the resolution.

The proposed resolution also addresses Hennepin County's delayed response to its own resolution for a closure plan, pressing for action in alignment with the city's sustainability and equity goals. Around 40 community members, advocates and experts, including health, labor, and education leaders, provided testimony on the facility's impact.

Commenting at the hearing, Chef Lachelle Cunningham, a mother, North Minneapolis resident, business owner, and Executive Director of Frogtown Farm, had this to say:

For 35 years, HERC has emitted toxic pollutants—lead, mercury, arsenic, and PFAS—that have caused asthma, heart conditions, cancer, and more in the people living around it. These impacts cannot be ignored or minimized by reports that claim HERC's pollution is less than vehicles. HERC has been burning trash in a community that is already overburdened by pollution and public health crises. It's time for HERC to be held accountable, and the way forward is through a commitment to Zero Waste. Shutting down HERC by the end of 2025 is a crucial first step, but it cannot end there.

This isn't just about eliminating incineration; it's about creating a sustainable, equitable system where our waste management practices no longer harm vulnerable communities. Zero Waste is not just an environmental goal—it's a public health and justice issue. It's about ensuring that the most impacted communities lead the transition away from incineration, and that future decisions about waste management benefit everyone, not just a select few.

I urge you to support the closure of HERC by 2025 and to commit to a community-driven Zero Waste future for Minneapolis.

A final vote on the resolution is anticipated on October 31, after this issue of *the alley* goes to print.

The Zero Burn Coalition consists of over 50 organizations and hundreds of individuals including impacted community members, waste experts, non-profits, labor unions, businesses, and grassroots organizations. The coalition is dedicated to pursuing environmental justice for all and returning to zero waste, and is currently focused on shutting down the HERC trash burner in Minneapolis. For more information on the Zero Burn Coalition, visit: linktr.ee/zeroburn

CHARLES FREMPONG-LONGDON



Attendees overflow into the hall at a hearing on the permanent closure of Minneapolis' HERC trash incinerator.

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2438 Bloomington Av.
612-729-3526



VENTURA VILLAGE



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

Making the Pow Wow Grounds a Healing Place

The Pow Wow Grounds Coffee Shop at 1414 E. Franklin is a Franklin Avenue and Ventura Village landmark. It is also an important gathering place for the Native Community in South Minneapolis. Every summer the Four Sisters Market meets there on Thursday afternoons.

Over the years there have been several attempts to enhance the parking lot area outside the coffee shop. In 2010 a statue honoring the "Fourth Sister" (wild rice) was placed at the corner. In this photo from 2015, Felicia Wesaw is planting flowers in the garden area and the base of the statue is behind her. Unfortunately, several years later a car jumped the curb and destroyed the statue. In May of 2019 volunteers from the 24th Street Garden Coalition planted medicinal and herbal perennials around the parking lot.

This past August a healing garden was planted in the beds around the parking lot. The garden is in memory of Lillian Rice, Norby Blake, Pat Belanger, and Marlene Helgamo, four sisters of the American Indian Community who dedicated their lives to helping those around them. It was planted and is maintained by Kelly Morgan, a community resident who hopes the garden inspires those walking by. The plants were donated by the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute and the project is funded by the Ventura Village Neighborhood.



Photo by Bill Kingsbury



Shelter Expansion Update: OSCS

Progress has slowed slightly with our efforts to renovate and expand the Our Saviour's Housing Emergency Shelter located just south of 24th and Chicago. At this time we expect to move to our temporary location and begin construction in late 2024 or early 2025. Please contact Robin Stramp at robin@oscs-mn.org with any questions, or if you or a group you belong to are interested in helping with the move!

Many thanks to the Ventura Village Neighborhood Association and Phillips West Neighborhood Association for inviting us to recent meetings to share about our project. Stay tuned to social media, our website, and email newsletter for additional information. The renovation work is funded by a capital grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Article by Robin Stramp

Ventura Village News

-- The November General Membership meeting is Wednesday, November 13th, 7PM at the ICCM Life Center, 1812 Park Avenue. See our website for more information and Zoom Link.

-- The new Station Manager at KRSM is Mike Brooks. He is already a host on Saturdays at KRSM and is also the Director of Music at Urban Ventures Music Academy. Welcome!

- **Interested in serving on our board?** Our elections are in December at our annual meeting. Let us know if you're interested by November 27th. You can:
 - Email us at villageventura@gmail.com
 - Go to our website at venturavillage.org
 - Leave a voicemail at 612 - 548 - 1598
 - Talk to a current board member
 - Or mail a note to Ventura Village 1815 13th Avenue South, Mpls 55404

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

CTUL, cont.

Continued from page 1...

program in large part because it is a program shaped by the voices and participation of workers. Workers who have bravely shared their experiences and come together to collectively push for change in the industry. I am proud to stand up here today alongside those workers to endorse the BDR program.

- As an affordable housing developer, Hope knows all too well that costs are always rising, there is never enough subsidy available, and we are always being forced to look for ways to cut costs on our projects to get them finished. However, we know that we absolutely cannot cut corners when it comes to making sure the workers who build these projects – our neighbors and community members – are treated fairly, paid properly and on time, and have a voice to speak out against poor conditions. Upholding the rights and fair treatment of workers is absolutely aligned with our mission, and the BDR pro-

gram will help us ensure we are living that out in our housing development work.

Alliance Housing

Alliance Housing, 2309 Nicollet Avenue, was born out of the vision of St. Stephens' emergency shelter staff and residents who wanted to create tangible, long term housing solutions for homeless families and individuals. The organization was incorporated in 1991 and took advantage of vacant and available properties at low cost in South Minneapolis. Alliance continues to honor its history by developing housing solutions for homeless, poor and other individuals left out of market opportunities.

Editor's Note: This announcement was compiled from a CTUL press release, notes by Will Delaney, and information found on alliancehousinginc.org.



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

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



NEW 2024 Fall Survey New Nicollet Redevelopment

Prioritize the City's Investments

- Building Height
- Retail Offerings
- More Public Space
- Housing Diversity
- Office Uses
- Attract a Grocer
- Small Businesses
- Sustainability

take the survey here >



What is most important to you?
Rank Development Features



Peace House Community - A Place to Belong

Meaning What You Say

By MARTI MALTBY

I recently attended a meeting put on by the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness (MICH). As is common these days, the meeting began with a land acknowledgement, which is a statement recognizing that what is now Minnesota was and is the homeland for various Native American tribes. The wording of a land acknowledgement is up to whoever is speaking, or whoever organized the meeting. This particular acknowledgement caught my attention because of some of the language used. The statement read:

Today, as we gather virtually, it is of the utmost importance that we all recognize the land we are living and working on is stolen land from our Native American relatives. We must seek to understand our place within that history and use that understanding to work towards justice.

The first thing I noticed was the word "stolen". Of all the land acknowledgments I have heard, this is the strongest language regarding how we reached our current situation. The second thing was the word "relatives". I have gotten to attend meet-

ings hosted by the Metro Urban Indian Directors for many years, and in those meetings, any Native American is a relative of any other Native American. This makes a stark contrast to the social service world I inhabit, where we usually speak of clients. Hearing a White person refer to Native Americans as relatives felt unusual.

In theory, I see the value of this land acknowledgement. The American settlers and governments were often untrustworthy in their dealings with Native Americans, and even if we admit military conquest as a legitimate basis to claim specific land, we have to face the fact that the government did not live up to the treaties it signed with the Indigenous Peoples. The Acknowledgement recognizes this fact. Meanwhile, using the word relatives seeks to create a bond that has historically not existed, or at least been very weak.

As I said, in theory this all makes sense to me. Recognizing past wrongs and seeking a repaired relationship are both actions I agree with. In the Christian tradition of which I am a part, they are called confession and reconciliation. Unfortunately, the context in which this Acknowledgement was read undercut any of the good intentions it embodied.

First, the word "stolen" implies



Marti Maltby

a crime, for which there should either be punishment or restitution. The statement offered neither of those, despite coming from one of the governments that played a role in the "theft". True, the statement does mention "understanding our place within that history and use that understanding to work towards justice", but nothing else during the meeting made any reference to this understanding, or used it as a framework for the discussions. It would be easy to read the implication into the acknowledgement, "Yes, we took your land. But that's in the past, so let's make the best of things from now on. After all, we're one big family." To go back to the Christian tradition, we jumped from confession to reconciliation by skipping over repentance, the commitment to avoid causing the same harm in the future. Considering the history between the Native Americans and the American governments, that's a pretty big omission.

