

2 ART IN THE LIBRARY **3** CONSEQUENCES OF WAR CONTINUED **4** THE SPIRIT AND HISTORY OF HOBT **6-7** A YEAR OF FRONT PAGES **11** CARTOONS: UTILITIES AND THE CITY

A
R
O
U
N
D
T
O
W
N
2
0
2
4



Youth joy at EPNIs Harvest Moon Block Party at Cedar Park Field.



Ribbon cutting ceremony at Saint Paul's - San Pablo's Lutheran Church.

South Senior and Ceramicist Macy Gearhart Pushes Boundaries in Empowering Works

By OLIVER STRICHERZ

Reprinted with permission from *The Southerner*, abridged for space.

Entering the thick brick walls of South High, chances are you will see art. South is known for its vibrant inclusion (and at times removal) of student-made art. Murals line the hallways with an array of themes, from self-image to the murder of George Floyd. Art at South represents the diverse, artistic, and working-class values of South Minneapolis. Undoubtedly, South High has a deep connection with art; a beautiful reflection of the small but caring group of art teachers. Throughout the hours and years, they have seen thousands of students with varying skills in art and pushed them to create – to unlock their artistic potential and express themselves freely. An incredible example of South's undying artistry is Macy Gearhart, a current senior and master ceramicist.

has always been a creative person. When she was 7, Gearhart took summer clay camps, which sparked a fiery love for clay inside her which hasn't gone out. She cares deeply about the ecological health of the world, which shows in her co-leadership of South's Green Tigers with senior Zora Bael-Cyr. Another activity she dedicates her time to is the Teen Council with Planned Parenthood.

These passions of Gearhart's provide her with the drive to create. Enrolled in Cynthia Berger's AP Art class, Gearhart has embarked on a new artistic journey this year. In AP Art, students are pushed to create a "body of related works that demonstrate an inquiry-based sustained investigation of materials, processes, and ideas through practice, experimentation, and revision." (College Board).

Born the daughter of two scientists, Macy Skye Gearhart

Continued on page 11...

Heart of the Beast Theatre is Moving!

By HOBT



The marquee at the Avalon Theatre on Lake Street.

After 36 years at the Avalon Theatre building, 1500 East Lake Street, In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre (HOBT) intends to move to a new location and sell the building. HOBT has always been a place that welcomes all people no matter where it's been located.

Looking back

From its humble beginnings inside a church basement, to a Lake Street storefront, to three floors above Lake Street, before settling into the Avalon Theatre also on Lake Street; the organi-

zation has helped nurture creative empowerment through the joy and magic of puppetry and education. Now, that legacy will continue in its new home.

Going forward in a new location and expanding programming.

"We look forward to creating and sharing collaborative spaces for artists, and comfortable, sensory-friendly spaces for anyone in the neurodivergent and disabled community," says Elina Kotlyar, Interim Executive Director of HOBT. "As we look for a new space, we are mindful of creating performance and engagement spaces accessible to all. That includes being near a bus line, having parking and bike racks, and a stage that can be accessed without stairs. We also plan to have a workshop space that better fits the needs of our artists and participants."

Continuing and expanding connections to communities and artists.

The move from The Avalon is a strategic one as Heart of the Beast continues to expand its reach further in the Twin Cities.

Once chosen, the new location will be centered on learning and development by providing after school programs, camps, storytime, artist and puppeteer training, and offer a more accessible space to all participants. It will also house the Puppet Library, be a place for artist collaboration and idea sharing, and continue to be a space for puppet performances that have been a part of HOBT for 51 years. It will allow Heart of the Beast to continue its connections with artists and the community with even more programming beyond some limitations of The Avalon Theatre.

"I believe that moving not only allows us to tailor the space to needs of many communities, but it's also a great way of letting folks know that we are here to stay and have big plans for moving forward with our fantastic programming led by our amazing community of artists and puppeteers," says Rachel Beaver-Scott, Puppet Librarian and Storyteller. "There is so much fun to be had, and I can't wait to welcome everyone to our bright, new, accessible space!"

Prior to a future move to its new home, Heart of the Beast will
Continued on page 4...

OP-ED Eight Reasons Why Riding the Bus Could be the Most Radical Thing You Do

By MATTIE WONG

In the wake of 2020, many of us reconsidered our safety and retreated from the public realm. If we had the means, we weighed our options and decided to use individual forms of transportation - automobiles, walking, biking, etc. Many of us are still a little shell-shocked and find it hard to return to public transportation.

There are real - and imagined - issues with safety on public transportation. It's a Catch-22 where in the retreat from public services, we also retracted the safety we GAVE when entering a public space. We left to keep our bodies safe, and in return, our bodies weren't a safety to each other anymore. Now all our bodies are a little less safe.

