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|--------|------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| INSIDE | THIS | ISSUE! | | | | | | | |
|--------|------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 2 METRO TRANSIT CHANGES | 5 BREAKING NEWS FROM HOBT | 6 ALLEY ARCHIVES: TOUCHSTONE PLAZA | 15 BANNER OVER HIAWATHA | 16 EPIC + MPNAI POTENTIAL MERGER |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|

the beat COMMUNITY JOURNALISM IN ACTION | VOL. 2 PGS 7-10

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Consequences of War on Russian-Speaking Community

Part 1 of 4

By ALENA DOBRIAKOVA, Community Journalist-In-Training

War brings destruction, loss of loved ones, and cultural conflicts between people who were once like one family. In the context of the ongoing war, the internal experiences of Russian-speaking immigrants have become more acute. These people are stuck between cultures, facing feelings of guilt, fear, and isolation.

I interviewed Russian and Ukrainian immigrants to explore how their lives have changed since the war began. The main focus of the interview is on the consequences of the conflict in an emotional, social and cultural sense, including internal conflict of identity, attitudes toward the dynamics of the society in which we live at the moment, and how people cope with the complexities of war.

To protect the identities of the individuals I interviewed, I have chosen not to use their full names, ensuring their privacy while sharing their experiences. K left Ukraine before the war began, L is a Russian immigrant who came to the U.S. after the war started, G has lived in the U.S. since 2017

and is now a citizen but originally from Ukraine, and A was born in the U.S. but spent most of her life in Russia. Each of them offers a unique perspective on how the war has affected their lives and identities.

EDITOR'S NOTE - Due to the original length of the article and gravity of the topic being discussed, we have chosen to break the story up into smaller segments to publish through the next 4 months.

How has your life changed since the start of the war?

K: Well, since I left the country before the beginning of the war, I was already safe. I can't say that it was me who was affected, but my family was very affected. My whole family moved and, accordingly, we cannot return to Ukraine. I can't say that my life after the war has changed in a bad way at the moment, but, unfortunately, I would like to return to Kyiv now, at least for a while, but I can't do it.

L: Surprisingly, for the better. I started earning more after the war.

G: As soon as the war began, I fell into a state of mild depression for about 6 months. I didn't have the motivation to do my daily chores. I stopped studying. I just lay at home and was glued to the monitor, monitoring the situation on the Internet, because I didn't have any other options. I subscribed to various telegram channels and mostly extracted information from them. I was very worried and confused, so to speak. Over time, this state of mind passed, and I began to react more soberly to various life situations, and I became more motivated to do things myself, and not to waste my time and worry about every event.

A: The biggest thing for me is that I can't fly directly to Russia, and for a long time my parents could not come to America, because all the visa centers were closed. In fact, life has not

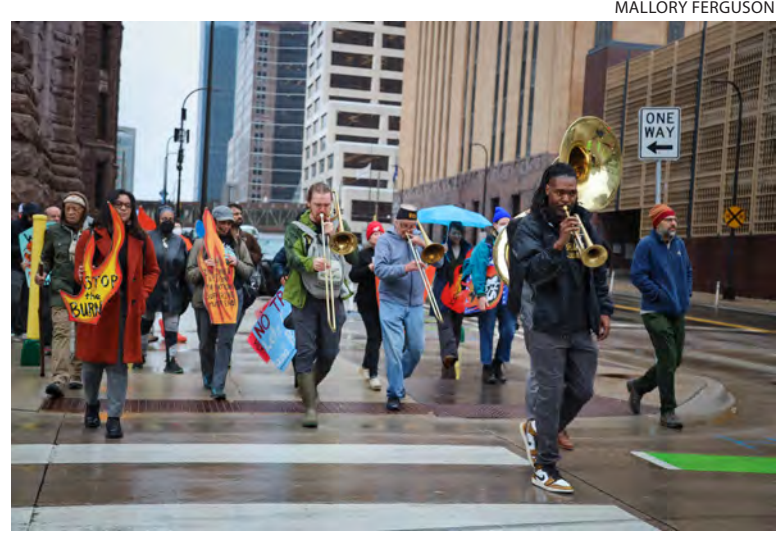
Continued on page 4...

HERC Closer to Closing Down?

By ZERO BURN COALITION

On November 7, 2024 Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, joined by City Council Members, Representative Frank Hornstein, and local environmental advocates, signed a resolution urging the permanent closure of the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) trash burner located in downtown Minneapolis by 2027. The resolution to close HERC unanimously passed the Minneapolis City Council a week prior. As part of its ambitious Zero Waste Plan, the City has set a goal to recycle or compost 80% of its waste by 2030.

The HERC incinerator, which processes up to 1,000 tons of waste daily, is the largest industrial air polluter in Hennepin County. In recent years, it has faced increasing scrutiny from community and environmental justice groups for its disproportionate impact on nearby low-income neighborhoods and communities of color. Only 22% of what is burned at HERC comes from Minneapolis residents, according to the resolution, and Minneapolis is a state leader in the movement



Brass Solidarity leading a march from the morning rally to the City Council meeting.

towards zero waste. Meanwhile, many suburbs without zero waste plans and with much higher waste generation per capita send their trash to HERC. Yet Minneapolis has prioritized greatly reducing city waste going to HERC and building a circular system focused on recycling, composting, and reusables. This resolution is being passed on the heels of Oregon and California entering the process of shutting down their last incinerator, and Detroit shut down its incinerator back in 2019.

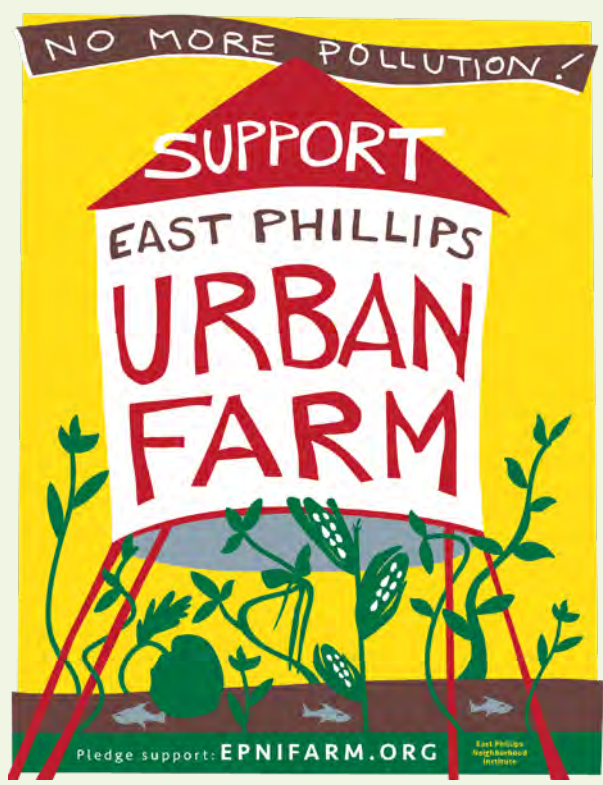
Community leaders from the Minnesota Environmental Justice Table joined the call to action, emphasizing the importance of this transition for Minneapolis neighborhoods impacted by air pollution and environmental injustice.

"HERC hides the waste problem. Propaganda like

Continued on page 2 ...

Four Things to Know About the East Phillips Urban Farm Project this December

By EAST PHILLIPS NEIGHBORHOOD INSTITUTE



- Meet EPNI at **the alley's** celebration on December 5th to learn about the history and future of the Roof Depot site
- December Community Meeting: Learn about rainwater recycling and help design a rainwater collection system for the Roof Depot site, details on EPNI's calendar at epnifarm.org/events (rescheduled from November)
- EPNI has a weekly public Zoom call every Wednesday from 5-6pm - hope to see you there sometime! (See EPNI's calendar for the Zoom link.)
- Check out the recently launched "View from the Future" poster series, made by local artists and East Phillip community members at epnifarm.org/art
- Learn more and get in touch online at linktr.ee/epnifarm

Ingebretsen's Gift Shop Turns 50!

Submitted by INGEBRETSEN'S

This year the Ingebretsen's Gift Shop celebrates its 50th birthday. Julie Ingebretsen started running a small counter with just a few imported gifts alongside the well known Meat Market and Deli in 1974 and has built the store into one of the most respected Nordic import and gift stores in the country. The combination of the traditional food at the Deli (opened by Charles Ingebretsen - a Swedish immigrant to the Midwest - in 1921!) and imported gifts and home goods for sale makes Ingebretsen's a source for the local community to find connection with Scandinavian culture.

Ingebretsen's is one of the last stores still standing from the early 20th century era of "snoose bou-

levard," a hub of Scandinavian American activity. The street remains a corridor where immigrant businesses can get their start and contribute to a multicultural fabric of Minneapolis. Christmas is the time of year that brings the Scandinavians in the Twin Cities out in droves. Beginning after Thanksgiving you will often see a line of shoppers waiting outside Ingebretsen's to get their Christmas presents and traditional holiday foods. We hope you can find a time to visit!

Quote from Julie Ingebretsen, "My favorite part of my experience has been the feeling of creating something. It took me a long time to figure that out. That's

Continued on page 6 ...

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

December contributors to the alley:

All My Relations Arts, Anonymous, Steve Dreyer, Alena Dobriakova, East Phillips Neighborhood Institute, Mallory Ferguson, Autumn Fitzsimmons, Linnea Hadaway, Hennepin History Museum, Emma Hess, Ari Baum-Holmes, Laura Hulscher, Sue Hunter Weir, In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, Ryana Holt, Ingebretsen's, Katherine E. Nash Gallery, Makayla Klimek, Marti Maltby, Precious Matlock, Howard McQuitter II, Midtown Global Market, CeCe Miller, Minneapolis American Indian Center, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Kaylee Miron, Peter Molenaar, Dave Moore, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Sarah Musgrave, Carla Parker, Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, Quarter Gallery, Radicle Land Collective, Jake Ryan, Ciriën Saadeh, Ava Scherer, Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts, Somali Museum of Minnesota, Two Rivers Gallery, Kyra Venna, Ventura Village Neighborhood Organization, John Charles Wilson, Mattie Wong, Working Title Films, Kayla Yang, Maddie Young, Zero Burn Coalition

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the alley is delivered to homes, businesses, places of worship, institutions in Phillips and in nine adjacent neighborhoods.