I have been thinking about the land acknowledgements lately in

Continued on page 6 ...

News You Can Use



Winter adult sports registration is open at Minneapolis Parks!

This includes:

- Volleyball
- Broomball (Outdoor)
- Hockey (Indoor and Outdoor)
- Basketball
- Pickleball
- Dodgeball

Read on for more details. If you're retired from competition but still would like to stay involved and make extra cash, sign up to be an official. We provide free training!

Questions? Call 612-230-6400 or email jnelson@minneapolis-parks.org.

See more here:



tinyurl.com/289z4c7z

Have more news to use? Drop us a line at: copydesk@alleynews.org

~~**HERE!**~~
Give to the Max is coming!

NOVEMBER 21st, 2024!

Sign up for a one-time or monthly contribution and help *the alley* keep **GIVING TO THE MAX** to the Phillips Community through community news!

givemn.org/donate/Alleynewspaper

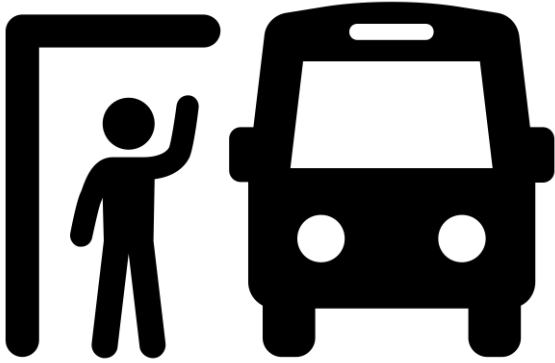


bitly

Bus Stop Guardians – The Objective is Keeping Kids Safe

What do you need? What are you willing to do?

By KALI PLIEGO, Crime Prevention Specialist



Residents of the neighborhood have been telling me what they need—someone to look out for the safety of the neighborhood children amid an opioid epidemic and unsheltered homeless crisis.

We are painfully aware of all the areas where we do not have any control, so what can we do?

Bus Stop Guardians is a program that adds protective factors on school bus routes by directing

neighborhood volunteers to take intentional walks in the morning hours.

We soft launched the program two weeks ago and are building out the details to 1. Provide uniforms for the volunteers, 2. Inform parents of the program, 3. Ensure that our volunteers are safe people to encounter children as they wait for their bus.

One volunteer has been out

walking every single morning since we began and let me know how good she feels by doing something helpful for the kiddos and their families.

Today I walked my route for the first time. It was a beautiful morning! I'm looking forward to building community with the families on my route over time.

We need more volunteers to fill out the schedule, covering the 7am and 8am hours to begin with. I am aware of buses that also run in the 6am and 9am hours, so we can be flexible with your availability!

Email kali.pliego@minneapolismn.gov (subject: **Bus Stop Guardians**) for more information.

Kali Pliego is a Crime Prevention Specialist serving the Phillips Community within the Minneapolis Police Department 3rd Precinct.

PHC, cont.

Continued from page 5...

part because they often sound hollow to me, but also because a friend challenged me recently to use a land acknowledgement of my own. I make presentations several times a year at conferences in Minnesota, and my friend, who is Native American, indicated that land acknowledgements hold a lot of value for

her and her relatives. She was surprised that I was not already including a land acknowledgement at the start of my presentations. So now I am playing with ideas on how to word my own acknowledgement. I want whatever I say to include confession, repentance and reconciliation, but doing that in a genuine way, with-

out letting it become a trite, nice sounding platitude that changes nothing, will be the challenge.

Marti Maltby is an avid cyclist, Director at Peace House Community, and an obnoxiously proud Canadian.

How a Federal Tax Credit Can Help Neighborhoods Thrive

By AMANDA THEISEN, Communications Manager at Sunrise Banks

Helping communities thrive takes a lot of resources. Innovation and creativity can't happen without people, ideas and cooperation. And progress can't happen without time, talent and commitment.

Then there's the money factor. Whether someone wants to start a business, a nonprofit wants to expand its programming, or a community wants to revitalize buildings in their neighborhood, it always takes some form of money to make that happen.

That's where a program like the New Markets Tax Credit comes in. And if you're a business owner, a nonprofit leader or a community activist working in a low-income neighborhood, low-cost financing options through the New Markets Tax Credit allocation recently awarded to Sunrise Banks may be a good fit for your project.

What is the New Markets Tax Credit program?

Launched in 2000, the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program is a federal tax credit that is designed to incentivize investment in low-income communities. Each year the U.S. Treasury, as authorized by Congress, awards \$5 billion to qualified lending institutions across the country, who in turn monetize the tax credits from those awards and provide low-cost financing in their respective communities. That financing can go to build new facilities, expand and refurbish existing buildings, help business owners open brick-and-mortar locations, and revitalize neighborhoods.

Sunrise Banks recently received a \$50 million award from the U.S. Treasury for the latest round of NMTC allocation. The bank is now inviting small businesses, nonprofits, developers, and other community development entities in low-income communities to apply to receive funding for these projects.

"Supporting customers and projects in low to moderate-income communities is a core component of how we do business," says Bryan Toft, Chief Revenue Officer at Sunrise Banks. "With this new round of NMTC allocation, we will be able to do more to be a force for good for the people we serve."

"We have been able to financially support many innovative projects and businesses throughout the Twin Cities with these types of investments," says Mary Stoick, Director of Tax Credit Lending at Sunrise Banks. "In turn, they have helped to create jobs, drive economic growth, revitalize communities and lift people out of poverty."

Which Projects are Eligible?

Projects eligible for NMTC allocation through Sunrise Banks must be located in census tracts in the five-county metro area of the Twin Cities (Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota, Anoka or Washington) that are also designated as economically distressed by the U.S. Census Bureau. They can range from large, high-profile nonprofits building a new HQ or programming space to small businesses and emerging developers buying their first buildings and launching their first projects.

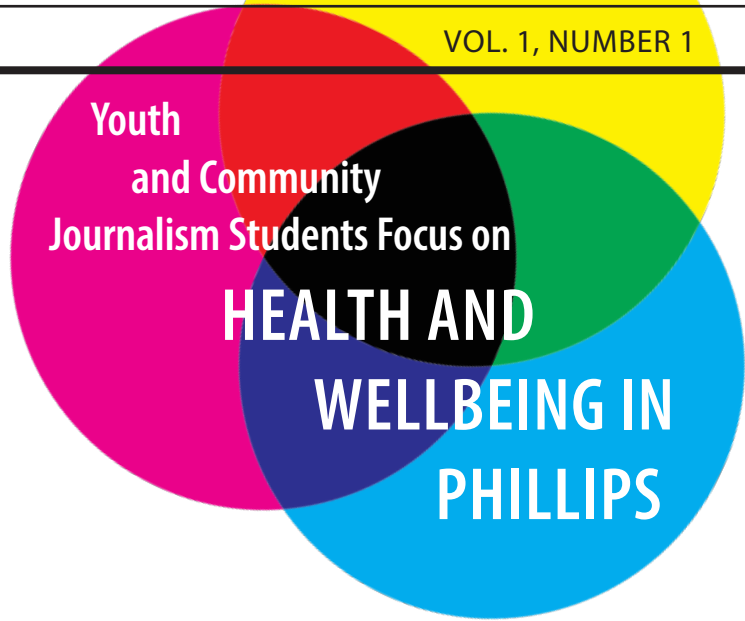
Several projects in the Phillips neighborhood and surrounding communities have benefited from NMTC allocations. They include the recent expansion and renovation of the Minneapolis American Indian Center, the refurbishing of the Historic Coliseum Building on East Lake Street, the Seward Co-op's Friendship Store expansion, and the Project for Pride in Living Career Training Center. Organizations such as the YMCA, Habitat for Humanity, Hope Academy and Junior Achievement have also received NMTC allocation for various building projects.

Stoick says Sunrise Banks has already started reviewing applications for this new round of New Markets Tax Credit allocation and welcomes additional inquiries and submissions. You can learn more about the program and fill out an application at <https://sunrisebanks.com/products-and-services/business-banking/lending/new-markets-tax-credit/>.

Member FDIC.

Amanda Theisen is the communications manager at Sunrise Banks.