A friend of mine said, 'Oh, well, I don't take the bus because I don't have to.' It



Spotted in a store window on a recent trip to Montreal. Translated, it means, "Thank you for choosing collective transportation".

made me wonder if taking the bus really is a 'have-to' situation, or why we frame it that way. Below are some reasons to reconsider your stance on the bus, and why riding the bus could be one of the most radical ways to interact with your city.

Continued on page 5...

Mailing Label Space

Sign up for a free copy of *the alley* delivered in the mail each month!

<https://alleynews.org/delivery-and-communication/>



Didn't receive your mailed copy? Please email businessmanager@alleynews.org

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

January contributors to the alley:

Ishmam Ahmed, All My Relations Arts, American Swedish Institute, anonymous, Erick Boustead, Chanci, Alena Dobriakova, Steve Dreyer, East Phillips Neighborhood Institute, Christian Flores, Marcos Giossi, Caroline Hall, Hennepin County, Hennepin History Museum, Laura Hulscher, Sue Hunter Weir, In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, Mary Ellen Kaluza, Howard McQuitter II, Midtown Global Market, Lo Norvell, Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, PNGtree.com, Spencer Polk, Jake Ryan, Seachlight Pictures, Somali Museum of Minnesota, Robin Stramp, Oliver Stricherz, Ventura Village Neighborhood Organization, Harvey Winje, Mattie Wong

DONATIONS

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

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.

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

submissions: copydesk@alleynews.org
ads: businessmanager@alleynews.org

Submissions due the 12th day of the previous month



Franklin Library News

By ARI BAUM-HOMMES

All information listed here is accurate as of December 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

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

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

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.

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

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.

Franklin Library is seeking Arts and emerging artists for temporary art exhibits.

Priority is given to artists who:

- Reside or work in the neighborhood
- Are new or have limited access to exhibiting their work
- Represent the voices of diverse communities
- Submit art with potential for broad community interest

A sample of your work is required. Selected exhibits will receive a \$200 honorarium. Contact the Franklin Library Art Committee in person or at fr.artdisplay@hclib.org with any questions.

Hennepin County Library | 1314 Franklin Ave | 612.543.6925 | hclib.org

FAMILY PLANNING AT CUHCC

Prepare for a baby or prevent a pregnancy

Birth control, prenatal care, and more

MA Accepted. Discount Program Available

(612) 301-3433

www.cuhcc.umn.edu

COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY HEALTH CARE CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover*

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.

A Correction to Last Month's Article on Air Quality

30 Seconds at State Legislature Stopped Promised 5.7 M

Thank you to Kaylee Miron and Maddie Young for last month's excellent article about air quality in Phillips Neighborhood. However, although as stated in the last paragraph, EPNI and the City of Minneapolis did agree in Sept. 2024 to a one year extension to the purchase agreement for the Roof Depot site, the need for the extension was not that activists failed to raise their \$3.7 million portion of the agreement. It was the \$5.7 million that the state legislature had agreed to provide that failed to pass when the vote on the bill containing our funding went 30 seconds

beyond the constitutionally mandated midnight deadline at the chaotic end of the 2024 State Legislative session. That is what necessitated the extension. EPNI is working with the Minneapolis delegation to secure the necessary funding in the upcoming 2025 session.

Thank you to *the alley* and journalists for covering these issues for our community!

Steve Sandberg
Phillips resident and EPNI board member.

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

Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery

By SUE HUNTER WEIR
230TH IN A SERIES

Hester Paterson: Freedom Seeker

Hester Paterson was a remarkable woman with a remarkable story. 150 years after she died, her story, and those of a handful of others, earned the Minneapolis Pioneers & Soldiers Memorial Cemetery a place on the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. The cemetery is one of two listings in the State of Minnesota.

There are many gaps in her story, but in some ways, it's amazing that we know as much about her as we do. There is little formal documentation about her—no birth certificate or census information, the types of documentation that are commonly used in genealogical research. But there is something even better: a memoir written by Dr. William E. Leonard, who was eight years old when Hester joined his household.

Hester was born in Mississippi in the early 1800s and was enslaved on a cotton plantation until she was about 60 years old. During the Siege of Vicksburg in 1863, in an uncommon act of bravery, she ran away and found her way to the camp of the 5th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. There, she was befriended by company surgeon Dr. William H. Leonard (the father of Dr. William E. Leonard), who booked passage for her on a steamboat that was headed to St. Paul. When she arrived, she took a train to Minneapolis and made her way to Leonard's home.