Board meetings: 6:30 PM 2nd Tuesday by Zoom. Editorial Leadership Team 2nd Wednesday 8:30 -10:00am, 4th Thursday 6:30-8pm by Zoom.

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.

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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 November 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 Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25 for Christmas, and will close at 5 PM on Tuesday, December 31 for New Years Eve.

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, engineering, 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

BINGO

Wednesday, December 4, 5:00-6:30 PM

Join us for this fun community event playing BINGO! Drop in or stay the whole time.

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, December 11, 12:30-2 PM

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

HIV TESTING WITH RED DOOR CLINIC

Thursday, December 12, 12-2 PM

Drop in and meet with Red Door Clinic for free, private Rapid HIV testing. Learn about HIV prevention and care, get help connecting to treatment and medical services, and pick up harm reduction supplies. No registration required. Collaborator: Red Door Clinic



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!

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.

HERC, cont.

Continued from page 1...

"waste-to-energy" and cherry-picked or manipulated facts confuse people. Hennepin County is wasting precious time, resources, and political will defending, lobbying for, operating, and repairing the aging HERC—more than \$40 million per year; when instead we need this wealthy county to support a total societal mobilization to reduce waste. Because we know waste in rich countries underpins the climate emergency. This is our chance to start doing things differently," said Nazir Khan, Executive Director of the MN EJ Table. "We commend the Mayor and City Council for their leadership in pushing for

a HERC shutdown. Now it's time for the county to be transparent and commit to working with the community to get the HERC shut down."

Minneapolis officials and environmental advocates are urging Hennepin County to commit to a firm timeline for HERC's closure and to collaborate on innovative, sustainable waste solutions that center on community health and climate action. It remains to be seen how Hennepin County will respond. The city's proposed zero-waste initiatives are projected to significantly reduce waste, create thousands of local jobs, and improve air quality, moving Minneapolis closer to a sustainable and equitable future.

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.

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. For more information on the Zero Burn Coalition, visit: <https://linktr.ee/zeroburn>

Look on Page 11 for a resource about environmental injustices around the Twin Cities, compiled by the Zero Burn Coalition.



Our Taxes At Work

By JOHN CHARLES WILSON

On October 1, 2023, sales tax in the Twin Cities metro area went up by 0.75% for transportation. 17% of that revenue goes to the individual counties, while 83% goes to the Metropolitan Council. Of the Council's share, 95% is for transit, while 5% is for walking and biking infrastructure. Officials estimate that \$433 million will go to transit in 2024. This may sound inconsequential to some, but that \$433 million is already making a difference.

That extra nickel or dime on your next fast food meal will continue to bring transit improvements over the next few years. Transit officials will implement schedule improvements on December 7, 2024. Here is a list of changes affecting the alley readership area:

- The D Line and Routes 2, 5, 21, and 22 will have schedule adjustments to reflect the end of summer construction.
- The Orange Line will run every 10 minutes during weekday rush hours, and every 15 minutes instead of

every half hour in the early mornings and evenings on weekdays, and all day on weekends. Service will run 4:30 AM to midnight every day, instead of 5 AM to 11 PM on weekdays, and 6 AM to 10 PM on Saturdays, and 7 AM to 10 PM on Sundays.

- Route 67 will have time adjustments for construction in downtown Saint Paul.
- Route 578 will now run three AM and three PM rush hour trips. instead of one AM and two PM trips.

More improvements are in the works over the next three years; this is just the beginning. This is all part of the Network Now program being rolled out. Keep up with Metro Transit changes by reading the alley, or by checking out the glorious Metro Transit website at www.metro-transit.org.

John Charles Wilson is a transit enthusiast who has been interested in this field since the 1970s.



Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery

By SUE HUNTER WEIR
229TH IN A SERIES

HENNEPIN HISTORY MUSEUM

We Are So Honored

SARAH MUSGRAVE

Where to begin? October 2024 was one of the most exciting months in the Cemetery's recent history. People, some born almost 200 years ago, finally received the recognition that they deserve for their bravery and resilience. There were three major events, each worthy of its own Cemetery Tale and those will appear in future issues of *the alley*. In the meantime...

Cemetery as Classroom

On October 12, 2024, the Cemetery served as a classroom. Rethos and Northern Bedrock offered a class on marker restoration and repair. There were two sections of the class. The first was reserved for the Minneapolis Chapter of Wounded Warriors and the second for members of the general public who are interested in learning how to make sure that some of our fragile markers last for many more years. One of the markers that was restored belongs to Solomon Hare, an African-American Civil War veteran and Buffalo Soldier. His four-foot tall-marker, which was likely set around 1900, was reset and stabilized. Mr. Hare was born in Virginia in the 1840s, and was, most likely, enslaved. Mr. Hare died on October 10, 1898. Attendees also cleaned lichen and soot from more than a dozen other markers.



Northern Bedrock staff resetting and stabilizing the marker of Solomon Hare, African-American Civil War veteran and Buffalo Soldier.

Cemetery on Exhibit

On October 19, 2024, *In Memoriam: Residents of Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery*, an exhibit at the Hennepin History Museum opened. The exhibit is stunningly beautiful and captures the essence of the Cemetery's 170-year history through text, photos, and artifacts. It highlights not only the history of the Cemetery and its 22,000 residents but also the Cemetery as a green space and a community gathering place. The exhibit will run until sometime next year and is well worth seeing. The Museum is open from 10 to 3 on Thursdays and Fridays and from 10 to 5 on Saturdays. There is no entrance fee but donations are always welcome.

Cemetery Listed

And last, on October 25th, we received word that the Cemetery

has been listed on the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. It is only the second site in Minnesota to receive this honor. (The other is Pilgrim Baptist Church in St. Paul). The designation acknowledges the bravery and courage of those who fled from slavery in search of their freedom.

We have so many people to thank. Elyse Hill of Hill Research, who specialized in African-American genealogy, and is passionate about telling the stories of freedom seekers and African-American veterans. She nominated the Cemetery for the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom—a very big honor. It has been a pleasure to work with her and the work will continue as we try to identify and tell the stories of all of the African-Americans who are buried in the Cemetery.

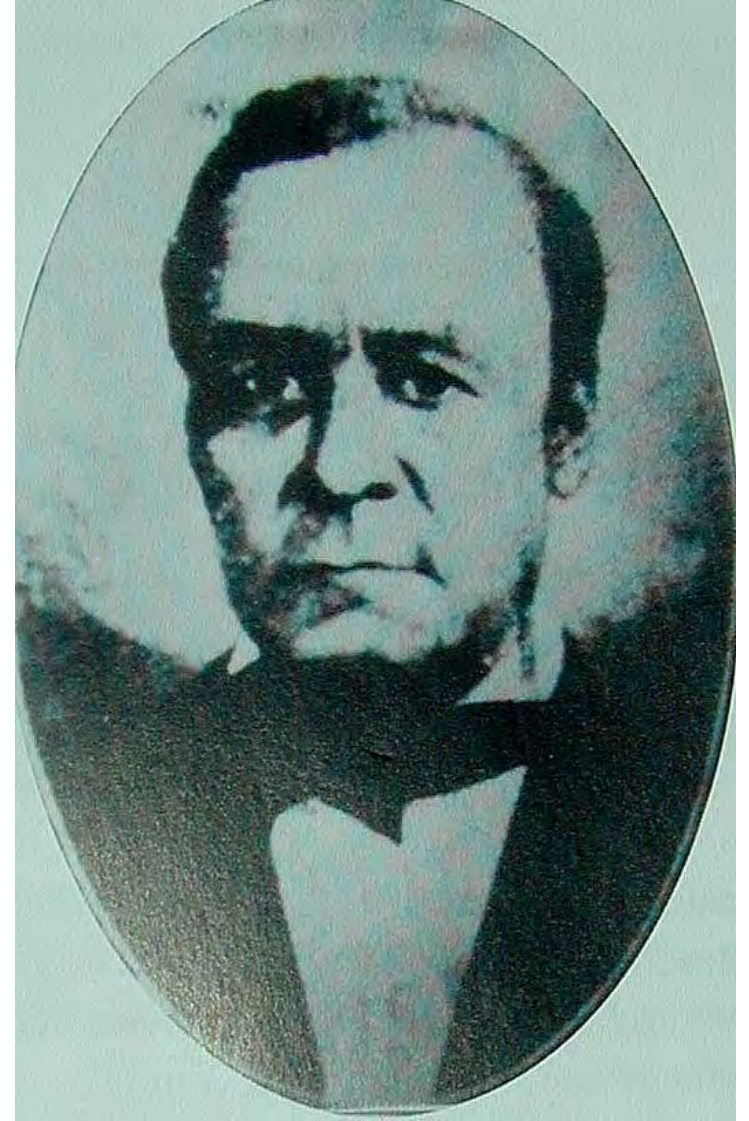
The exhibit at the Hennepin History Museum was curated by Alyssa Thiede. Her thoughtful telling of the Cemetery's story and some of its many residents is inspiring. The exhibit features

photography by Tim McCall, one of our long-term volunteers, who has captured the Cemetery's history over the past 20 years in thousands of photographs. And, thanks to the staff and Board of the Museum for giving us this wonderful opportunity to share the stories of our residents.

Thanks also to the Wounded Warriors, Emily Noyes, Erin Hanafin Berg, Laura Leppink and others from Rethos and Northern Bedrock for helping us to preserve this amazing space and to protect the stories that it holds.

And to our volunteers from Friends of the Cemetery and to *the alley* for always being there, thank you. We couldn't do it without you.

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.



William Goodridge ran the Underground Railroad from York, Pennsylvania to Philadelphia before the Civil War.

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



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Hope Community Celebrates 20 Years of Power of Vision

This year Hope Community is celebrating 20 years of its Power of Vision Mural Project (POV). The most recent event commemorating the anniversary was a Film Screening on October 28th. Six short films on POV projects and their production from 2011 through 2021 were shown.

Moderator Jessica Lopez Lyman and panelists Chaka Mkali, Olivia Levins Holden, Magdalena Kaluza, and Rodrigo Juarez then led the discussion of facilitating a mural. The films highlighted the program's intentional process in centering the communities dreams, ideas and concerns in a mural. The panelists spoke of the important balance of muralism for community voice and not just a tool of gentrification.

The audience asked questions and responded to the films. With over 30 murals in Phillips and the surrounding area, the program has made its mark over the years on the physical landscape, the muralism culture in the Twin Cities, and been a leader of public art in the community.