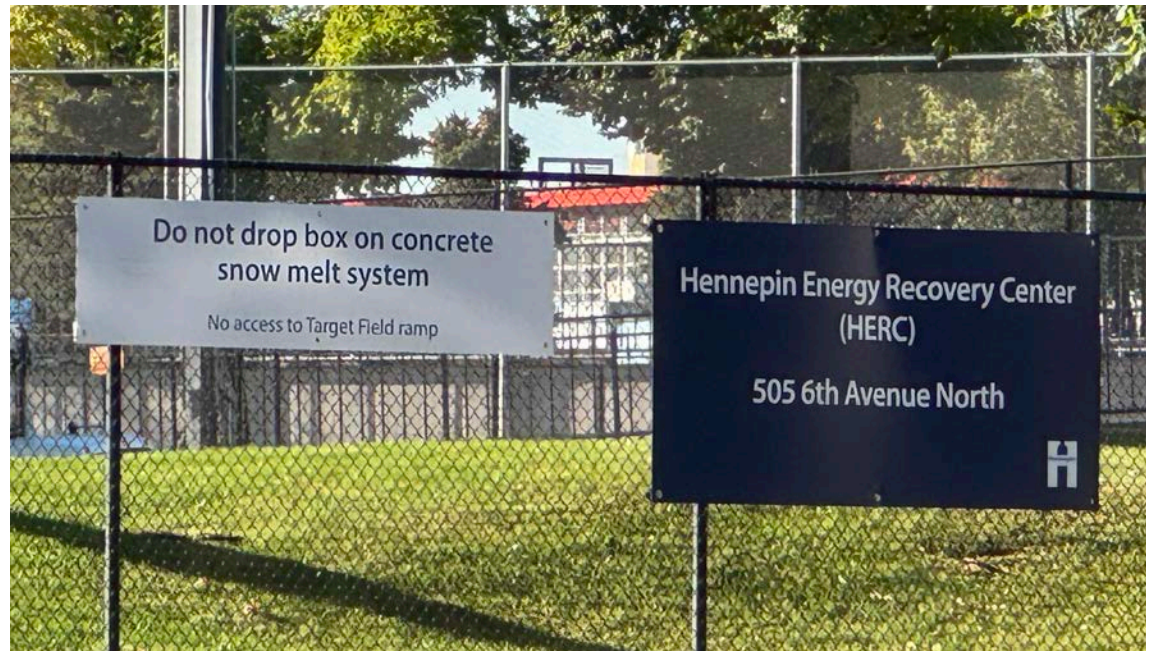




Gamechanger: Eliminating HERC Could Benefit Youth Athletics

By LEXIE PETRICK, LIZ ROSEN

CIRIEN SAADEH



Signs outside of the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center.

The Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) increases air pollution in Minneapolis. It may be leading to an increase in asthma rates in the Phillips Community because of the dangerous toxins being released from the trash that HERC burns.

Eliminating the HERC, and diminishing a major cause of air pollution in the Community, is essential for youth participation in athletics. Asthma is a major barrier to participation in athletics - and youth athletes benefit from greater physical and mental health because of their participation.

The website for the East

Phillips Neighborhood Institute (EPNI) shares many stories about community members who have suffered from the high pollution impacting Phillips.

“In the wintertime, my granddaughter was prescribed albuterol for asthma. She’s three years old. I have to hold her down so even if she’s screaming and crying, she breathes it in. I love my granddaughter with all my heart and it’s traumatizing for her, traumatizing for me,” said Nicole Mason, a Phillips Community grandmother, in one of those stories shared on the EPNI

website.

According to data shared by *MinnPost*, asthma rates among children in East Phillips Neighborhood are more than two times higher than the state average with a hospitalization rate of 15.6 per 10,000 children.

“Air pollution, particularly when talking about asthma and kids, it’s a lot higher, especially if you compare it to quieter, smaller suburbs that are not connected to a highway or where there’s not a trash incinerator,” stated Natalie Bullis, MPH, and Operations

Continued on page 10...

Letter from Journalism of Color Training Center

Dear Phillips Community -

My name is Cirien Saadeh and I am a community journalist and community journalism educator. I am also the founder of the Journalism of Color Training Center (JCTC). At the JCTC, we teach community journalism and we work with community outlets, like the alley, to make community journalism education accessible to folks at the community level.

The insert you’re about to read is a publication culminating after nearly 18 months of planning and conducting community journalism training workshops. We are SO excited for you to read it. This project came together through a partnership between the Phillips West Neighborhood Organization (PWNO), the official neighborhood organization for the Phillips West Neighborhood and community partner Alley Communications, the nonprofit and community-governed publisher of the alley, as well as JCTC.

I want to let you know what to expect.

The “community journalists-in-training” who published with us came from all walks of life - all focused on lifting up and centering the Phillips Community and its residents. Some community members came to us because they read the alley and they learned about the opportunity to receive professional-level community journalism training through workshops and mentorship. Others came to us through organizational relationships that we maintain and develop.

Our writers include residents from Phillips, others across Minneapolis, and students from St. Catherine University.

A few notes about some of the reporting you’ll see:

Community journalists-in-training had the freedom to pick and narrow down any issue important to them. JCTC worked with them, from “pitch to promotion,” to make those stories a reality.

A major piece of this training is “media literacy” and “community literacy,” and the idea that our communities have something to teach us about the media that serves them.

Students at St. Kate’s were enrolled in a “Global Search for Justice: Media Justice” course and, for that project, we brought in interviewees to class, so you will see some recurring source names.

As you read this special insert, the alley, PWNO, and I would appreciate hearing your feedback!

Write a Letter to the Editor (see page 2 of the alley for information), email copydesk@alleynews.org, or write an article and submit it by the 12th of the month for possible publication the following month.

If you would like to support this and similar efforts by the alley, JCTC, and PWNO, visit <https://alleynews.org/> and phillipswest.org to donate, volunteer, and get plugged into our community work!

As you read the paper, let me know if you’re interested in completing the community journalism certificate program that your fellow community members completed. Email me at ciriens@journalismofcolor.com.

With gratitude,
Cirien Saadeh, PhD
Journalism of Color Training Center

Why are There Tent Cities in Minneapolis? Housing in Phillips

By LINH STOEBNER

I lived through a time when I did not have shelter or food. Growing up in Vietnam through war and after the war, human needs were never met. I immigrated to America in the hope of a better future. Phillips Community was the first place I landed when I arrived in the United States. Phillips was my Community for eight years. I moved away over fifteen years ago, and many things have changed, but the housing situation hasn’t seemed to have improved.

The data shows us: many Phillips Community residents

struggle with high rent prices and housing instability, impacting their quality of life and economic security.

According to data from Minnesota Compass, from 2018-2022, 38.5% of the Community live below the poverty level. At the same time, housing is more expensive than ever.

I believe that to address housing gaps, we need to address the supply of affordable housing, implementation policies to protect current residents, and ensure that housing development is inclusive and meets the community’s diverse

needs.

In an interview with Natalie Bullis, MPH, Operations Coordinator for Pillsbury United Communities, housing and healthcare are deeply interconnected. Additionally, Bullis said that a lack of stable housing can lead to worsened physical and mental health issues, especially for those with existing disorders. Bullis also noted that unhoused individuals often struggle to access necessary resources due to systemic barriers, lack

Continued on page 9...

Thursday, December 5, 2024
Vol. 1 No. 1

the alley
PRESENTS...

ON THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF THE PHILLIPS COMMUNITY

Join Alley Communications, Journalism of Color Training Center, and Phillips West Neighborhood Organization to close out our 2023-2024 community journalism training program with a launch event on December 5th, 2024, 6pm-7:30pm at the Phillips Community Center!

FOOD! STORIES! INTERACTIVE DISPLAYS!

Meet some of the community journalism authors, add your ideas to the health and wellbeing issues lifted up in the November and December special insert editions, communicate your stories, hear from your neighbors and participate in shaping community journalism in Phillips!



THURS. DEC. 5, 2024

6:00-7:30PM

2323 11TH AVE S.
PHILLIPS COMMUNITY CENTER
(Parking available in the 11th Ave S. lot)

For more information, email us at info@phillipswest.org



Resources for Students and Families in Phillips

By ELLIE SKAJA

There are various free resources and programs available for students and families in the Phillips Community of Minneapolis, focused on addressing educational disparities in the Community. By providing access to tutoring, language support, Community programs, and online learning, these initiatives aim to support students and gain academic success within the Community.

Tutoring at the Waite House

Location: 2323 11th Avenue S.
Contact: 612-721-1681
Hours: Weekdays, 10 AM - 4 PM
Cost: Free
Details: Provides tutoring services to support students' academic needs, helping them build their confidence and academic skills.