The gap in her story, which may well have been the most interesting part, is how she managed to escape her enslavement. The only reference to her life before she fled the plantation, but one that sheds light on her willingness to take such an incredible risk, is young Leonard's "horrified" reaction to the "sight of scars she had brought up from slavery when she had been whipped by brutal overseers..."

The younger Dr. Leonard described her as "a very stalwart, big-boned, imposing personage" who carried everything that she owned in a bundle balanced on top of her head. Her height, plus the bundle, made her about seven feet tall. Her first appearance in the city was such an unusual sight that children followed her down the street until she reached the



Leonard home, where she became a "much loved institution." For several years she worked as the family's cook with an "ability in that line [that was] phenomenal."

When she became too old to cook, Hester moved to Hennepin Island, where she owned two plots of land. She built a cabin from scraps of wood that workers from a nearby lumber mill gave her. She took in laundry and mending to make ends meet. The younger Dr. Leonard noted that "Her independence and sturdy character gained her many friends among her own people where she became a sort of leader."

She was an ardent member of a small Baptist church, but her "domineering and energetic" nature resulted in her having serious disputes with other members. She stopped attending church for several weeks because she felt that members were not paying enough attention to her opinions. She insisted on being baptized in the Mississippi River in January, an act that resulted in both Hester and the minister needing to be rescued from the freezing water. Her one regret was that she could not read the Bible; The younger Dr. Leonard tried to teach her to read, but he was not successful.

Hester was also involved in a number of other disputes. She fought with her granddaughter's husband because she thought that he was a poor provider for his family. She took two young women to court because she claimed that they turned over her kitchen stool and spilled a jug of milk. A letter by an anonymous writer that was published in the *Tribune* attempted to explain her behavior by suggesting that she was "in a manner of speaking, undergoing the blessings of a second childhood," a

subtle hint that she had dementia.

Hester became ill in her old age and was treated by the elder Dr. Leonard. When she died on February 8, 1875, the family took charge of her burial. She is buried in a block of graves purchased by the family in 1859 when their one-year-old son Earl Preston Leonard died.

Hester's grave has been unmarked for 150 years. That will change this year. Thanks to generous donors, a new marker will be set on her grave this spring. It will read "Hester Paterson, Freedom Seeker."

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.

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

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

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

AT 2024



Sofia Padilla performs *Belong_Pertenecer Show* with shadow puppets and sand drawings at St. Paul's - San Pablo Lutheran Church on September 8th.

Consequences of War on Russian-Speaking Community

Part 2 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 Russia-Ukraine 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 the consequences of the conflict in emotional, social and cultural senses including internal conflict of identity, attitudes toward the dynamics of the society in

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 5 months or so. You can read the earlier segment on the alley's website.

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

Continued on page 10...

WELNA HARDWARE
ACE

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

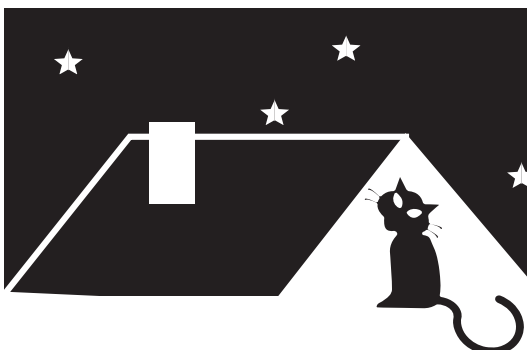
Thank you
50
Years of advertising!

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

2438 Bloomington Av.
612-729-3526

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

-Wendell Phillips





VENTURA VILLAGE



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

Renovation Update: Our Saviour's Housing Emergency Shelter

We expect that by the time this issue is printed, renovations will be underway at our Emergency Shelter at 2219 Chicago Avenue! The renovation work is funded by a capital grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services. For more information, contact robin@oscs-mn.org.

During the renovations, we're fortunate to be able to make use of another great space in Phillips. Our 21-bed emergency shelter for adults has temporarily relocated to 2545 Portland Avenue for the next 6-8 months. This location, less than a mile from our permanent site, will be a great temporary fit for guests, volunteers, and staff. We extend our gratitude to all who have helped with the move or preparing the temporary space for our guests!