For films, images of murals, and a map of POV murals, visit <https://hope-community.org/learn-lead-act/power-of-vision-mural-project/> - Article by Ryana Holt



Ventura Village Happenings

1) **Join us for our end of the year annual membership meeting**, Wednesday December 11th, 7 PM at the ICCM Life Center, 1812 Park Avenue. We will be serving refreshments, electing board members, reviewing this past year, and looking at what's ahead in 2025. You can also join by Zoom by going to our website for the link.

2) **Last summer Waite House involved over 75 youth in their paid internship programs.** This fall they have started a new internship involving other neighborhood organizations. Here is a report from Food Systems Youth Program Facilitator CeCe Miller:

Pillsbury United Communities is excited to be starting a Culinary Arts and Media Internship at Waite House! We recognized the inclination that young people have to pursue a variety of their interests. With this internship young people can explore food, media, and activism all in one spot. Our cohort is made up of 8 high schoolers from the Twin Cities. It started in the fall and will continue into the spring. Students will be preparing food and cooking as a group, while also exploring the various ways that media exists around them. These activities help to build practical life skills and be creative, thinking abstractly about the connection between food and storytelling. Additionally, as a group the students will be volunteering with Open Arms to further work on their cooking skills and support their community.

3) **Chuck Stately has seen the original Minneapolis American Indian Center (MAIC)** and the new Center opened this year from a different vantage point than most people. Since 1987 he has worked there as the maintenance supervisor and onsite boiler engineer.

For some 37 years Chuck has been responsible for opening the building every day. The building has been described as the "living room" of the South Minneapolis Native Community. He has set up for pow wows, bingo, funerals and all the other activities held at the building over the years.

On October 25th, his last day, he was presented with a plaque from Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan proclaiming that day Charles "Chuck" Stately Day. His nephew, also Charles "Chuck" Stately is still at the MAIC as the proprietor of the Woodland Indian Craft Store. Thank you for your service!

**Make a difference!
Become a member
Join our Board**

War, cont.

Continued from page 1...

changed so much, just some kind of negativity has added itself. You usually hear only the news, but now you always hear about the war, and some kind of negativity has added itself to life. It is not necessary. In general, in my city, in Kursk, I was waiting for the flight ticket. One missile fell into the house, and I thought, damn, maybe I really need to evacuate. But at the same time I understand that I am not as terrible as people who were in Donetsk, in Lugansk, or now in Kiev, so it seems to me that I can't complain much. How has my life changed? My house is still intact.

What is your attitude towards current world events, and do you feel an internal conflict because of them?

K: To be honest, as I have already mentioned above, I was not present when the war in Ukraine began, so I can't say that at the moment I have some kind of internal conflict with all the events in the world. I generally try to keep myself away from politics as much as possible. Again, it may sound strange, but, of course, I follow all the events in Ukraine, but I try not to dwell on it as much as possible and continue to live on.

L: My current attitude is that

I am already tired of the current events in the world. They constantly update and change. It is not clear what will happen next. It is difficult to make plans longer than a year. Since I work in IT, the financing is constantly changing. It is also very difficult to make long-term plans, like a mortgage or something like that. Do I feel an internal conflict? Yes, I do, because sometimes I meet some bad people, for example, from Ukraine. And then my opinion changes a little from the point of view of the situation in the world. But this is more related to the emotions that I am experiencing at the moment.

G: Well, I think the world is slowly taking a road to nowhere. I think that most states make or make decisions based on popularity. That is, instead of making decisions that are more logical, they make decisions that support their popularity among people. And I think this is wrong. If I have an internal conflict, well, I wouldn't say that I have an internal conflict about the current events in the world, but I think that now the world is more chaotic than it was, for example, 10 years ago. Maybe it's because I didn't understand what was happening in the world 10 years ago, but I can't be sure of that.

A: It's just such helplessness. I think Russians agree that you can't do anything about it. Ukrainians told me, or Americans,

when it all started, you need to go and protest in Moscow. I say, do you understand? They will put us all in prison if someone does this. Therefore, you just live with it, and pray for the country, for Ukraine, for Russia, so that all this ends as soon as possible. I don't have any conflicts in my head with myself.

...look for to the next part of this article in the Jan. 2025 edition of the alley

Alena Dobriakova is an international student from Russia at St. Catherine University. She has been studying in the U.S. for six years, focusing on her career and academic growth. Alena's research focus is on the cultural and social challenges of immigrants, including the impact of war on identity and issues of media justice.



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Peace House Community - A Place to Belong

Timing is Everything

By MARTI MALTYBY

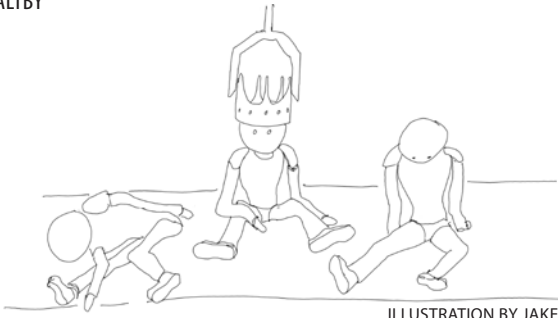


ILLUSTRATION BY JAKE RYAN



Marti Maltby

I've had a hard time settling on a topic for this month's column. I'm writing this about a week after the election, which is obviously a significant event, and the implications of the election results are big enough that I should probably say something. But you won't read this until at least a couple of weeks from now because of the production and distribution times involved in publishing the alley. So if I say anything about the election, it will be outdated by the time you see this, at least in some respects.

There's also the fact that I'm Canadian, living in the U.S. as a Permanent Resident without American citizenship. Emotionally, the election doesn't have the same significance for me as it does for Americans, or for non-Americans with a less secure immigration status than I do. While I and almost everyone I know will be affected by the events of the next few years, I don't feel that I should be jumping into someone else's raw emotional situation with simplistic declarations about what I think happened or should happen. There will be time for my words and actions, but this isn't it.

What I do feel comfortable saying is that this will pass. However someone voted or didn't vote in the election, whether this is a time

of elation or despair, it is transitory. Whatever you think of the American political system, you can't escape the fact that it was designed to prevent dynasties. It is in constant flux as power within each part of the government shifts, and as the relationships between those parts freeze or thaw.

I've heard about a couple of "dynasties" in American politics, but those have usually been hypothetical discussions. The Kennedys were probably the closest to achieving a dynasty, but John F. Kennedy's presidency lasted less than three years, and no other Kennedy achieved the presidency. Robert was influential for a brief period, and Ted Kennedy had a long career in the Senate. Influential, yes, but not a dynasty.

The Bushes were a dynasty candidate. The first Bush presidency lasted four years, and the second lasted eight. Jeb Bush was touted as the next in line for the dynasty, but he never even got close to the Republican nomination for president. The Clintons were the other possible dynasty, but that stalled out as well.

Even before term limits, dynasties never took hold in America. John Adams and John Quincy Adams, father and son, held the presidency for a combined eight years. Franklin Delano Roosevelt holds the record for the longest

time in office, having won four elections. Could he have won a fifth if he lived to the next election? Maybe, but if you look at the exceptional individual, and then assume that his exceptionality would have been even greater if reality hadn't gotten in the way, to argue for an American dynasty, you're on thin ice.

My point is simple: however you feel about the current political climate, it will change. Whether you are celebrating or crying, the system is designed to make the moment pass. No one should get carried away by either the joy or the despair.

This assumes, of course, that Americans work to preserve the safeguards that were built into the system, and that will be the big test. Those with power always want to keep it, sometimes by ethical means and sometimes not. If those from both sides, regardless of who has the power at that particular moment, focus on the reason the U.S. political system was set up as it is, and treasure its long-term values over short-term power, they will keep the dynasties at bay.

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

Breaking Neighborhood News

In the Heart of the Beast Theater announced on November 20th their plans to sell the Avalon Theater on Lake Street, HOBt's home for the past 36 years. HOBt plans on moving, but location is TBD.

More next month!

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CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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

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THE ALLEY

A Phillips Neighborhood Newspaper

From the Archives

Vol. 36, No. 8: August 2011
13 Years Ago...

Touchstone Plaza at Peavey Park 'Bridges' Generations

By ROBERT ALBEE



Imagine a public art project that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and is promptly neglected - no, make that abandoned - by the very community that commissioned the work in the first place! That's the legacy of Touchstone Plaza, located on the southwest corner of Chicago Avenue and East Franklin Avenue in Peavey Park. I never knew there was a plaque with a fabulous poem and community challenge called "Thrones" by Louis Alemyahu. Over the years, I've heard friends declare the mosaics to be hideous and a blight to the neighborhood. Some even wanting it moved or bulldozed into oblivion - all 88,000 pounds of concrete that makes up the mosaic-tiled "Thrones."

A group of Ventura Village volunteers led by residents Jim Cook, Dee Henry Williams and me showed up recently with a public address system and a hand-held microphone and offered it to anybody who'd speak or sing. No advertising or public notice, just the three of us and some sound equipment on a 97 degree day. In the next two hours, this abandoned corner that earned Peavey Park the distinction of being the most crime-ridden park in Minnesota came alive to the cadence of voices, mostly African American who talked their sorrows and joys, their salvations and challenges for anybody to listen.

Continued on page 15...

See more of the archives at alleynews.org!

What's been happening at San Pablo's Lutheran Church on 15th Ave and 28th Street?

By RADICLE LAND COLLECTIVE

PHOTOS COURTESY RLC



Top Photo: The chaos of demo.
Bottom Photo: Compost berms ready to go.

The community at San Pablo's/Saint Paul's is getting ready to install a peace and healing garden, complete with a meditative labyrinth. The first step to creating something like that is to prep the area and get rid of the grass! At Radicle, we try to process and keep as much as we can on site. This helps by reducing the need for transportation of waste material off site to another processing area, and keeps raw material for our use in the spring.

With jumping worms being an increasing concern, keeping all material on site reduces the need to bring soil that may have the worms in it on site, and if the jumping worms are already present, keeps us from unintentionally spreading them. Jumping worms are especially dangerous to our local ecology because they are voracious eaters of our native wildflower root systems, and the 'soil' they leave behind changes the way water moves through soil, which alters the conditions so much that native plants can't thrive.