English Language Learner Program (ELL) at Centro Guadalupano

Location: 2424 18th Ave S.
Contact: 612-767-2430 | quadcenter@gmail.com
Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Cost: Free

Details: Focuses on supporting non-native English speakers through language classes and resources. Class registration is Monday-Thursday at 9am.

Banyan Community (various programs)

Soar Program: For grades 6-8, focuses on life skills and career planning.
Aspire Program: "Intensive" high school academic support and mentoring.
Elevate Program: Community support for high school students, offering help with homework and post-secondary planning.
Location: 2529 13th Ave S.
Contact: 612-722-8512 | mail@banyancommunity.org
Cost: Free

Achieve Twin Cities

Website: www.achievetwincities.org
Contact: 612-455-1530
Cost: Free
Details: Provides one-on-one student advising, career experiences, and connections to colleges and training programs across 13 Minneapolis schools.

Brian Coyle Tutoring

Location: 420 15th Avenue S.
Contact: 612-338-5282
Hours: Weekdays, 9am-8pm

Cost: Free

Details: Offers tutoring and educational help for students, providing a supportive learning environment.

Minneapolis Public Libraries

Hours: Varies depending on location
Cost: Free
Details: Offers free access to books and public Wi-Fi, creating a quiet space for studying and resources for learning.

Minneapolis Public Schools: Kroening Play and Learn

Contact: 612-668-2127
Hours: Wednesdays, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Location: Kroening Nature Center, 4900 N. Mississippi Dr.
Details: Provides free drop-in classes for families

By taking part in these programs, students and their families can find the support they need to succeed in their educational journey.

Ellie Skaja is currently a student-athlete at St. Catherine University in St. Paul. She is majoring in nursing and playing hockey.

**Send in a Letter to the Editor (see pg. 2) if you would like to highlight more resources!*

Trash Incinerator Likely Connected to Community's Increased Asthma Rates

By KATHERINE MANDT

Minneapolis houses one of seven trash incinerators in Minnesota. The Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) incinerator is located on the edge of Downtown Minneapolis, close to North Minneapolis and the densely populated Phillips Community and other Minneapolis Communities.

Residents of these Communities have seen and lived the impacts of the HERC. They want to see the HERC shut down.

"I have a stake in getting this shutdown. I have two little kids growing up. I love to ride my bike. I have friends who come here to ride their bikes. They're breathing in all this smut. It's gotta go" said Marco Fields, a Northside resident, in an article published in the *Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder*.

A trash incinerator burns hazardous materials in a combustion chamber at high temperatures to destroy contaminants. Solid waste can take between 30 to 90 minutes, while liquid and gaseous waste can be done in 2 seconds. They emit particulate matter, lead, mercury, dioxins and furans, and other gasses.

The National Park Service states being exposed to particulate matter can have long and short term effects.

"Long-term exposures . . . have been associated with problems such as reduced lung function, development of chronic bronchitis, and even premature death."

According to MinnPost, asthma rates in the Phillips Community are 2+ times higher than the state average for asthma. But it's one that some community members may find difficult to get diagnosed.

Marcus Milani, a medical student at the University of

Continued on page 10...

CIRIEN SAADEH

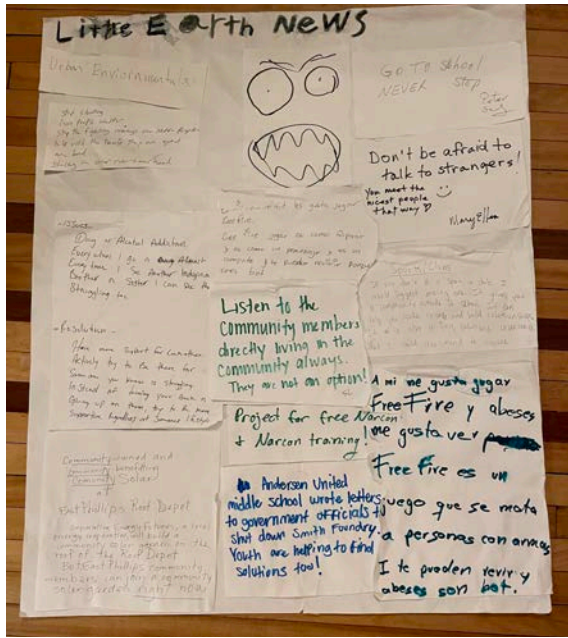


The HERC.

SPONSORED BY:



Little Earth News



The Strong Mind Strong Body Foundation's Youth Community Journalism Institute led an intergenerational community journalism project at the Harvest Moon Block Party at Cedar Field Park on September 21. These excerpts are from the resulting Little Earth News, a handwritten newspaper created by community members to celebrate victories, voices, and solutions from within the community. Learn more about Little Earth News and the Youth Journalism Institute at strongmindstrongbody.org/a-brighter-future-for-communities-everywhere.

I made a [dog] treat box for my 8th birthday. My granpa came and surprised me. He had all the tools. We started to build. And we were done by the end of the day. The next day we painted. The treat box was going to be pink and blue. It had a water bowl and a place to put the treat and many dogs came to it every day.

Sports/Clubs
If you don't do a sport or club. I would suggest joining one. It gives you a community outside of school. It can help you make friends and build relationships. It is also a fun, valuable experience that I would recommend to anyone.

Listen to the community members directly living in the community always. They are not an option!

We need love. No hate. Love makes the world go around. Be kind always. You never know what the person next to you is going through. So always be kind and love one another.

Stop shooting.
Give people shelter.
Stop the fighting among our own Native people.
Help with the tents. They are good and bad.

Tent Cities, Continued from page 7...

of technology, and a fundamental disrespect for human dignity.

At the same time, people may not realize the importance of addressing the housing crisis in Phillips Community, but they should. As well, the neighborhood is home to a significant encampment community, which has faced recent upheavals.

According to a *Star Tribune* article by Louis Krauss dated July 25, 2024, the city cleared its third encampment in East Phillips Neighborhood without notice this past summer, leaving 60 to 70 individuals without a place to go. Bullis notes that when unhoused members of the encampment are forced to leave, they are often forced to leave their belongings behind, unable to retrieve them as they were not allowed back into the area. Krauss also reported that, as of May 2024, the city has dismantled 16 encampments over the past two years. However, this approach has not alleviated homelessness.

Aside from encampments, Susan Du, another reporter with the *Minnesota Star Tribune*, reported that in 2023, over 4,000 people were turned away from the Hennepin emergency homeless shelters. Over 7,000 people were turned away in 2022.

These numbers highlight a persistent crisis that demands our attention and action.

Why do people live in tents? While everyone desires a home—a comfortable place to live—many find themselves unable to afford rent. Data from the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis shows that in 2018, half of homeless individuals in the Twin Cities earned less than \$600 per month, placing them in the poorest 5 percent of the population. In contrast, the median rent in Minneapolis is \$1,288 per month, highlighting a significant gap between income and housing costs.

Additionally, the shortage of affordable housing is exacerbated by long waiting lists.

“For affordable housing, waiting lists are the problem. Waiting lists can be years long. And there are a limited number of homeless shelters in the Community. The challenge is figuring out innovative ways to provide affordable housing to people,” said Bullis.

For our country's economic growth, communities should care about housing issues. The housing crisis in Phillips Community is not just a local issue but a reflection of systemic injustices that require urgent attention.

Reflecting on Food Access in Phillips

By ALEXANDRA NELSON

Food is something that brings us together and divides us. We all need it, yet only some have access to it.

My name is Alexandra and I am a nutrition student at St. Catherine University hoping to work in food accessibility. It is my core belief that access to nutritious food is a right that every person should have. In high school, I worked in elementary school classrooms and saw firsthand how food insecurity affects children and their families.

According to information shared by the US Department of Agriculture, many Americans suffer from food insecurity. In 2023, 14 percent of all US households were food insecure. Food insecurity is a disparate issue affecting less than 9 percent of white households in America, but nearly 22 percent of black households and 18 percent of Latinx households.

Food deserts perpetuate food insecurity - and the Phillips Community is one of those food deserts.

“There are ethnic grocery stores but Aldi is the only big one on Franklin Ave. The other closest are Target or Cub on Lake St,” said Natalie Bullis, MPH, Operations Coordinator for Community Health at Pillsbury United Communities. Bullis previously lived in Phillips Community.

In recent years, initiatives and Community organizations have been working to combat food insecurity in the surrounding area. The Waite House food shelf is one of them.



CIRIEN SAADEH

Aldi is the one large grocery store option in Phillips.