Article by Robin Stramp



Artist's rendition of new shelter



Temporary home of Our Saviour's Shelter

Ventura Village News

- Our first meeting of 2025 will be on Wednesday, January 8th, at 7 PM. We'll meet at the ICCM Life Center, 1812 Park Avenue and on Zoom.
- Thor Adam and Chris Delaurentis will begin 3 year terms on our Board. We have room for more board members if you are interested. Contact us.
- Besides the Our Saviour's Shelter remodelling we have several other building projects going on. They are a reminder of the investment people and organizations are making in our neighborhood. They include:
 - The Indigenous Peoples Task Force (IPTF) broke ground in October and has begun work on the Mikwanedun Audisookon Art and Wellness Center at 2313 13th Avenue S.
 - The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Building at 23rd and Bloomington is taking form.
 - The Community-University Health Care Center (CUHCC) will be constructing a new facility along Franklin Avenue.
 - The Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (MIWRC) has begun their remodel.
 - While KRSM will retain their space at the Phillips Community Center and their presence in the neighborhood, they will be moving to a new studio next to the FullCycle Bicycle Shop at 35th and Chicago.
 - The Minnesota American Indian Center, which opened this past May, has become a very valuable gathering place on Franklin Avenue.

Hope Community

Hope Community Inc.'s Food, Land, and Community (FLC) program is wrapping up another year of growing food with community for community! The FLC program runs 3 garden sites in close proximity to Portland and Franklin avenues, hosting weekly community work nights and free produce distribution stands. This past summer, the program distributed approximately \$10,000 worth of fresh produce from the gardens to community members. FLC also hosted 8 skill share workshops this year, including cooking and canning classes, an herbalism and tea-making workshop, yoga in the garden, and a container gardening class. All are invited to participate in FLC's gardening, food distribution, and programming! To receive updates, join our mailing list, and learn about the upcoming 2025 garden planning night, contact flc@hope-community.org.

Article by Caroline Hall



FLC Final Harvest

Moving cont.

Continued from page 1...

continue its slate of programming not only at the Avalon but around the community. These events are open to the public.

Heart of the Beast is also working with schools, centers, churches, and more in the community for private events as well, including:

- **Mask Making** residency at Arcadia Charter School
- **Storytime** at St. David's Center
- **Afterschool Puppet Making** at Little Earth housing complex
- **Storytime** at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church

In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre nurtures creative empowerment through the joy and magic of puppetry performance and education. Learn more at hobt.org. For upcoming activities, follow In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre on Facebook.



Heart of the Beast Not Limited To a Place

By HARVEY WINJE

HOBt has occupied four locations that served as indoor workshops, classrooms, performance stages, and offices while always doing production, teaching, and performing at other indoor and outdoor places. These spaces included parks, schools, theaters, community centers, and streets throughout the Twin Cities area and suburbs.

Other traveling adventures took HOBt to Washington, D.C.; New Orleans, LA; Brookings and Mitchell, SD; Itasca, MN and to the Gulf of Mexico on a Mississippi river towns tour with "Circle of Water Circus" (currently exhibited at the Hennepin History Museum). In 2000, HOBt performed at the DMZ-Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea.

HOBt has been a place that welcomes everyone no matter where it's taught, performed, or at any one of its four studio/workshop/stage locations:

1973-1985: Walker Community Church 3104 16th Avenue So; demolished after May 27, 2012 fire and then a new Church was built.

1985-1986: Gustavus Adolphus Lodge Hall retail space at 1626 East Lake Street;

demolished August 11th 2009 after January 16, 2004 fire with a new apartment building built on lot in the last two years.

1986-1988 Roberts Shoe Store third floor; demolished after a fire on Memorial Day weekend 2018 and currently a vacant lot being planned and developed by the Graves Foundation.

1988-Today: Avalon Theater 1500 East Lake Street.; 1937 Art Deco and Neon Marquee and interior fixtures by Perry Crosier, Architect, famous for theater designs in the Midwest.

Previously, that corner was the **Royal Theatre** - a wooden structure of 300 seats built & opened in 1909. In 1913 it was renamed **Seventh Ward Theatre**; it was destroyed by fire on January 25, 1924. **The Rosebud Theatre** was built on the site, opening on April 12, 1924, until 1928. Between 1928 and 1930 it was closed, then reopened as the **Renov Theatre** when it was equipped with sound and was renamed **Avalon Theatre** - from Knights of the Round Table- A Place of Magic. It was demolished and a newer theatre, 850-1,000-seat **Avalon Theatre**, was built on the site in 1937. Crosier noted on



Heart of the Beast performing in the community.

drawings that some architectural features from the previous Theater were to be saved and reused. The structural iron for the new Avalon came from Minneapolis Steel and Machinery Company; ten blocks east on Lake Street & Hiawatha where Target is now.

During HOBt's 1988 renovation, two neighbors stopped by one day saying they used to peek through the old wooden theater walls at movies when they were young. One of them lived in Powderhorn Park Neighborhood, then, and the other in Phillips. They married soon after those days of looking in the "peep holes" of the wooden walls on

the days they couldn't afford the 5 cent admission. Undoubtedly, they saw newsreels, cartoons, westerns, and romantic movies.

By design, HOBt has had a physical presence at hundreds of residencies, workshops, performances, and parades away from these four street addresses over the years.