How do you 'process' grass on site? Time is an important ally, one not often used in the landscape industry. It takes months for soil and grass to decompose into a usable substrate. That's why, even though the garden will be built in the spring, it was per-

fect timing to start demo. The site at San Pablo's is a laboratory right now, utilizing natural processes of decomposition.

First, we scraped off the grass over the entire site. Next, we created layers of this soil/sod mixture and built up several berms. These berms are where the magic happens. Last, we covered the berms with a degradable barrier-cardboard - that we source from a local bookshop- and then mulch. This helps keep any rogue seeds and rhizomes from sprouting, and adds an extra 'brown' layer to our compost berm.

Continued on page 13 ...

50 Years, cont.

Continued from page 1...

what I was doing. That was my art basically. That it was a thing that I was making. But now it's true. Like we together were making something that was a good thing in the world."

The store has commemorated this milestone with a selection of anniversary merchandise, including a new mug with the famous Ingebretsen's mural featured and more.

You can find more history of the store at ingebretsens.com/our-anniversary.



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

Examining the Health Impacts of Older Housing Built Before 1939 in Phillips

By EMMA HESS, Community Journalist-in-Training

50.5% of the homes in Phillips were built before 1939 and that may be a problem for some residents in the Phillips Community. Specifically while older houses may be considered more structurally sound there can be a greater exposure to radon and lead poisoning. Other issues are related to insulation and a lack of air conditioning - and the intersection of these issues given the high levels of air pollution issues in Phillips.

Natalie Bullis, MPH, is the Operations Coordinator for Community Health for Pillsbury United Community. Bullis lived in Phillips for two years as part of her undergraduate degree, in an older home, and she works out of Waite House once a week.

"Phillips has a pretty extensive history of air pollution. And especially in the winter when there can be a lack of insulation, that doesn't make it any better," said Bullis.

According to *Minnesota Compass*, in the Phillips Community, 4062 or 50.5 percent of the homes were built before 1939. The total number of housing units in Phillips is 8046 (as of 2022).

Because of this, Community residents need to be aware of the possibility of radon in the soil, poor insulation in the winter, and the worsening air quality due to wildfires in Canada and other parts of the state as well as I-94.

Healthcare-related resources are available, however, for the Community.

"You may not know that those resources are available. That's a lot of what we're trying to work on, providing resources, information,



WIKIPEDIA

The Bardwell-Ferrant House, 2500 Portland Ave, built in 1883.

in people's languages, because we serve mostly East African, Hispanic, and Indigenous populations," said Bullis.

Marcus Milani is a second year medical student and the co-chair of the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic.

"Last summer during the big wildfires we saw an uptick in asthma-related issues and just breathing difficulties in general. That was a big eye-opening moment for me. There was such a direct link between what's going on in the environment and people's health," said Milani.

While Milani did not speak directly about the older housing, he did note that environmental issues like housing often play a direct role in impacting people's health.

According to a resource

from the Minnesota Medical Association, the state's oldest and largest advocacy group representing physicians in the state, housing is a social determinant of health. While they discuss several factors related to housing, they also discuss the impacts of housing quality and safety as one health determinant.

That MMA resource reads, "Substandard housing conditions like lead poisoning, water leaks, poor ventilation, mold, low/high temperatures and more, all lead to poor health. These low-quality homes contribute to health issues such as infectious and chronic diseases, injuries, poor nutrition and mental disorders."

Continued on page 10...

Filling the Resource Gap for Single Parents

By PRECIOUS MATLOCK, Community Journalists-In-Training

Single parents face their own unique challenges and may struggle to find the resources they need to support themselves and their family. There are resources available to our single parents in Minneapolis, however, and there are lessons to learn from that same community.

The list below is a non-exhaustive list of resources available for single parents in the Minneapolis region.

Food

"There's not enough resources for parents in Minneapolis," said Travis M, author and chef.

Joyce Uptown Food Shelf provides food to the community via appointment although emergency bags of food are available anytime they are open. However, they are not currently accepting appointments for new shoppers due to high demand.

HOURS

Monday: 10am - 4:45pm

Tuesday: 9am - 4:45pm

Wednesday: 12pm - 4:45pm

Thursday: 11am - 6:45pm

Saturday: 9am - 1:45pm

Website: <https://www.joyceuptownfoodshelf.org/>

Address: 3041 Fremont Ave S,

Minneapolis, MN. 55407

Harvest from the Heart is a food distribution center in South Minneapolis that generally stocks local and seasonal produce as well as food from local retailers. Shoppers do not need to provide an ID when they visit - just a phone number and zip code - and visits are limited to once a week.

HOURS

Tuesday - Friday: 11am - 4pm

Saturday: 10am - 1pm

Website: <https://www.harvestfromtheheart.org/>

Address: 3817 Pleasant Ave S. Minneapolis, MN. 55409

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



Food Shelves, Farmers Markets Respond to Food Access Issues in Phillips

By AUTUMN FITZSIMMONS and KYRA VENNA, Community Journalists-in-Training

Food access is the idea that all people in a community should have access to healthy and affordable food. In the Phillips Community, that has historically been a problem.

“With the community’s limited access to better grocery stores, there has been an increase in patients with hypertension and diabetes related to the limited access to healthier foods”, said Marcus Milani, Doctoral student at the University of Minnesota and Co-Chair of the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic (PNC).

The Phillips Community was at one point, according to reporting from Minnesota Native News, considered a food desert because there is limited access to healthy and affordable food. Whether or not the community remains a food desert is a question that is difficult to answer.

Community health workers like Milani believe that if the community had more grocery stores in closer walking proximities then those same community members would have greater access to affordable healthier foods.

Many residents in the Phillips Community are only able to access the bigger grocery stores if they have access to a vehicle. This

results in the community having to rely on local food shelves or less healthy options at corner stores and the like.

Pillsbury United Communities operates one of those food shelves and there are also community gardens and local farmers markets - like Four Sisters Farmers Market and Midtown Farmers Market - working to bring that healthy and affordable food to people.

In June 2024, the Star Tribune talked to vendors at Four Sisters and Mo Hanson, director of the Midtown Farmers Market. In that interview, Hanson noted that farmers markets are necessary in communities like Phillips where it’s important to make healthy food “visible and accessible.”

There are also preventative measures in place by the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic (PNC).

“One of the big emphasis of our clinic is that we always have nutritionists on hand every night to be able to counsel our patients on helping them manage their diabetes. We also do a fresh produce night monthly with an outside organization to give us fresh fruits and vegetables and we’re able to just give it away to patients. That is a huge problem in Phillips because there is just not a lot of easy access to quality fresh produce,” said Milani.



CIRIEN SAADEH

The Midtown Farmers Market is located at 2225 E Lake St. when the market is in season.

Both the Midtown Farmers Market and Four Sisters Farmers Market closed for the season in October. You can learn more about PNC at <https://mphysicians.org/pnc>

Autumn Fitzsimmons is Senior Exercise and Sport Science student at St. Catherine University.

Kyra Venne is Senior Exercise and Sports Science student at St. Catherine University.

Community Envisions Healthier Air Quality in Phillips

By KAYLEE MIRON & MADDIE YOUNG, Community Journalists-in-Training

Community members are concerned about the impacts of the high levels of pollution in the Phillips Community, and they’re trying to do something about it.

“Particularly in Minneapolis, there are higher rates of asthma, chronic lung conditions, and allergies in Black or Brown communities,” stated Marcus Milani, a doctoral student at the University of Minnesota and co-chair of the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic.

According to data from *Minnesota Compass*, this is no different in the Phillips Community, where 73.8% of the population is made up of Black, Brown, and Indigenous peoples.

Asthma and other chronic health issues directly impact the long term health of a community and it is concerning community members. One such community member, Carol Pass, spoke with *The Urban Activist*, about the issue of asthma.

Reporter’s note: Carol Pass passed away in May 2024.

“We’ve become family, friends, and we’ve watched one kid after another get asthma or heart conditions and stop going to school. Don’t want to go to school anymore. End up on drugs, end up in a street, and then eventually die of opioids,” said Pass, a longtime environmental justice activist before she passed, in a post written for the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute.

One of the issues that community health workers are concerned about is Interstate 94, a major highway that runs right next to Little Earth. Little Earth was developed in 1973 due to housing discrimination faced by Indigenous community members.

“The Indigenous community has a lot of air quality issues because the highway is right there,” stated Natalie Bullis, MPH, Operations Coordinator for Community Health at Pillsbury United Communities. Bullis works out of both Waite House, in the Phillips Community, and Brian Coyle Center in Cedar-Riverside.



CIRIEN SAADEH

Activists and organizers envision a future for the Roof Depot, where it houses a community hub, as well as an urban farm, housing, and rooftop solar array.

According to a post on Streets.MN, some community members in Minneapolis are imagining a new future for I-94.

“For many Twin Cities residents, the automobile serves as the main means of transportation between our two cities,” writes Abbey Seitz, a professional urban and regional planner and a contributor to Streets.MN who wrote about visions for the future of I-94. “With the opening of accessible public transportation, I not only

Continued on page 10...

SPONSORED BY:



Parents, cont.

Continued from page 7...

Clothes and Shoes

“I wish we had more donation closets for parents especially during winter,” said Makayla H, a single mother of 3.

Bridging, a Bloomington-based nonprofit, provides a “foundational home setup” to those who most need support in creating a functional home. To access Bridging, folks must be referred to the organization through a human service provider, healthcare agency, or faith community, though there are other ways to be referred to the organization for an appointment. There is a fee for

an appointment with Bridging: \$75, and a \$200 delivery fee for anyone who lives in the 7-country metro area.

HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 9am - 6pm

Friday - Saturday: 9am - 3pm

Closed major holidays.

By appointment only.

Website: <https://bridging.org/>

Address:

Bloomington: 201 W 87th Street Bloomington, MN 55420

Roseville: 1730 Terrace Drive Roseville, MN 55113

Guardianship

“Gaining guardianship for single fathers is a hassle,” said Travis M.

Goodwill Easter Sale - FATHER Project assists fathers so that they can overcome barriers and become the best dad they can be. Resources are available related to employment services, case management, parenting support classes, family activities, and child support services.

There are no upcoming events but individuals are urged to call 612-724-3539 or visit their website for more information.

Website: <https://www.good-willeasterseals.org/services/family-stability>

Address: Sabathani Community Center, 310 E. 38th St. Suite 204, Minneapolis, MN 55409

Southern Minnesota

Regional Legal Services provides legal services to low-income clients and other eligible individuals.