“We work with the Department of Agriculture in Minnesota and we buy all the food from farmers so it's a little more expensive [for us]. Sometimes you go to a food shelf and the food is not always fresh, so we wanted to make sure we were providing fresh food to the people getting food from us,” said Bullis.

In the past, Waite House received funding from the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota for their part in the Phillips Community Healthy Living Initiative (PCHLI). The initiative was made

up of 3 coalitions, housed out of Waite House: the 24th Street Urban Farm Coalition, the Fitness Coalition, and the Healthy Food Access Coalition. A portion of grants funded to the 24th Street Urban Farm Coalition, as part of the PCHLI, was used to fund a community garden near Waite House: Mashkiikii Gitigan, or “Medicine Garden.”

The Medicine Garden primarily grew plants that can be used for food and medicinal purposes, which differs from other typical community gardens. It is unclear whether or not the Medicine

Garden is still being tended to.

For individuals looking for resources, Waite House is located at 2323 11th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN. The food shelf is open: Mondays: 12pm - 4 pm and Tuesdays/Thursdays: 10am-12pm & 1pm - 4pm.

Alexandra Nelson is a junior at St. Catherine University and is enrolled in a media justice course. Nelson, a Nutrition student, plans to pursue her Master's Degree in Dietetics.

SPONSORED BY:



Mindfulness as a Tool

By AUTUMN YELICH

Stress has become a normal part of many of our lives yet we don't always have the tools we need to deal with it.

Mindfulness is the practice of being fully present and aware of what you're doing, feeling, or thinking in the current moment, without distraction or judgment. It's regaining control from autopilot and tuning into what's really happening in the now. We live in an extremely fast-paced world and sometimes it's difficult to relax with all these stresses and burdens, but we deserve some rest.

That's why mindfulness should be a tool that we all have in our backpocket to help bring clarity and focus to our lives.

Anyone can practice mindfulness, it's for people of all ages and backgrounds who want to reduce stress, improve focus, or enhance emotional well-being. Mindfulness can be practiced anywhere - whether you're at home, at work, outside, or even in the middle of a busy day. It's about bringing awareness to whatever you're doing.

You can practice mindfulness through techniques like mindful breathing, meditation, body scans, yoga, or simply paying attention to daily activities like eating or listening. It's about tuning into the present moment, no matter where you are or what you're doing.

Let's go through a mindful breathing exercise

- Focus on your breath: Sit

or lie down comfortably. Close your eyes and begin to notice your breath. Don't change it, just observe.

- Inhale deeply: Breathe in slowly through your nose, filling your lungs completely. Feel your chest and stomach rise as you inhale.

- Pause: Hold the breath for a moment, noticing the fullness of your lungs.

- Exhale slowly: Release the breath through your mouth or nose, letting your chest and stomach fall. Feel the tension in your body melting away with each exhale.

- Continue this pattern: Repeat for a few minutes, focusing only on your breath. If your mind wanders, gently bring it back to the sensation of breathing.

Mindfulness as a tool can help create a more just and compassionate society by encouraging awareness, empathy, and resilience in both individuals and their communities. Additionally, by promoting a sense of interconnectedness, mindfulness nurtures compassion for others, which is essential for building solidarity and collective action.

The following are all free and/or donation-based community resources to practice mindfulness:

At St. Paul's Union Depot, Yoga classes are offered as a free recurring event, Mondays



and Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 PM and Saturdays 9:00-10:00 AM. 214 4th Street East Saint Paul, MN 55101 Accessible via bus and transit.

Minnesota Zen Meditation Center offers free daily guided and unguided meditation classes over Zoom or in person. 3343 East Bde Maka Ska

Parkway Minneapolis, MN 55408 Moderately accessible via bus.

Common Ground Meditation Center offers free daily meditation, weekly yoga classes, and activities focusing on connecting the community.

2700 East 26th Street Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406 Accessible via bus.

Clouds in Water Zen Center offers weekly free and donation-based classes focused on group meditation and community building. 445 Farrington Street Saint Paul, MN 55103 Accessible via bus and transit.

At the **University of Minnesota**, you can find Mindful Mondays. These are free drop-in guided Zoom sessions that focus on practicing mindful movements and meditation, held Mondays from 12:00-1:00 PM. Please register on the University of Minnesota website: <https://csh.umn.edu/for-community/mindfulness-programs/mindful-mondays-free-drop-sessions>

Autumn Yelich is a Communication Studies major at St. Catherine University. She has lived in the Twin Cities her whole life and loves their many communities.

Asthma, cont.

Continued from page 8...

Minnesota and co-chair of the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic (PNC), explained that organizations like the PNC are unable to directly link the incinerator to high rates of asthma and allergies because they do not have access to the diagnostic equipment or have trained personnel to run the tests.

"[Asthma] is such a common condition that affects so many people but it's actually one that is quite difficult to get that official diagnosis. And insurance needs that official diagnosis to pay for medications . . . that is one of the challenges we see at our clinics," said Milani.

Community members who want to advocate for themselves and their community can call their city council person by visiting the website for the City of Minneapolis: <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/city-council/members/>.

To learn more on this topic or to get involved, Minneapolis - and Phillips Community members can check out the Zero Burn Coalition on Instagram.

Katherine Mandt is a student at St. Catherine University studying Exercise and Sports Science Pre-Physical Therapy.

Gamechanger, cont.

Continued from page 7...

Coordinator for Community Health at Pillsbury United Communities

HERC has been burning trash since 1989 and it continues to cause harm to the Community by releasing toxins into the air. According to a source with the Minnesota Environmental Justice Table (MEJT), the HERC has burned approximately 1000 tons of trash nearly every day since it first began operating. According to MEJT, the County's original plan was to shut down the 3-stack trash incinerator within 20 years of its opening.

A 2023 bonding bill from the Minnesota State Legislature incorporated language calling for Hennepin County to develop a plan to close the incinerator. The County then asked Minneapolis City Council officials to step in

after a county committee originally proposed a possible 2040-closure date. Community members have also pushed back. Critics of the HERC want to see the incinerator shut down in 2025.

Mike Ewall is the Executive Director of the Energy Justice Network and one of the contributors to The People's HERC Transition Plan, published by Zero Waste USA.

"These pollutants trigger asthma attacks, and contribute to heart attacks, strokes, cancers, birth defects, learning disabilities, and much more," said Ewall in a Feb. 22, 2024 commentary for the *Minnesota Star Tribune*.

Zero Waste USA argues that the HERC negatively impacts many, including the rising generation of youth.

This then hinders their enjoyment of athletics or other physical activities.

Marcus Milani, a doctoral student at the University of Minnesota and co-chair of the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic (PNC), shared his insights into the impacts of asthma on the community.

"I've seen kids come into Phillips Neighborhood Clinic, and they're on the soccer team or getting more active, and they're coming in with a complaint of chest pain, difficulty breathing, and that leads us to an asthma diagnosis," said Milani.

The PNC is a resource for the Community although the organization faces challenges due to being, what Milani calls, "a low-resource clinic."

Milani said that PNC offers common asthma

medications like albuterol and antihistamines but is unable to provide official testing and diagnosis. For children to receive an official asthma diagnosis, they must visit a different clinic with the proper technology. This can be difficult to obtain if the child and their family face any transportation and insurance coverage-related barriers.

Asthma is a major problem for youth athletes and while medications may treat the problem, the only long-term solution to decreasing the rates of asthma in Phillips is to cut out the causes of that air pollution, and that includes the HERC.

To learn more about this topic and get involved visit <https://linktr.ee/zeroburn>.

To advocate for yourself and your Community, Community members can contact Ward 9

Councilperson Jason Chavez by phone at 612-673-2209 or by email (jason.chavez@minneapolismn.gov).

Lexie Petrick and Liz Rosen are student-athletes at St. Catherine University and are currently enrolled in a course titled Global Search for Justice. Lexie is a senior studying Business Administration and Marketing. Liz is a junior studying Psychology and planning to pursue her Doctorate in Occupational Therapy.

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make an impact in local, community-based journalism

Time commitment: 3-5 hours a month

Email: copydesk@alleynews.org

PHILLIPS WEST

CLASE DE FORMACIÓN SOBRE DERECHOS DE INQUILINOS ¡CONOZCA SUS DERECHOS!

NOVIEMBRE 6, 2024 | 6PM-7:30PM
512 EAST 24TH STREET (RESOURCE)

¡ÚNASE A SUS VECINOS PARA UNA CONVERSACIÓN SOBRE LA VIVIENDA EN EL VECINDARIO DE PHILLIPS!