In 1973, there were two and it multiplied.

Two performers in large puppets on the Powderhorn Park
Continued on page 10...

Peace House Community - A Place to Belong

Someone Thought This was a Good Idea

By MARTI MALTBY



ILLUSTRATION BY JAKE RYAN

A couple of months ago, one of the community members at Peace House Community crawled under the table where we set out pastries so he could take a nap. A newer volunteer asked if this was okay, and I replied that as long as he was breathing and no one was going to trip over him, we would leave him alone. If sleeping under a table on a cement floor in a noisy room is his best option, who am I to make an arbitrary rule that will take his sleep away?

I mentioned this story during a church service recently, and a couple of days later one of PHC's supporters commented on how uplifting the story was, because it showed how caring we were. Unfortunately, in the two days between telling the story and hearing the comment, my mood had soured because cold weather had set in. My response was succinct. "You say it's uplifting because I told you about the good part of PHC. The flipside is that there's a really good chance that one or two of my friends from PHC will freeze to death in the next few months, or will lose their fingers and toes to frostbite, or will die in a tent fire." Needless to say, our supporter wasn't quite as joyful after that.

Unfortunately, as we head into another winter where homelessness is still a deadly problem for our most vulnerable neighbors, the City and County are becoming less adept at dealing with homelessness, making the situation even more dire.

The County has Assessors who visit sites like Peace House Community to help homeless individuals get into housing. Until recently, they posted their Calendar on the County website, showing when they would be at different locations. Recently they removed the Calendar because too many people were showing up for County services besides housing. Taking the Calendar down makes it that much harder for those who need housing to find the people they need to talk to.

Even worse, when I asked different County workers who had been involved in the decision to share the Calendar with me so that I could refer homeless individuals to them, they refused. I was told instead to have the homeless individuals speak to the Assessors



Marti Maltby

who come to PHC. Unfortunately, the Assessors visit us only once a month for two hours, hardly an appropriate response when freezing temperatures are likely to last for weeks at a time.

At the City level, Council Member Chavez and others have sponsored the Encampment Removal Reporting Ordinance, which is meant to bring more transparency and fiscal responsibility to the clearing of homeless encampments. Basically, it requires the personnel involved in closing encampments to report to the City things like the services offered to the encampment residents, the number of City and other staff who were involved in closing the encampment, the cost of the closing, and so on. From the public comments I have heard from the Council Members, they believe that the City is not getting its money's worth for the millions of dollars spent over the last few years on encampment enclosures. While I applaud a desire to not waste money, I don't think the ordinance will help because it misunderstands the problem. Closing encampments as efficiently as possible to save money doesn't solve homelessness or eliminate encampments; it just forces the most vulnerable to continually move, lose their housing (such as it is), and forfeit any form of

Continued on page 9...

Bus cont.

Continued from page 1...

1) Buses are our most reliable and affordable ADA compliant transportation option. In contrast, biking is for people with a certain amount of mobility that some folks never have or lose due to life circumstances or age. By riding the bus, you are also supporting the safe transport of your neighbor who has some vision loss, or is older and finds it difficult to move about, for example.

2) Riding the bus is its own community. On the bus, you spend time with groups of folks that you might not encounter closely in your day-to-day. This is also your city. It helps to not forget the range of people who all call the Twin Cities home.

3) Riding the bus can be a meditation. Biking and driving both require high amounts of attention, while on the bus, you can sit, listen to music, or break out your knitting. It's the kind of in-between space, or third space, that we are losing rapidly in our individualized society.

4) You know more about how the city actually works.

You can theorize about crime, cars, the economy, immigration, or any other pressing issue, but you don't actually know much about it until you become more immersed in the public life of a city. One of the best places for that is the bus, especially in a location like ours where outdoor spaces are pretty inhospitable for a good part of the year!

5) You know what you are advocating for. Frustrated that the bus is late? That it takes an hour and half to get somewhere by bus when it is a twenty minute drive? Be frustrated! It makes you a good advocate for better services, which in turn benefits us all. It is no longer up to the people who 'have to' take the bus to also be their only advocate.

6) You can challenge your own perceptions. What is more radical than challenging your own thinking? Whether that is about another ethnic group, or even what constitutes public joy. Sidequest: Have you ever caught the Holiday Bus? I have never had my heart swell so much as when sitting on this bus with a bunch of strangers excited to see the joy on the face of another stranger when they unsuspectingly board the Holiday Bus.

7) You can practice active safety. Uncomfortable situations will almost inevitably arise when you spend more time in public. You often have options, and more importantly, you start to practice active safety for yourself and others, rather than the passive safety we are so used to when we retreat from the public realm.