Website: <https://www.smrls.org/> **Address:** 800 Alliance Bank Center, 55 East 5th Street, St. Paul, MN 55101

Lutheran Social Services provides lots of different kinds of resources for families and parents. Resources cover a wide variety of services including adoption, pregnancy counselling, crisis nurseries, and more.

Various LSS Contact: <https://www.lssmn.org/contact>

Website: <https://www.lssmn.org/>

Career Resources

“I will not be able to afford what my child needs if I do not have a career,” said Makayla H.

Urban League Twin Cities provides employment and training opportunities and programs to clients pursuing jobs with livable wages. The Urban League Twin Cities also provides a computer & internet resource room for individuals applying for jobs and more. They currently offer several programs: Work Readiness, the Urban Tech Institute, and construction apprenticeships. They will be launching a jobs board soon, according to their website.

Website: <https://ultcmn.org/workforce-solutions/> **Address:** 2100 Plymouth Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55411

*Precious Matlock is a children’s author with a love for storytelling that began in childhood. She has written three captivating books: **Pup, Kit; Ronnie The Rabbit; and Suzy The Snake.** Her creative journey started when she wrote her first book in the first grade, inspired by her natural curiosity. As a dedicated mother to her daughter, Reign, who is her biggest supporter, Precious continues to write with enthusiasm and purpose. She is on a mission to create a book for every letter of the alphabet, bringing joy and learning to young readers with each new story.*

Rent Help

“Sometimes the county takes too long to get back to us and approve us for emergency assistance,” said Makayla H.

Tenant Resource Connection supports housing stability in Hennepin County, and specifically those individuals and families who are at risk of eviction or homelessness. The organization provides a variety of possible remedies including mediations, legal assistance, and more through a collaboration between nonprofit organizations, government agencies, community groups, and higher education.

Website: <https://www.trchen-nepin.com/> **Email:** Housing.Assistance.triage@hennepin.us

Education

“It is very important that I don’t stress about paying for my child’s schooling,” said Travis M.

Think Small aims to connect parents with affordable childcare resources, as well as early learning scholarships, child care assistance programs, and more.

Website: <https://www.thinksmall.org/parents/>

Student Parent Campus-Based Resources are provided by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, organized by institution. Several colleges in Minneapolis are listed.

Website: <https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?page-ID=2606>

Empowering Health: Free Health Access in Phillips

By: AVA SCHERER, CARLA PARKER, MAKAYLA KLIMEK, Community Journalists-in-Training

Access to affordable healthcare can be an ongoing battle for some communities. Fortunately, some organizations in the Phillips Community are working to provide free services like clinic visits, vaccines, and health screening.

Phillips Neighborhood Clinic

The Phillips Neighborhood Clinic (PNC), a student-run clinic, opened in 2003, serving uninsured and underinsured patients. The clinic provides a variety of resources.

On a rotating schedule (that you can find on their website), the clinic hosts different workshops where they talk about certain issues and/or bring in specialized physicians to ensure their

patients receive the specific care they need.

Upcoming speciality nights include

Audiology: December 12

Neurology: Jan. 23

PNC also offers vaccine clinics.

St. Mary’s Health Clinics

St. Mary’s Health Clinics offers free health clinics and services every day in various locations throughout the Twin Cities metro. They offer lab tests, x-rays, diagnostic tests, medications, specialty referrals, and more. For eligibility information or to schedule an appointment call: (651) 287 -7777

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8am - 4pm

Website: <https://www.stmaryshealthclinics.org/>

The Phillips Community

benefits from free healthcare services like the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic, local vaccine clinics, and health screenings by nursing students. These resources provide essential care and support to people in the community who may be unable to afford other healthcare services.

Ava Scherer is a junior majoring in sonography at St. Catherine University.

Carly Parker is a junior at St. Catherine University. She is a first-year student in the sonography program.

Makayla Klimek is a second-year student at St. Catherine University and is working on getting a bachelor’s degree in clinical sonography.

CIRIEN SAADEH

The St. Mary’s Health Clinics provide services for folks across the Twin Cities including services in spanish.

SPONSORED BY:



Mental Health Supports Serving Minneapolis: Affordable Options for Your Well-Being

By KAYLA YANG, Community Journalist-In-Training

The list below is a non-exhaustive list of resources serving members of the Phillips Community.

Mental health care has been a growing concern for many for quite a long time, particularly in communities where residents struggle to find accessible and affordable mental health resources. But what if you could receive the support you needed without breaking the bank, feeling judged, and fearing for your confidentiality?

In the Phillips Community, and within the larger Twin Cities area and surrounding neighborhoods, various low-cost to no-cost resources are available, aiming to provide mental health care for our communities.

Whether you are experiencing stress, anxiety, depression, addiction, or simply need a compassionate listener, this list will guide you to accessible care uniquely suited to your needs.

Phillips Neighborhood Clinic

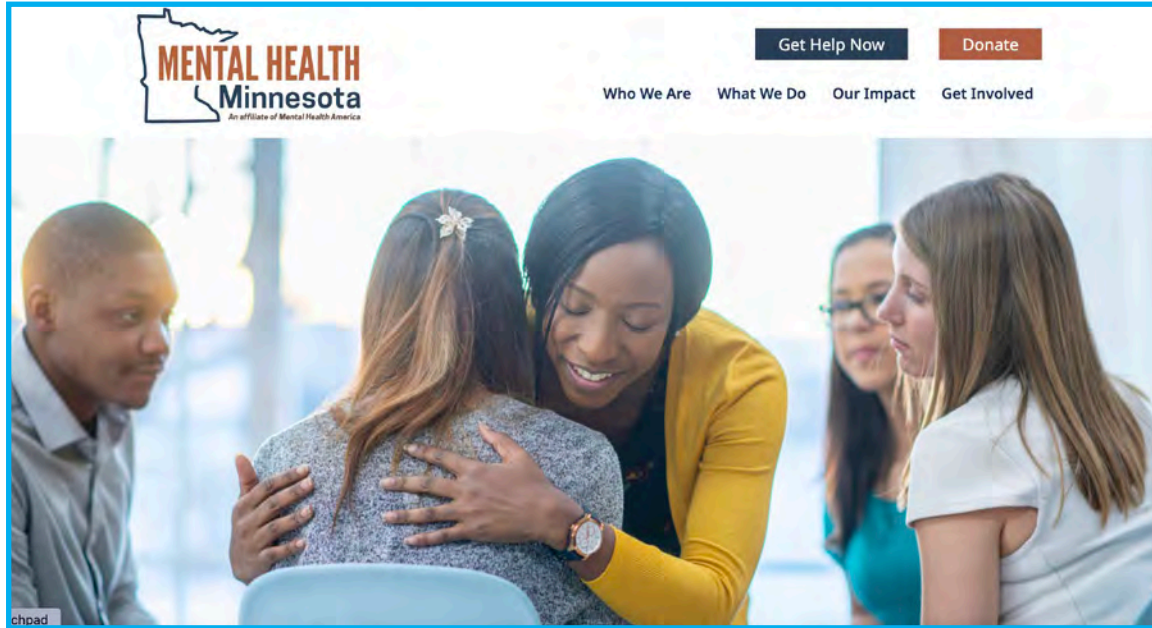
The Phillips Neighborhood Clinic (PNC) is a student-run, volunteer-based clinic dedicated to serving patients from uninsured and underinsured backgrounds. PNC offers a variety of free healthcare services, including mental health assessments and counseling.

To improve PNC's mental health services, Marcus Milani, co-chair of the clinic, shared recent developments in their approach.

"It's something we have struggled with over the course of the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic as we thought through how we address mental health. It's something our nursing students always screen for with every patient," said Milani. "This semester, we are finally starting a partnership with the Masters of Nursing students who are studying to become psychiatric nurse practitioners, so they're going to start coming to our clinic this semester and actually help us work with patients in regards to mental healthcare."

The clinic also provides Spanish interpreter services to meet the needs of its predominantly Spanish-speaking patient base. PNC operates on a first-come, first-served basis and does not take appointments or insurance.

Hours: Monday and Thursdays, 6pm - 9pm
Address: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 2742 15th Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55407 United States



Walk-In Counseling Center

Founded in 1969 and organized by a group of psychologists to address the increased demand for accessible mental health services, The Walk-In Counseling Center has been a significant resource for individuals residing in the Twin Cities for over 55 years. The center offers 30-60 minutes of free and anonymous counseling to individuals, couples, families, and communities who struggle with emotional challenges such as anxiety, depression, trauma, or substance abuse.

Operating solely with volunteer clinicians who hold advanced degrees or are student interns in psychology, social work, or related fields, the Walk-in Counseling Center is the only walk-in mental health service left in the world of its kind.

"For a lot of our clients, (anonymity is) pretty important because a large portion of our clients are people who are from fairly marginalized communities," said Jane Ginsberg, director of the clinic, in an interview with MinnPost.

Patients can receive services without appointments during specific clinic hours, which now include in-person sessions three afternoons a week.

In-Person and Virtual Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 1pm - 3pm at 2421 Chicago Ave, Minneapolis, MN. 55404.

Virtual Hours Only: Monday - Thursday, 5:30pm - 7:30pm If virtual meetings are preferred, they have step-by-step instructions on their website at Walkin.org.

Disaster Distress Helpline (DDH)

Not everyone feels comfortable seeking in-person counseling, and that's completely understandable. This is where the Disaster Distress Helpline (DDH)

comes in, offering a comforting alternative, as a project of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Available 24/7 in the U.S., the DDH provides free crisis support over the phone or via text, which allows individuals to receive the help they need from the privacy and convenience of their own space. Whether it's dealing with the emotional weight of natural or human-caused disasters, such as severe storms, pandemics, wildfires, floods, incidents of mass violence, trigger events, or personal loss, the DDH is available to help people navigate the overwhelming mental health issues that can follow such events.

The DDH provides services available in over 100 languages, via 3rd party interpretation services, making it accessible to a diverse population regardless of their background or situation. Deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals can use their preferred relay service to connect.

For services related to emotional distress, call: 1-800-985-5990

Mental Health Minnesota

Mental Health Minnesota is a nonprofit organization that has been providing essential mental health services across Minnesota since 1939. As the oldest mental health organization in the state, its work focuses on promoting mental wellness through peer support, outreach, and education. They partner with local community organizations to help reduce the stigma surrounding mental health, making sure that individuals feel comfortable seeking help without fear of judgment.