¡CONOZCA LOS NUEVOS CAMBIOS EN LOS DERECHOS DE LOS INQUILINOS, DESAHUCIOS Y MÁS!

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Does your organization have an important event or new program the Community needs to know about?

Contact businessmanager@alleynews.org to find out what it might cost to provide you space in the alley.

We would be proud to help you promote your good work!

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

FRANCIS BACON

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

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Soomaal Visual Arts Fellowship Exhibitions Through November 12

Augsburg University Gage and Christensen Galleries

2211 Riverside Avenue S
720 22nd Avenue S

Free

Soomaal House of Art and Augsburg University welcome you to two solo exhibitions featuring new work by the 2024 Soomaal Visual Arts Fellows. At the Gage Gallery, Wasima's *Growing Pains II: Expected Disappointments* delves into the dynamics of the relationship between a mother and eldest daughter. At the Christensen Gallery, Hersi's large-scale paintings explore emotional states of being that shape both memory and the present in *Tides of Tribulations: A Journey of Solace*. For more information, visit galleries.augsburg.edu.

Art and Artifact: Murals from the Minneapolis Uprising Through December 7

Katherine E. Nash Gallery Regis Center for Art (East)

405 21st Avenue S

Free

Art and Artifact: Murals from the Minneapolis Uprising, showcases murals created on boarded up windows during the 2020 unrest caused by the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police. The boards' powerful messages honored the memory of George Floyd and transformed the urban landscape into a living chronicle of a movement. As we approach the fifth year since George Floyd's murder, this exhibition encourages reflection on our present reality. For gallery hours, visit cla.umn.edu/art/galleries-public-programs/katherine-e-nash-gallery.

Going Out, Coming In: LGBTQ+ Spaces in Downtown Minneapolis

Through December 31
Quatrefoil Library
1220 E Lake Street

Free

Originally on display at the Mill City Museum, this exhibit brings to life the sights, heart, and energy of Downtown Minneapolis's LGBTQIA+ community spaces in their first decades. The exhibit immerses visitors in queer resistance, love, and community as it tracks the neighborhood's evolution from the 1940s to 2000. For more information and library hours, visit qlibrary.org or go to Quatrefoil Library's facebook page.

In Memoriam: Residents of Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Through 2025

Hennepin History Museum

2303 3rd Avenue S

Pay What You Can

Phillips' own historic Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery is the focus of this exhibit that explores the question: who do we choose to remember, and who do we choose to forget? While notable or infamous residents of the cemetery live on in history books and legends, ordinary folks or people from marginalized communities are usually lost to memory. In Memoriam shines a light on these individuals and asks what a cemetery can tell us about ourselves and our shared history with the deceased.

For exhibit dates and museum hours, visit hennepinhistory.org

Wish Work Puppet Series

Saturdays, November 2 & 9
10:30-11:30 AM
Open Eye Theater
506 E 24th Street

Suggested donation \$5 - \$10

Join Hinterhands for their fall Wish Work Series of puppetry for young audiences! On November 2, *Sam and Twink* tells the story of two members of the cozy bay underwater community, a salmon and a starfish, who love to buzz around above the water while life goes on as usual below. On November 9 *Feathers and Strings*, a delightful, amusing and eclectic showcase created by marionette puppeteer Kurt Hunter, is sure to entertain audiences of all ages!

Niimiwin: Bijiinag igo ngii-azhegiwe gaa-niimi'iding

November 7 - January 18

All My Relations Arts
1414 E Franklin Avenue

Free

Niimiwin (which translates to "Everyone Dance" in Anishinaabemowin) is an exhibition curated by 2023-24 Emerging Curators Institute fellow Josie Hoffman. Inspired by dance and powwow, *Niimiwin* is a multimedia showcase of contemporary Indigenous artists connected to Minnesota who work within the theme of kinetic movement and how it relates to the body, land, and community. The exhibition features artists from various disciplines whose work through material, process, result, and kinship embody kinetic movement within their art.

An opening reception will be held on Thursday, November 7, from 6 to 8 pm. For more information and gallery hours, visit allmyrelationsarts.org.

Voices Weaving Stories:

Marcie R. Rendon

Friday, November 8

10 - 11:15 AM

Norway House

913 E Franklin Avenue

Free

Marcie R. Rendon is an acclaimed author and playwright celebrated for powerful storytelling rooted in her Indigenous heritage. A member of the White Earth Nation, she has written several notable works which explore themes of identity, resilience, and the complexities of contemporary Indigenous life, often weaving personal and cultural narratives into her stories.

Rendon will share insights from her literary journey, discuss the importance of representation in storytelling, and explore the intersection of culture and creativity. For details, visit norwayhouse.org.

Community Meeting: Public Art and Peavey Park

Thursday, November 14

6 PM

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

2315 Chicago Avenue

Free

Community members are invited to a public meeting about the future design of the northeast corner of Peavey Park, where the city is planning to remove four mosaic tile benches that are degrading and deemed irreparable. The benches are the centerpiece of a significant public artwork known as Touchstone Plaza, which was created in the 1990s by artist Rafala Green in cross-cultural collaboration with the community.

This is the first in a series of

planned community meetings. On the agenda is a discussion of the condition of the mosaic benches, timing for removal, preservation of small portions, and next steps in creating new art. A light dinner will be served. To RSVP, call (612) 673-3006 or see the QR code shown in the city's announcement on page 13 in this issue of *the alley*.

Full Moon Puppet Show

November 14 - 16

7:30 PM

Open Eye Theatre

506 East 24th Street

\$18, or Pay What You Can

This month, Open Eye Theatre brings you a new edition of our annual *Full Moon Puppet Show*, a Twin Cities' rowdy adult puppet cabaret! Hosted by creator Liz Howls and featuring works by Lys Akerman-Frank, Brant Bollman, David Valentine, Felicia Cooper, Eva Adderley, Mackenzie Lageson & Kaden Kelsheimer, Monica Rojas, and Steve Ackerman, with music between acts by Adam Zahller's Sick Eagle. For more info and tickets, visit openeyetheatre.org/full-moon-puppet-show-2024.

2024 Naked Stages Fellows Performances

November 14 - 23

Pillsbury House + Theatre

3501 Chicago Avenue

\$5 - \$30

The PH+T Naked Stages program provides mentorship and support to early career performance artists in Minnesota. This year's performances by fellows Sarah M. Greer (*Heap Cull Gather Sow*), hal sansone (*Trans Man Gay Club Disco Fantasy*), Skye Reddy (*The Field of Three Horizons*), and Atim Opoka (*This body is a gift: Messages from the Ancestors*), highlight their personal and unique talents honed over the course of the 7-month fellowship. For information about dates, times and programs, visit pillsburyhouseandtheatre.org/naked-stages-performances-2024.



HINTERHANDS

Sam and Twink will be showing on November 2nd.



Midtown Global Market Authors & Illustrators Book Fair

Saturday, November 16

10 AM - 4 PM

Midtown Global Market

920 E Lake Street

Free

Join MGM for a day filled with books, authors, and literary fun, all

focused on books for young people. Discover new literary characters, meet talented local writers, and support the Minnesota literary community. Stop by and donate some new or gently used books or pick up fresh reading material for yourself or someone you love! Whether you're a bookworm, aspiring author, or just looking for a unique weekend activity, you won't



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The Board of Alley Communications has a seat at the table for YOU!

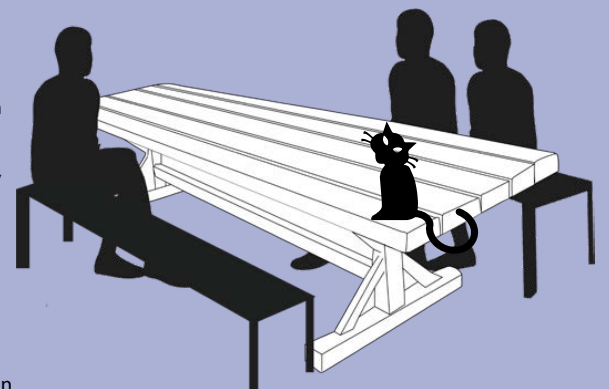
the alley newspaper is moving into its 50th year! While that is amazing news, the work of lifting the many voices of the Phillips Community to represent their own narratives needs to happen beyond the confines of a newspaper. There are so many more ways to communicate, deliberate, provoke and inform. Be a leader of that change and growth by joining the board of Alley Communications.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Attendance of one monthly 90 minute meeting
- Volunteer your available time to work on an activity you are passionate about
- Believe in collaborative governance
- Represent your cultural community and/or your people
- Cultivate new community-driven communication strategies with others

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- Build your leadership skills within collective space
- Try on new ideas or bring them to fruition
- Build your resume



Want to talk more?