8) You can practice gratitude. Because, the reality of life in the USA is that we have very poor public transportation in lots of places. So instead of 'having to' take the bus, we 'get to', while other places wish they could.

Ready to consider taking the bus? If you are nervous, make it easier for yourself. Take the bus with a friend. Pick a time of day you feel most comfortable. Have a very exciting event you are taking the bus for to help balance out the anxiety. Start slow. Take the bus once a month. Then see if you can increase that number. Practice is key. Have you had a bad experience? Talk about it with a friend, and ask if they would ride with you next time, or make a safety plan for yourself if that situation arises again.

Because humans are dynamic, the experiences on the bus are as diverse as we all are. Being on the bus puts us together, realizing how we all actually rely on and relate to each other in a way that almost no other public experience can.

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.



Your dreams can grow here.



When you're ready to take the first steps to own your own home, we're here to *make it possible* for you.

The Sunrise Banks Pathway2Home® ITIN mortgage program makes the goal of homeownership possible for people with an ITIN.

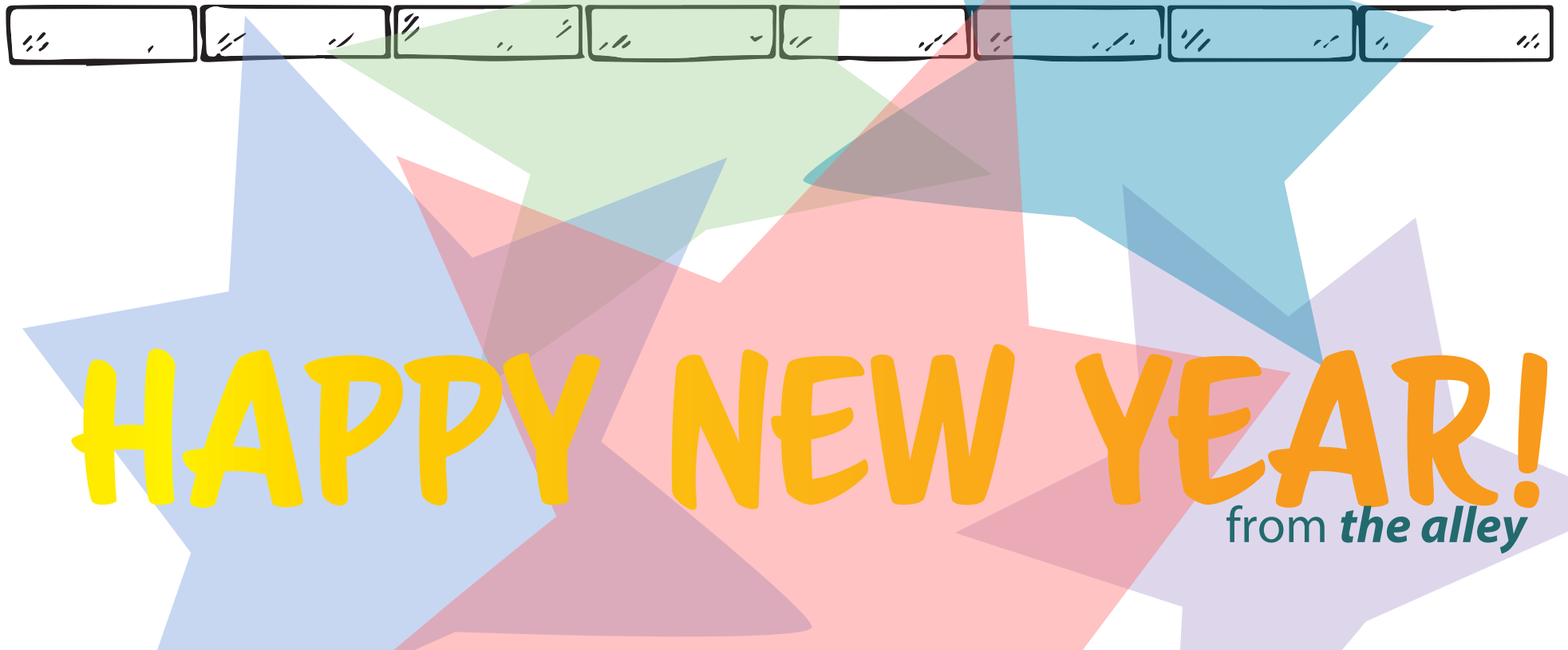
Talk to a mortgage lender today to get started:
sunrisebanks.com/p2h