Their services include free mental health screenings, wellness planning, and virtual support groups for individuals of all ages, including those with intellectual disabilities and members of marginalized communities. Their mental health screenings

Mental Health Minnesota has served Minnesotans since 1939 as the state's oldest mental health clinic.

can be completed online through their website, making it easier for individuals to assess their mental health discreetly and at their own pace.

In addition, Mental Health Minnesota offers a free, non-crisis support line (The Peer Support Warmline) where trained peer specialists with lived experience in mental health challenges can help assist individuals dealing with mental health. It is designed to provide emotional support and connection for anyone feeling isolated, stressed, or overwhelmed.

Hours for The Peer Support Warmline: 9am - 9pm, daily
Website: MentalHealthMN.org

Mental health is an essential part of everyone's overall well-being, and in the Phillips Community, resources are available to give everyone access to the care and support they need.

From student-run clinics offering mental health assessments to specialized hotlines for crisis support, the organizations listed above provide diverse options of services that can be tailored to individual needs. These resources empower inclusion, compassion, and confidentiality so that no one has to face mental health challenges alone. If you or someone you know is seeking mental health support, consider reaching out to one of the organizations or clinics mentioned. Taking that first step towards support can lead to a positive transformation of life, and there's no better time than now to seek the help you deserve.

Air, cont.

Continued from page 8...

see the opportunity to restore a better connection between our two cities and communities within St. Paul but also the challenge for designers and planners to discover innovative uses of existing infrastructure."

Members of the Phillips Community have also been gathering around the Roof Depot site, a warehouse built in 1947. Activists and organizers envision a future for the warehouse, adjacent to a former superfund site, where it houses a community hub, as well as an urban farm, housing, and rooftop solar array.

According to reporting from the *Star Tribune*, the Minnesota State Legislature agreed to a \$2 million injection of funds into the community in 2023, and then an additional \$5.7 million in 2024. \$4.5 million was also granted to the City of Minneapolis so they could find a new site for their proposed Public Works yard. EPNI agreed to raise the remaining \$3.7 million to purchase the site. In Sept. 2024, the Minneapolis City Council approved a year-long extension for the community so that they could raise the needed \$3.7 million after activists failed to meet an earlier deadline.

Kaylee Miron is a sonography major at St. Catherine University. She is a student-athlete pursuing a career as a sonographer.

Maddie Young is an accounting major at St. Catherine University. She is a student-athlete pursuing a career in public accounting.

Homes, cont.

Continued from page 7...

Community members seeking to advocate around housing issues can reach out to community organizations including Homes For All - Minnesota at <https://homesforallmn.org/>.

Emma Hess is a senior at St. Catherine University. She is an elementary education major and has been a part-time caregiver for the elderly since 2021.

SPONSORED BY:





Hey neighbor,

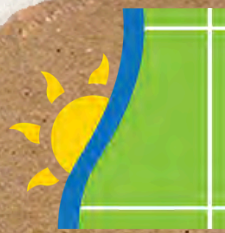
We've had a pretty busy year at PWNO. We've had something going on each month, from renter's rights trainings and informational community meetings to large festival-style events like Greenway Gala. We hope you enjoyed attending them because we had an absolute blast organizing them and connecting with you!

Our ultimate goal is to serve as a hub for resources and a space for community empowerment and self-determination. We believe in the power of local change and know that our collective power rests in the hands of you, me, and our fellow neighbors.

Now, as we enter 2025, community organizing remains just as important as ever. This is why the new year is the perfect opportunity to get involved with PWNO! We want to support your initiatives and goals, whether that means hosting a community cleanup, joining the board of directors, organizing a community meeting, or simply planning a way to meet and connect with the people on your street!

So tell us, do you have an idea for an initiative or project? From funding to supplies, PWNO wants to support you in making your goals for community organizing a reality! Email us at info@phillipswest.org to get involved and we'll see you in the new year!

Until then,
PWNO



PHILLIPS WEST
NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

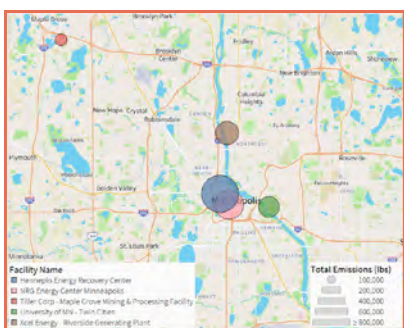
THE Climate +
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July 2023

HERC and Environmental Injustices in Minneapolis

The pollution from these five facilities is associated with roughly \$50 million in health damages.* HERC alone contributes to \$16 million in health damages.

*Based on a 2023 analysis, this estimate includes mortalities, hospital admissions, asthma incidences, and lost work days. It does not account for the impact of hazardous air toxics, thus this estimate is likely to be underestimated.



Located near Minneapolis' Target Field between Downtown and North Minneapolis is one of the state's most polluting hubs, home to several power plants and industrial operations.

For the 230,000 people living in adjacent neighborhoods – mostly made up of low-income folks and people of color – dirty air, chemical fumes, pungent odors, and the risk of poor health have become part of daily life.



The Top 5 Polluters in Hennepin County

The top five polluting facilities in Hennepin County are:

- 1 Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC)
- 2 NRG Energy Center Minneapolis
- 3 Tiller Corp asphalt processing facility
- 4 University of Minnesota Twin Cities
- 5 Xcel Energy Riverside Generating Plant

Together, these facilities emit an alarming amount of air pollutants, way above levels safe for humans.

1.6 million pounds of nitrogen oxides

Tens of thousands of pounds of sulfur dioxides, particulate matter, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

(based on 2021 data)

Leading to poor health impacts:

- Increased respiratory issues
- Poor cardiovascular health
- Impaired lung development
- Premature deaths
- Cancer
- Other adverse health outcomes

Especially for vulnerable populations, like children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing conditions.

Snapshot of HERC

HERC is a giant 3-stack trash incinerator owned by Hennepin County. Built in 1989, it generates a modest amount of electricity and heating for nearby buildings. It has **burned 1,000 tons of trash almost every day** in the middle of a dense, urban community.

Burning trash for energy is highly toxic.

When plastic falls into a campfire, we know to step away because the chemical fumes from burning plastic are harmful. Yet, these fumes are exactly the type of pollutants that communities living around trash incinerators breathe every day... pollutants linked to cancer, brain damage, and reproductive complications.

That's not all! **Over 200 heavy-duty trucks** deliver waste to HERC every day, releasing more health-damaging air pollutants to the neighborhoods they pass through.

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|---------------|
| Total Lead | 12.1lbs | 3rd in county |
| Nitrogen Oxides | 404 tons | 1st in county |
| Sulfur dioxide | 12 tons | 2nd in county |
| PM _{2.5} | 21 tons | 2nd in county |
| PM ₁₀ | 23 tons | 4th in county |

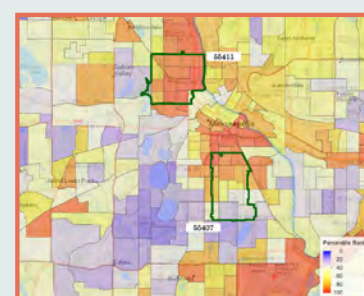
Who lives nearby and what does it mean for them?

The population within a 3-mile radius has:

- A higher concentration of **low-income households** than 89% of the state
- A higher percentage of **people of color** than 90% of the state
- More **linguistically isolated** people than 91% of the state
- Zip codes with the **2nd and 3rd highest rates of asthma** in the Minneapolis metro area (55411 and 55415)
- **For some neighborhoods, environmental pollution is just another challenge on top of a growing list:** the lack of family-supporting incomes; high utility bills; unemployment; homelessness; prevalence of asthma, cancer, diabetes; poor mental health.
- The **cumulative impact** of these environmental, socioeconomic, and health burdens, all in one place, can make it difficult to thrive, let alone survive.

A zip code should not determine someone's future!

Case Study: Zip Codes 55411 and 55407



In measuring the **cumulative impacts** of environmental, social, and health burdens:

- In zip code 55411, 13 of the 16 census tracts rank worse than 90% of other census tracts in the state.
- In zip code 55407, north side census tracts rank worse than 80% of other census tracts in the state.

Whenever I worked near the HERC, I noticed a much higher percentage of students with asthma... I kept extra inhalers and nebulizers for those with severe asthma, and sometimes these saved lives. – A school nurse, zip code 55411

Source: Environmental Justice Index, which compiles data on environmental burden and social and health vulnerabilities. Orange and red tracts are considered "overburdened priority communities." Based on 2022 data.

Scan for online resources:



This fact sheet is based on the following issue briefs from **Physicians, Scientists, and Engineers for Healthy Energy:**

- Hennepin Energy Recovery Center: Public Health, Environmental, and Energy Equity Implications of the HERC (November 2022)
- Cumulative Burden Analysis for Zip Codes 55407 & 55411 (March 2023)

DECEMBER EVENTS

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

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.

Somali Museum
Thursdays - Sundays
11 AM - 5 PM
Midtown Exchange,
Ground Basement level
2925 Chicago Avenue
\$11 - Adults
\$8 - Youth and Seniors

After months of preparation, the Somali Museum has finally reopened at its new location in the Midtown Exchange. Featuring a newly curated exhibit, the gallery is now convenient to the D line and shopping at the Midtown Global Market. Whether you are revisiting an old friend or introducing yourself to this Minneapolis cultural treasure for the first time, you will not want to miss a chance to immerse yourself in the rich heritage, art and history of the Somali people.

Lunes de mosaico / Mosaic Mondays
Lunes / Mondays
6-8 PM
El Centro de Artes Semilla
Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts
2742 15th Avenue S
Free

Ven a empezar un proyecto de mosaico o a terminar uno que ya empezaste. O solo ven a estar en comunidad y hacer arte! TOD@S son bienvenid@s, gratis para TOD@S!

Come stop by and start a new mosaic or finish something you've started. Or just come by to be with community and make crafts! Open to EVERYONE, Free for EVERYONE!

Movie Night at the Park
Mondays 6-8PM
Phillips Park
2323 11th Avenue S
Free

Youth ages 12 - 19, join us on Monday nights at the Phillips Park Community Center to enjoy free screenings of movie classics or to watch the latest blockbusters along with fellow movie fans at the park!