Email Susan at susanannngust@gmail.com to set a time to talk together!



AMIKOGAABAWIIKWE (ADRIENNE BENJAMIN)

COURTNEY PERRY



Jingle Dressmaker: Amikogaabawiiikwe (Adrienne Benjamin), from the exhibition Niimiwin: Bijiinag igoo ingii-azhegiwe gaa-niimi'iding at All My Relations Arts through January 18



New work by 2024 Soomaal Visual Arts fellow Wasima Farah. The Fellowship exhibit is on view at Augsburg University Galleries through November 12.

want to miss this event. For inquiries on participation, please contact agreeilis@thefogm.org.

The World Votes: Global Democracy at a Crossroads
Tuesday, November 19
7 - 8:30 PM
Norway House
913 E Franklin Avenue
Free - Registration Encouraged

2024 is a historic year for elections around the world, with nearly half of humanity voting in either regional

or national elections. A program of Norway House's Minnesota Peace Initiative, this event brings together an expert panel who will provide a recap and analysis of trends seen in this historic year for democracy around the world. Join Norway House for this unique opportunity to reflect not only on elections in the United States, but around the world, following a pivotal year.

For more information, visit norwayhouse.org. To register for in person or streaming attendance, search for event 1044391642517 at eventbrite.com.

Fall Dinner: Connecting & Cultivating Community
Thursday, November 21
5 - 7 PM
Phillips Park
2323 11th Avenue S
Free

Phillips community, come join us at Phillips Park for our annual Fall Dinner in partnership with Waite House! This is a first come, first serve program. All ages are welcome; performances, kids' activities, and fun giveaways will also be featured. See you there!

Advent Procession: A Service of Lessons & Carols
Sunday, December 1
4 PM
Mount Olive Lutheran Church
3045 Chicago Avenue
Free

Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts presents its annual Advent Procession Service featuring organist Robert Buckley Farlee with the Mount Olive Cantorei and director Andrew

Stoebig. Mark the season with a solemn procession and a series of lessons and carols for Advent, and enter this season of hope in the darkest time of the year. Candles, incense and beautiful music all invite the listener to engage in this profound liturgical season.

Please visit mountolivechurch.org for more information, including a live streaming option.

PLEASE JOIN US to Plan Future Public Art for Peavey Park

November 14, 6:00 p.m.
 Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
 2315 Chicago Avenue
 A light dinner will be served

Questions? Contact Sarah.LinnesRobinson@minneapolismn.gov

Use this QR code to RSVP:



Don't have a computer? Call us: 612.673.3006.



The mosaic benches at the corner of Chicago and Franklin are known by many names: The Thrones, the Phillips Gateway, and Touchstone Plaza. Unfortunately, they have reached the end of their life and are planned to be removed in 2025. While we are saddened by the loss to the community, we also welcome the chance to breathe new life into the corner of Peavey Park and begin the process of envisioning new public art created with the community now for this area.

All are invited to this first planning meeting to discuss the condition of the mosaic benches, timing for removal, preserving small portions, and next steps in creating new art.

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats contact Sarah.LinnesRobinson@minneapolismn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-3000 or 612-673-3000. Para asistencia 612-673-3000 - Rau kev pab 612-673-3000 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3000.



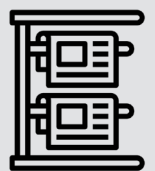
A collaborative of Minnesota artists.

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NEW LOCATION ON THE FOOD COURT!

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

Where do you want to see the alley?



Email businessmanager@alleynews.org to let us know -- or if you are a business that would like to host a bulk drop!

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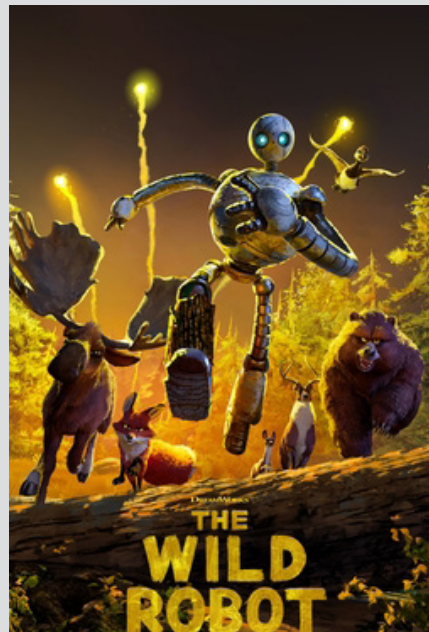
Movie Corner

The Wild Robot (2024)



Animation/Adventure
DreamWorks Animation

By HOWARD MCQUITTER II



DreamWorks Animation

The Wild Robot

Cast: Lupita Nyong'o (Roz), Pedro Pascal (Fink), Kit Connor (Brightbill), Bill Nighy (Longneck), Stephanie Hsu (Vontra), Matt Berry (Paddler), Ving Rhames (Thunderbolt), Mark Hamill (Thorn), Catherine O' Hara (Pinktail)

Director: Chris Sanders.

Cinematography: Chris Stover.

Original Music: Kris Bowers.

Art Direction: Ritchie Sacilioc.

Running time: 101 minutes. **Rated PG.**

Although *The Wild Robot* may be touted as just an animation-adventure film by some people, the film is truly a grand human-interest story. Beyond the impressive visuals, the storyline itself is a remarkable piece of work that can be both intriguing to children and

adults alike. *The Wild Robot* is based on a kids' book by Peter Brown.

Very early in the film a robot known as 7134 (Lupita Nyong'o) accidentally crashes on an unknown and uninhabited island. The robot's programming is



Howard McQuitter II

jammed up and destroyed because of the crash. We soon learn the robot's name is Roz as she wanders into uncharted territory. She sees a goose's nest with broken eggs all except for one. Soon that egg hatches and a cute little gosling emerges. Roz adopts Brightbill (Kit Connor) and protects him from natural enemies such as seagulls, wolverines, foxes, possums, and even from other geeloes.

Fink (Pedro Pascal), a fox, initially has sights on Brightbill for a meal, but is thwarted by the very protective Roz. Fink joins Roz to protect and teach Brightbill (including how to fly). Later Roz, followed by her surrogate son Brightbill, will be heroes for all the other animals on the island. Director Chris Sanders' *The Wild Robot* is a tribute to motherhood, acceptance, kindness, and diligence. The voices Nyong'o, Nighy, Connor, Hsu, Hamill, Rhames, O' Hara, and Berry are all marvelous.

Howard McQuitter II is a long-time movie critic. He has been reviewing movies for the alley since 2002.

Raise Your Voice Tax Fairness Matters!

By PETER MOLENAAR



Peter Molenaar

From the most recent post from Americans for Tax Fairness coalition*: "The numbers don't lie, but corporations sure do... that's why we just released a damning new report that pulls back the curtain on 12 of America's largest corporations, exposing a web of tax dodging, executive excess, and worker exploitation."

How then is it possible that many of us regular folks live in MAGA land?

Our East African immigrant neighbors are a wiser lot, many having been recruited to work for Amazon. Indeed, over a five-year span, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos—earning \$3.5 M per hour—watched his personal fortune increase by \$115 billion, while wages inched up to the "scrape-by level".

Yet, one worker I contacted while phone banking from the Labor Centre stated: "I remain on the fence!" I expect, sooner or later, our overheated planet will blow him off!

Sadly, over the same five years, Boeing aircraft company received \$2.6 billion in tax refunds, while raking in \$148 billion from U.S. Defense

Department contracts. In other words, workers' wages are taxed to facilitate "never ending" wars, along with the associated expenditure of metal which is desperately needed for geothermal heating and cooling systems.

Does anyone shop at Walmart? Did Walmart pass on its estimated \$121.3 billion in tax savings to consumers? Truth is: Walmart jacked up prices by 100% on some items.

Question: What is the opposite of artificial intelligence?

Dear neighbors, we stand on the brink now. Will we elect a self-serving dictator, or will we elect a more liberal expression of capitalism for the time being? Whatever the outcome, public ownership of the means of production is our future... don't you think?

*Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF) is a diverse campaign of more than 420 national, state and local endorsing organizations united in support of a fair tax system that works for all Americans. It has come together based on the belief that the country needs comprehensive, progressive tax reform that results in greater revenue to meet our growing needs. This requires big corporations and the wealthy to pay their fair share in taxes, not to live by their own set of rules. ATF is a project of the New Venture Fund – a section 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Peter Molenaar advocates a broad united-front, even as he describes socialism as the future solution.