Certified

Corporation

Member FDIC
NMLS# 640909



the alley VOL. 49, NUMBER 4 APRIL 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: 1. THE MINNEAPOLIS AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER REOPENS MAY 1ST! 2. AGRICULTURE: FROM FARM TO FORK 3. THE BEAT: COMMUNITY JOURNALISM IN ACTION 4. VIOLENCE: FROM FARM TO FORK 5. HOPE: FROM FARM TO FORK 6. THE BEAT: COMMUNITY JOURNALISM IN ACTION 7. HOPE: FROM FARM TO FORK 8. AGRICULTURE: FROM FARM TO FORK 9. THE BEAT: COMMUNITY JOURNALISM IN ACTION 10. HOPE: FROM FARM TO FORK

The Minneapolis American Indian Center Reopens May 1st!
All are welcome to a grand reopening and powwow celebrating the historic renovation

City's Health Department Awards First Round of Opioid Settlement Funding to Combat Crisis in Underserved Communities and Youth

Southside Roots: Student Led and Community Grown

Conversation with Kali Pliego, Crime Prevention Specialist Extraordinaire

Agugs University to Sell East Franklin Avenue Property to Somali Museum of Minnesota

the alley VOL. 49, NUMBER 5 MAY 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: 1. THE MINNEAPOLIS AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER REOPENS MAY 1ST! 2. AGRICULTURE: FROM FARM TO FORK 3. THE BEAT: COMMUNITY JOURNALISM IN ACTION 4. VIOLENCE: FROM FARM TO FORK 5. HOPE: FROM FARM TO FORK 6. THE BEAT: COMMUNITY JOURNALISM IN ACTION 7. HOPE: FROM FARM TO FORK 8. AGRICULTURE: FROM FARM TO FORK 9. THE BEAT: COMMUNITY JOURNALISM IN ACTION 10. HOPE: FROM FARM TO FORK

The Minneapolis American Indian Center is Officially Open!

Welcome Home

Southside Roots: Student Led and Community Grown

Conversation with Kali Pliego, Crime Prevention Specialist Extraordinaire

Agugs University to Sell East Franklin Avenue Property to Somali Museum of Minnesota

the alley VOL. 49, NUMBER 6 JUNE 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: 1. THE MINNEAPOLIS AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER REOPENS MAY 1ST! 2. AGRICULTURE: FROM FARM TO FORK 3. THE BEAT: COMMUNITY JOURNALISM IN ACTION 4. VIOLENCE: FROM FARM TO FORK 5. HOPE: FROM FARM TO FORK 6. THE BEAT: COMMUNITY JOURNALISM IN ACTION 7. HOPE: FROM FARM TO FORK 8. AGRICULTURE: FROM FARM TO FORK 9. THE BEAT: COMMUNITY JOURNALISM IN ACTION 10. HOPE: FROM FARM TO FORK

A Grand Gathering

South High Artists Flex Their Skills, See Back Page

In the Heart of the Beast Urging Support

Democracy Center Exhibit Now Open at Norway House

the alley VOL. 49, NUMBER 10 OCTOBER 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: 1. PIONEERS AND SOLDIERS MEMORIAL CEMETERY ON EXHIBIT AND NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM 2. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM 3. FULL CIRCLE FOR MAY DAY CAFE 4. PIONEERS AND SOLDIERS MEMORIAL CEMETERY ON EXHIBIT AND NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM 5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM 6. FULL CIRCLE FOR MAY DAY CAFE 7. PIONEERS AND SOLDIERS MEMORIAL CEMETERY ON EXHIBIT AND NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM 8. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM 9. FULL CIRCLE FOR MAY DAY CAFE 10. PIONEERS AND SOLDIERS MEMORIAL CEMETERY ON EXHIBIT AND NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM

Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery on Exhibit and Nominated for National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

Full Circle for May Day Cafe

the alley VOL. 49, NUMBER 11 NOVEMBER 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: 1. PIONEERS AND SOLDIERS MEMORIAL CEMETERY ON EXHIBIT AND NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM 2. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM 3. FULL CIRCLE FOR MAY DAY CAFE 4. PIONEERS AND SOLDIERS MEMORIAL CEMETERY ON EXHIBIT AND NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM 5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM 6. FULL CIRCLE FOR MAY DAY CAFE 7. PIONEERS AND SOLDIERS MEMORIAL CEMETERY ON EXHIBIT AND NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM 8. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM 9. FULL CIRCLE FOR MAY DAY CAFE 10. PIONEERS AND SOLDIERS MEMORIAL CEMETERY ON EXHIBIT AND NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM

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

Building Dignity and Respect Program Enlists Local Developers

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

the alley VOL. 49, NUMBER 12 DECEMBER 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: 1. PIONEERS AND SOLDIERS MEMORIAL CEMETERY ON EXHIBIT AND NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM 2. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM 3. FULL CIRCLE FOR MAY DAY CAFE 4. PIONEERS AND SOLDIERS MEMORIAL CEMETERY ON EXHIBIT AND NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM 5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM 6. FULL CIRCLE FOR MAY DAY CAFE 7. PIONEERS AND SOLDIERS MEMORIAL CEMETERY ON EXHIBIT AND NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM 8. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM 9. FULL CIRCLE FOR MAY DAY CAFE 10. PIONEERS AND SOLDIERS MEMORIAL CEMETERY ON EXHIBIT AND NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM

Consequences of War on Russian-Speaking Community

HERC Closer to Closing Down?