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 became the 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.

Layers of Joy: A Community Celebration of Black Art and Artists in Minneapolis
Through December 14
Quarter Gallery
Regis Center for Art (East)
405 21st Avenue S
Free

Layers of Joy is a celebration of Black art, identity, and community in Minneapolis curated by art history students at the University of Minnesota. The exhibit showcases the work of five early and mid-career artists: Leslie Barlow, Alexandra Beaumont, Eyenga Bokamba, Cameron Patricia Downey, and seangarrison. For gallery hours and information, visit cla.umn.edu/art/galleries-public-programs/quarter-gallery.

Niimiwin: Bijiinag igo in-gii-azhegiwe gaa-niimi'iding
Through January 18
All My Relations Arts
1414 E Franklin Avenue
Free

In *Niimiwin* ("Everyone Dance" in Anishinaabemowin), curator Josie Hoffman showcases contemporary Indigenous artists connected to Minnesota who work within the theme of kinetic movement in relation to the body, land, and community. Through material, process, result, and kinship, these artists from various disciplines embody kinetic movement within their art. For hours and information, visit allmyrelationsarts.org.

Native Youth Arts Collective (NYAC) Showcase
Through February 2
Two Rivers Gallery
1530 E Franklin Avenue
Free

This new exhibit at Two Rivers Gallery features work by Little Earth youth and Culture Bearer Mentors Aiyana Kline, Ariel La Friniere, Courtney Cochran, Isa Estrada, Isavela Lopez, Olivia Seone Stern. For gallery hours and information, visit 2riversart-gallery.org. Be sure to watch for the announcement of a special panel discussion with the artists on the Two Rivers facebook page.



A nomadic house exhibited at the Somali Museum's new location in the lower level of the Midtown Exchange.

In Memoriam: Residents of Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery
Through 2025
Hennepin History Museum
2303 3rd Avenue S
Pay What You Can

The Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery on Lake Street and Cedar Avenue is the focus of this exhibit, which 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 and 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 the history we share with the deceased. For and museum hours, visit hennepinhistory.org

Lantern Puppet Making Workshops
Dec 4 - 18
The Avalon Theatre
1500 E Lake Street
Free

Brighten the darkest weeks of the year with lantern puppets of your own creation. The community is welcome to come to one workshop, or all! Sessions will be held on Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18 from 6-9 pm, and on Saturdays December 7 and 14, from 11am-2pm. A Spanish language interpreter will be present for all workshops.

Holiday Magic at Midtown Global Market
Saturday, December 7
10AM - 4PM
Midtown Global Market
920 E Lake Street
Free

Experience festive fun for all ages—kids and adults alike—at the annual MGM holiday event. From 10am–4pm, the No Coast Craft-O-Rama returns for its 19th year, bringing a fantastic selection of unique, handmade gifts. Then, from 1-3pm, Santa Reggie will be on hand for a special meet-and-greet with the community.



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

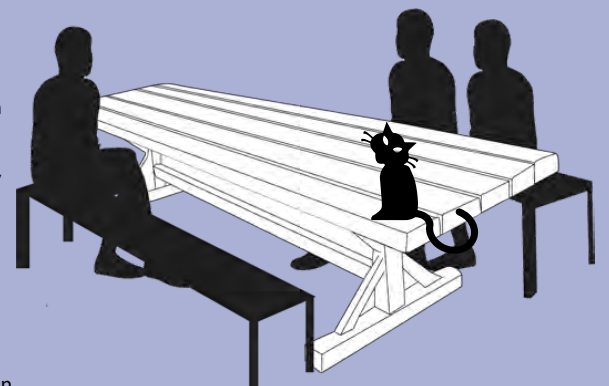
the alley newspaper is moving into its 50th year! While that is amazing news, the work of lifting the many voices of the Phillips Community to represent their own narratives needs to happen beyond the confines of a newspaper. There are so many more ways to communicate, deliberate, provoke and inform.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



TWO RIVERS GALLERY



Native Youth Arts Collective. "We Are Still Here" Fence Installation Photos (2022).

COURTESY OF MIDTOWN GLOBAL MARKET

For music lovers, the Twin Cities Record Show will be popping up in the Central Court from 11am–3pm. Discover vinyl treasures, including holiday-themed records and other unique finds to add to your collection. It's a day of shopping, holiday magic, and festive fun in your own backyard that you won't want to miss!

From Heart to Hand: Arts & Craft Market to Benefit the Minneapolis American Indian Center
December 7 & 8
10 AM - 4 PM
Minneapolis American Indian Center
1530 Franklin Avenue S
Free
 Join the Minneapolis American Indian Center for a celebration of Indigenous art, music, and

community in their newly renovated space! Enjoy traditional Native American art, music, and dance performances, and browse the work of local Indigenous artists. All profits from the event will go to support the Native American community and the arts. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to experience and support the Indigenous community.



Santa Reggie is a holiday favorite at the Midtown Global Market. This year he will be on hand for a community meet-and-green on December 7 from 1-3 pm.

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 612-562-5871

NEW LOCATION ON THE FOOD COURT!

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

San Pablos, cont.

Continued from page 6...

This method of composting is called the 'lasagna method'. Layers of green, brown, and soil material are the recipe for decomposition. Green layers are made of living, or recently cut, plant material. The important thing about green layers is that they provide nitrogen and necessary moisture. Brown layers are dead natural plant material- think mulch, leaves, and even cardboard (made from trees). The soil layer is also important because that is where we get our starter microbes and is the binder for this soil cake we are making.

To keep the cardboard down, we sprinkle lower layers of soil we have excavated that have less of a seed bank - seeds in the soil that have accumulated over time and are just waiting for the right conditions to grow - in it on top. Lastly, we add mulch, like frosting, to keep everything in place until spring.

These composting berms will reduce in height by about 50%, and then we will have nutrient-rich, processed soil to work with and further move around to build a peace and healing garden.

Stay tuned and watch the magic happen!

Radicle Land Collective is a landscape design/build firm interested in the land we have in common and our collective stewardship of it. Get in touch at info@radiclelandcollective.com

Movie Corner

The Substance (2024)



Horror/Drama
Working Title Films

By HOWARD MCQUITTER II



Howard McQuitter II

The Substance
Cast: Demi Moore (Elisabeth Sparkle), Margaret Qualley (Sue), Dennis Quaid (Harvey), Hugo Diego Garcia (Diego), Yann Bean (The Substance).
Director: Coralie Fargeat.
Screenwriter: Coralie Fargeat.
Cinematography: Benjamin Kraun.
Original Music: Raffertie.
Running time: 141 minutes.
Rated: R

The Substance is no ordinary horror-drama film. A good part of the film's strength lies with the actresses Demi Moore (Elisabeth Sparkle) and Margaret Qualley (Sue) and the other is the social piece dealing with society's pre-occupation with being young, especially for women. The premise is that Elisabeth Sparkle is a fitness presenter/trainer on a national morning TV show. (Many of you who read this column may not have been born when the late Richard Simmons had a TV fitness show in the 1980s.) Ms. Sparkle is fired by her self-serving television executive boss Harvey (Dennis

Quaid) whose only problem with her is that she is now "too old". She's mystified and disheartened by her cruel dismissal from her career.

Rather than moving on to a less glamorous job, she stumbles onto a black market lab that promises cell-replicating drugs that she can use to restore her younger, vibrant and more shapely form. The proviso is that she is only able to spend seven days as each person. The younger version is named "Sue" (Margaret Qualley) who becomes the replacement for Elisabeth on the fitness TV show. However, bizarre things begin to happen as her younger self, Sue, begins to take over, and turns against Elisabeth in violent ways. Elisabeth is now a victim of her younger self which is inimical to both her and Sue.

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

Raise Your Voice One Last Fling

By PETER MOLENAAR



Peter Molenaar

Responsible neighbors who sought their polling places remain aware that the back page of the ballot was devoted to the election of numerous judgeships. For me, this was as daunting as a college entrance exam! Why do respected election officials not inform us that our ballots count if not fully filled out? Let us enhance voter participation, not suppress it, please.

Now hear this: Trump won't be winging it this time. Rather, he will commence with a fully worked out billionaires' agenda. So, expect another round of tax cuts for the rich, coupled with public service cuts for the rest of us.

How was it possible for such an outstanding citizen to win once again? Was bigotry the key ingredient? Actually, I prefer to think that skillful agitation of economic angst won the day. Truly, one wonders if the capitalist system will collapse before the end of this century.

But guess what? It was price gouging by Trump's corporate boss buddies, which gave us inflation. A trade war with China will exacerbate this problem, on top of which, the expulsion of millions of immigrants will cause a serious economic dislocation. Another concern: additional tax breaks for the super-rich will further distort the economy in favor of more private jets! Hey, these jets spew more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere in a single day than a worker's car does in an entire year.

Thankfully, the old man writing this piece still remembers: some 25 years ago, capitalists were deindustrializing our country with total disregard for the men and women whose labor had created our nation's wealth. In this regard, Trump has never lifted a finger on our behalf. In truth, organized labor mobilized our protests.

So, the time has come again: a vision of Labor marches is invoking. Naturally, here in Minnesota, our protest will be permitted and peaceful. Here are some of the proposed slogans:

**TAX THE RICH NOT US!
 JUST SAY NO TO CONCENTRATION CAMPS!
 SAVE THE PLANET,
 PLEASE!**

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

Get up to \$14,000 to make your home more energy-efficient.



As a Minneapolis Green Zone homeowner, you can get up to \$14,000 in rebates from the Green Cost Share program for energy-efficient home improvements. Save money, make your home more comfortable and help the environment!



Scan the QR code to learn more or visit:
minneapolismn.gov/energy-rebates





ANONYMOUS

Archives, cont.

Continued from page 6...

Jim Cook heads up Ventura Village’s Citizen Engagement Committee and has taken seriously the notion that we must step out of the box and find new and creative ways to get all of our “occupants” involved. This night featured some who’ve been “lost”, some who were “saved” and a few in-between.

This day is one manifestation of the dream that the artist Rafala Green, poet Alemayahu, and countless others shared when this gigantic mosaic sculpture was completed and presented to Phillips. More than a decade and a half later this can be a place in which we begin to imagine a new “Speaker’s Corner” just like Hyde Park in London or perhaps Faneuil Hall in Boston. A destination is being called Amen Corner and should be designed for presenting and listening to community voices, poetry slams or emerging musicians sporting a guitar, drum or flute to share. Maybe much more!