A Night in a Walless Church

Seeing AriDy Nox's *A Walless Church* at Pillsbury House + Theatre

By MATTIE WONG

We almost didn't go. Hours before the show we received horrifying news about a friend - the kind of news that starts your ears ringing and you can't feel your body in the world anymore. We talked on the phone, and we both said we absolutely could not make it. But we spoke a bit longer, circled back, and knew that our friend was as safe as they could be at the moment, and there was nothing either of us could do. Our options were: a) stay at home and let the grief bounce off the walls of our living rooms, or b) go to the show, because, for at least tonight, nothing else could be done.

So that's how we showed up at the show, a fresh grief webbing between us, not really knowing exactly why we were there, that night. We entered the theater, the stage condensed to a smaller raised circle with the godlings Oru, Nona, and Mo preparing to create a God. The process is simple enough - they merely have

to collect a pure emotion (but 'pure' really isn't the right word, Oru will admit), a shared intention, and a conduit. They explore and embody various relationships between mortal black women, interpersonal conflicts with seemingly no solutions - certainly feeling like there was nothing shared, or 'pure'. The walls of their world grow thin, and the Godlings realize that on top of their troubles, they are on a time limit, otherwise the two worlds, mortal and immortal, would bleed into each other with unknown, devastating consequences.

My friend and I felt the walls thin. We sat there, entranced by the play and the story, and occasionally would put our heads in our hands as another wave of horror swept through us from the world outside the theater. Sometimes the lines of the play would bleed over to our subconscious thoughts, addressing our very specific sadness, as if they knew. "There are many ways to create God," the

Godlings would tell the audience, explaining how mortals create Gods all the time, unintentionally, and recklessly. Regret is a very strong God-creating emotion, and so is Grief. The Godlings revisit their mortals, diving deeper into each situation, and slowly uncover that the things that seemed so binary were much closer to gray, a melding of the fullness and bigness of each conflict.

The set itself was beautifully designed, each detail evoking a shared memory, down to a plastic couch cover that most of us will remember from some older relative's home. Lighting and sound helped move us between the worlds, even as the stage remained set. Aimee K. Bryant, Nubia Monks, and Essence Renae who play Oru, Nona, and Mo, respectively, each expertly navigate the shifts in character and mannerisms to help us distinguish which mortal they are embodying at which time....even when the mortals start sticking around in the



PILLSBURY HOUSE

AriDy Nox's *A Walless Church*, featuring Nubia Monks, Essence Renae, and Aimee K. Bryant, ran through October 13th at Pillsbury House Theatre.

immortal world.

Our personal grief never left us that night, but we stepped into a space where grief can be shared and honored among all its iterations, that the Gods we create, even haphazardly, are here, in this world, moving and guiding us.

*A *Walless Church* concluded at Pillsbury House + Theatre on October 13th. Follow Pillsbury House +

Theatre for more shows coming up, and a huge congrats to AriDy Nox and the team behind the production.

Mattie Wong is the editorial layout coordinator for the alley. She has been connected to the Phillips Community for many years through various jobs, projects, and community events.



How to submit to the alley

1. Find and write about a topic relevant to the Phillips Community.
2. Stick to these general rules: 500 words for an opinion piece and up to 700 for a feature piece, and no profanity or harm!

accepted submissions: photos, neighborhood news, feature articles, interviews, profiles, fiction, cartoons, opinions, artwork, poetry

3. Ask a friend to proof-read!
4. Send in your article, any images, permissions, and captions, in their final and best form to copydesk@alleynews.org by 5pm SHARP on the 12th of the month!

5. Copydesk may follow up with clarifications, any image issues, etc.
6. The Editorial Leadership Committee selects what goes in *the alley* each month. Articles may be edited for length and clarity; news and stories that focus on Phillips and are timely will be prioritized!

Resilient Cities & Communities
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RSVP  **Nov 12, 6-8pm at East Phillips Park Center**

Learn more about municipal resources available to you like:

- How to Lower Your Energy Bills
- What care do trees need during winter?
- What to do if you there's asthma at home
- Monitor air quality around you
- Retrofit your home
- Learn how to become a block connector, and much more!

**** Food and drinks will be serve****

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE IN THE PHILLIPS COMMUNITY?

The alley was out basking in the sun with neighbors at Stewart Park for the Phillips Clean Sweep Resource Fair on October 19th. It was an energetic day - food, music, information, and inspiration were shared by all! We asked people to name one of their favorite places in Phillips, here's what we heard:



- Little Earth - Margaret
- Stewart Park - Israel
- My House in Phillips - Rohan
- Venture bike shop!
- What I like in the Phillips Community is the thrift store - Christina
- Swedish Institute basement - Vivian M H.
- Phillips Community Center swimming pool - Molly
- Midtown Global Market - Karen
- Vincent de Paul Thrift Store - Marie and Brian
- Cedar Field - Maya
- Lake Street is my favorite place - Laura
- My house on 27th and 17th - Rose
- Stewart Park. The kids can come and play! - Judith

Is there a place in the Phillips Community that is special to you? Why not send your thoughts to us to share in *the alley*? Submissions can be sent to copydesk@alleynews.org.

Dave Moore & Linnea Hadaway have lived here since the Reagan 80s and became life partners while originating the cartoon series "Spirit of Phillips."

POETRY

Campfire of North Woods

By OWEN SAARINEN

The campfire knows
 the rotten log,
 the bending stick, the
 meal maker's hands on
 a pile of dew-dropped
 kindling. Like a fussy
 baby, she won't eat. He nimbly
 crafts the cabin, then the teepee,
 then the ring is cleared,
 and finally, the touch
 is made from birchbark to
 sultry wood that starts
 to hiss. In momentary joy,
 the tender allows his creation
 to sputter freely, coaxing
 air into the concentrated
 flame and ember.

Both know the game, and he
 must spoon feed the driest
 brush or the agreement
 will not hold. The fire to
 crackle to life; the pot to
 boil on a stable grate of wood;
 the flames to lick high; to be
 satisfied, satisfied, yes

Cooking on the fire is beans and
 rice and water for tea.
 Nothing better than black night and
 warmed cheeks and knees.
 The spoon clinks and another stick is fed.
 Cleaned pot, ashes
 stomped, now it's time for bed.

DON'T BE A TURKEY -- VOTE !

WILL BE WILD!

MOORE HADAWAY

(your prize is a colored turkey)

THIS MONTH IN EAST PHILLIPS & MIDTOWN...

SMITH FOUNDRY HAS CLOSED, WHAT NEXT?

On August 26, the Phillips community and its allies achieved a remarkable victory by shutting down Smith Foundry. For too long, our capitalist system has led us to believe that community-led projects, initiatives, and assets are beyond the reach of poor and middle-class residents. The East Phillips Neighborhood Institute (EPNI) has shattered that misconception.

Across from the future site of our indoor urban farm, business hub, community space, and sustainable building, we have a golden opportunity to transform toxic buildings and contaminated land into vibrant, much-needed community assets. We believe that with a clear vision, we can unite partners and secure funding to turn our dreams into reality.

We invite you to take a moment to walk, drive, or bike past Smith Foundry and Bituminous Roadways. Picture what you would like to see in this space—don't be afraid to dream big! Once you've envisioned the possibilities, please take five minutes to share your thoughts by filling out the survey linked to the QR code below. Your voice is our future!

**WHAT IS YOUR VISION
FOR SMITH FOUNDRY /
BITUMINOUS ROADWAYS?
FILL ME OUT!**



EPIC AND MPNAI POTENTIAL MERGER

Please visit unitedphillips.org/merger to get up to date on how EPIC/MPNAI have been collaborating and why we are thinking about merging organizations.

Please submit your feedback about a potential merger between EPIC/MPNAI on our website.

GET UP TO 14K THROUGH THE GREEN COST SHARE PROGRAM



If you live in the South Side green zone in a single family home or 2-4 unit building, you are eligible for a \$14,000 dollar rebate for energy efficiency upgrades. If you already have upgraded (in the last 60 days) or plan on upgrading attic insulation + air sealing, wall insulation, air source heat pump (mini split), air source heat pump (central), furnace, or boiler, before December 15th you can get \$14K of it paid for!

Please visit unitedphillips.org/energy for more information.

**DO YOU HAVE A PROJECT THAT YOU WOULD
LIKE SUPPORT ON? REACH OUT TO US!**



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