Third Precinct Commander Lucy Gerold of the Minneapolis Police invited the public to share with her officers and security officials assigned to hospitals and institutions in this vicinity a plan to remove this corner as the top spot for crime in South Minneapolis. She and we residents all recognize that the police alone cannot hold this location if the community itself abandons it to those lost in drugs and violence. As VJ Smith, of MadDads, said so eloquently about those occupying the thrones almost daily: “These are our babies, our children, and we have to embrace them and teach them a new way of living.”

The thrones will be theirs on which to sit as they see fit until we restore their use as sacred speaking and listening space. This day demonstrates that there is a deep hunger for a public space where only a microphone, loudspeaker and a group of people willing to share and listen to others—be it poetry, hip hop, gospel, storytelling or simply tears—come together. Peace Bewitches!

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A banner hung over Hiawatha Avenue from the pedestrian bridge the morning after the 2024 Presidential Election.

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

POETRY

Love Notes

(written on November 9th, 2016)

By MATTIE WONG

go about your day, dear ones.
write your words and speak your stories.
sweep the house and fill the pot with water.

there’s no going back, darlings.
your life is now the revolution you always sought externally.
tidy your closet and turn the burner on.

i know you feel tiny, loves.
there is no ‘later, later’ anymore, only right now.
wipe the table and scoop the grounds.

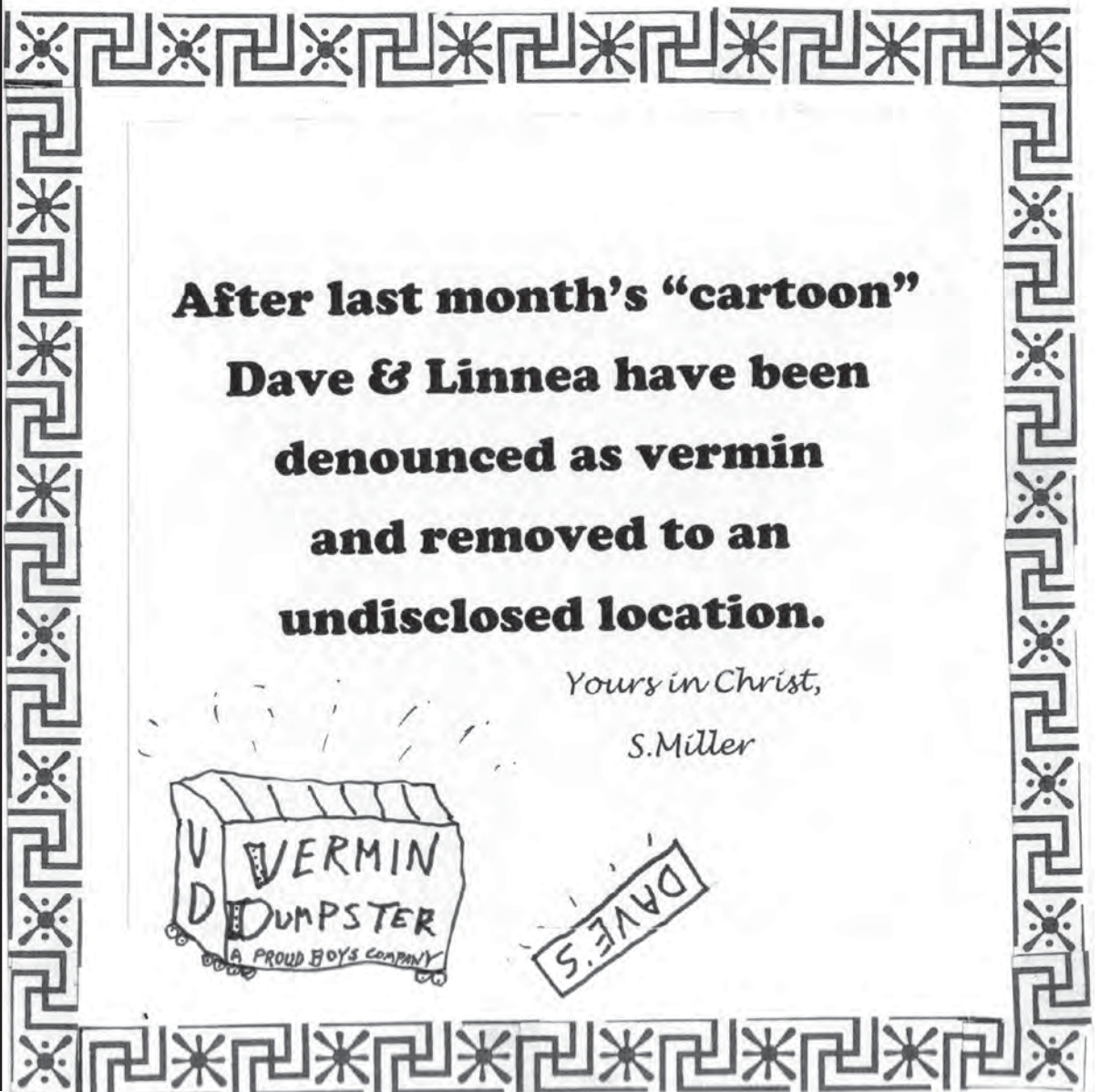
know your strengths, beautiful.
things have been unmasked; you have not been blinded.

drink your coffee and rebelliously love.

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.

**After last month’s “cartoon”
Dave & Linnea have been
denounced as vermin
and removed to an
undisclosed location.**

*Yours in Christ,
S. Miller*



THIS MONTH IN EAST PHILLIPS & MIDTOWN...

EPIC AND MPNAI POTENTIAL MERGER Frequently Asked Questions

Have other neighborhood organizations merged?

Yes! There are a few examples of other neighborhood organizations merging in Minneapolis. In 2023, Beltrami and Northeast Park neighborhoods merged into the Lower Northeast Neighborhood Association. The two organizations struggled to stay afloat from funding cuts and believed that merging could concentrate their resources and help them better serve residents. In a Star Tribune article, one Northeast Park resident in response to the merger said "I think it's a great idea, it gives us access to more funding and people dedicated to community growth."

Does this mean there won't be an East Phillips or Midtown Phillips?

No! East Phillips and Midtown Phillips will still be their own neighborhoods. This potential merger is about the neighborhood organizations merging, not the neighborhoods themselves. There will still be an East Phillips and a Midtown Phillips, but if we merge then there will be one neighborhood organization serving both neighborhoods. This organization can still have specific initiatives within each of the neighborhoods to attend to their unique identities but our funding, staff, and boards would merge. See question below about equitable investment and board balancing.

Will city funding increase with more community outreach? Why can't we afford to do things like we did before?

No, funding from the City is a standing annual amount based on neighborhood demographics. For more information on the timeline, process, and guidelines for securing funding from the City, please visit the city's website on neighborhood funding.

In the past, EPIC and MPNAI were volunteer run and most funding went directly to partner organizations. Partner organizations now get funded directly from the City of Minneapolis through the [Partnership Engagement Fund](#). In recent years, maintaining the minimum requirements for operating a 501c3 non-profit has become less manageable by a volunteer board of directors, let alone, managing the operations of a nonprofit as well as sustainable programming for residents.

Are the Phillips West and Ventura Village neighborhoods also merging?

No, only EPIC and MPNAI boards have agreed to pursue a merger conversation with their organizations. Aside from EPIC and MPNAI, no other mergers are planned. PWNO, EPIC, and MPNAI are discussing a programming collaborative, meaning we would like to partner on programs across our neighborhoods, but PWNO has not voted to pursue a merger.

Hey neighbors! As many know, EPIC and MPNAI are considering merging organizations to better serve our residents. Throughout our engagement process, we have heard the same questions and concerns. We wanted to provide neighbors with an FAQ of questions that have been consistently asked.

Where did this idea come from?

In October of 2022 MPNAI began having conversations about joining forces with EPIC. In February, 2023 they initiated a connection with EPIC to further pursue that idea. This spearheaded the MPNAI-EPIC joint staff collaborative that started in October 2023 that has brought new energy into our neighborhood organizing.

This is feeling fast! What's the urgency?

We understand this may feel fast! But this is a conversation that started in October of 2022 and has led to multiple conversations, engagements at partner organizations events, virtual and in-person meetings, tabling, and continued engagement presently. We also have an open feedback form where you can give us advice directly. Staff and board want to reach our vision and mission to create thriving, safe, and healthy neighborhoods. In our current climate, a volunteer board cannot adequately achieve this without help. We feel we need to combine resources and funding so we can focus on residents!

How will we ensure that each neighborhood will be invested in equitably with resources and outreach?

A merged organization will have bylaws that represent both neighborhoods. These bylaws will include "at-large representatives" who offer a broad perspective on both East and Midtown Phillips, alongside neighborhood-specific representatives. We are seeking the community's input on what these bylaws should look like. Ideally, we also want our staff to live in both neighborhoods, and currently, they do.

We believe it is the responsibility of both the board(s) and staff to regularly assess and evaluate who is and isn't being represented. There are many groups—such as people experiencing housing instability, various ethnic and language communities, different age groups, and people with disabilities—that are often overlooked in decision-making processes.

By ensuring our board and staff are representative of both neighborhoods, we aim to fairly distribute funding and resources across East and Midtown Phillips. We also recognize that East and Midtown Phillips face many of the same challenges. By sharing resources and aligning our vision, we believe we can more effectively address these common issues.

For more information on the merger visit: unitedphillips.org/merger



MORE
INFO

CALLING ALL BUSINESS OWNERS ON THE CHICAGO AND BLOOMINGTON AVE CORRIDORS!



Are you interested in revitalizing your business (or starting a new one) and enhancing your space? We're excited to bring new resources to the Midtown and East Phillips areas, including:

- Facade and livability Improvements
- Partnerships to minimize business displacement and invigorate the local economy
- Encouraging new business development to fill vacant commercial properties
- Mobilizing businesses to increase food access and connect with neighborhood residents
- Developing more 3rd spaces for neighbors to gather and build community

If you're ready to join this movement and create lasting change in your community, please scan the QR code below to start a conversation on how we can best assist you.



UNITEDPHILLIPS.ORG/BUSINESS



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UNITEDPHILLIPS.ORG