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

the alley VOL. 49, NUMBER 1 JANUARY 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: 2 CONFLICT 3 COMMUNITY JOURNALISM TRAININGS 4-5 A YEAR IN FRONT PAGES 6 EVENTS 7 SAVED WATER GATHERING

49 years of community news!

Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery
By SEBASTIAN WEBB

Native Women Write About Protecting Little Earth
A Chapbook Edited by Marcie Rendon and Diego Vazquez, Jr.

A Life in Six Paragraphs
By SEBASTIAN WEBB

Writing is the gift of your presence forever!
-Anna Quindlen

Something I Sold
By SEBASTIAN WEBB

the alley Delivery Changes Start March

Go to DELIVERY AND COMMUNICATION on the alley website to sign up for free mailbox delivery!

https://alleynews.org/delivery-and-communication/

You will be able to find a copy of the alley at coffee shops, community centers, and other businesses!

the alley VOL. 49, NUMBER 2 FEBRUARY 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: 3 A FORTNIGHT IN SANDS 5 PLACE HOUSING NEEDING CATCHES 7 MINNEAPOLIS AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER MAPS UPDATE 8 SOLAR CO-OP IN TOWN 11 POTTER SOMETHING SHOTS

DELIVERY CHANGES START SOON! Sign up for free home delivery at https://alleynews.org/delivery-and-communication/

Community Journalism is a Tool for Justice and Community-Building
By CHRIS SADDEN, Executive Director of the Phillips Community Center

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Smith Foundry: No Update
By LYNN ADELMAN

SAVE THE DATE: Smith Foundry community meeting February 7

Sign up for free home delivery by scanning this QR code or visit the webpage below:

https://alleynews.org/delivery-and-communication/

the alley VOL. 49, NUMBER 3 MARCH 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: 3 INTERVIEW WITH MARCE RENDON 4 BOOKS/ARTS FACTS 5 CITY TREE OFFERT 8 GUIDE TO BE LAWS 11 HONORS' 50th ANNIVERSARY OF 2023

FREE community journalism trainings on March 8th and 10th, see page 7 for details!

Cumulative Impact Laws Ignored in East Phillips
The MPCA lacks a sense of urgency in addressing high levels of asthma, cardiovascular disease, and other negative impacts in East Phillips

Get the alley FREE in your mailbox each month!

No matter where you live, sign up for a free copy of the alley each month by scanning this QR code or visiting:

https://alleynews.org/delivery-and-communication/

Postal delivery will start once you have 200 sign-ups!

Owámmiyomi Okhádnyapi Welcomes Barry Hand as Program Director
By CHANTONNE BROADBENT

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

the alley VOL. 49, NUMBER 7 JULY 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: 2 NEIGHBORHOOD CHANGES 3 ANISHINAUBEN SONGS FOR A NEW MILEAGE 8 AFFIRMATION AND RESISTANCE 10 BURNING HEAVEN'S STRUGGLE

Light-emitting Sculpture Gets Green Light
"New Dawn" Sculpture and a New Bridge

A New Chapter for an Iconic Neighborhood Building Coliseum Reopens

A Tireless Advocate for her Community is At Rest
Carol Ann Armstrong Passes, 1942-2024

The Coliseum Building Through the Years

the alley VOL. 49, NUMBER 8 AUGUST 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: 3 TWO LEADERS LOST NET ZERO BAKING 7 HAMBURGERS LAM 8 DEEPER ROOTS BEYOND BACK TO COUNTRY

Drawings around town by alley illustrator Jake Ryan

Pledge to Vote! Nuts and Bolts

Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery

An Elusive Tombstone Mystery Solved: Young Woman Found and Remembered

Children's MN Now Parks Entire 2500 Block Oak Park

the alley VOL. 49, NUMBER 9 SEPTEMBER 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: 2 ZOO THE BARBER 3 NATIONAL PREPARATION MONTH 6 HOME REPAIR TIPS 7 SMITH OPTS SHOWING

Register Now for Free Community Journalism Training Series This Fall!

Semilla Youth Leaders Add Beauty and Community to Phillips

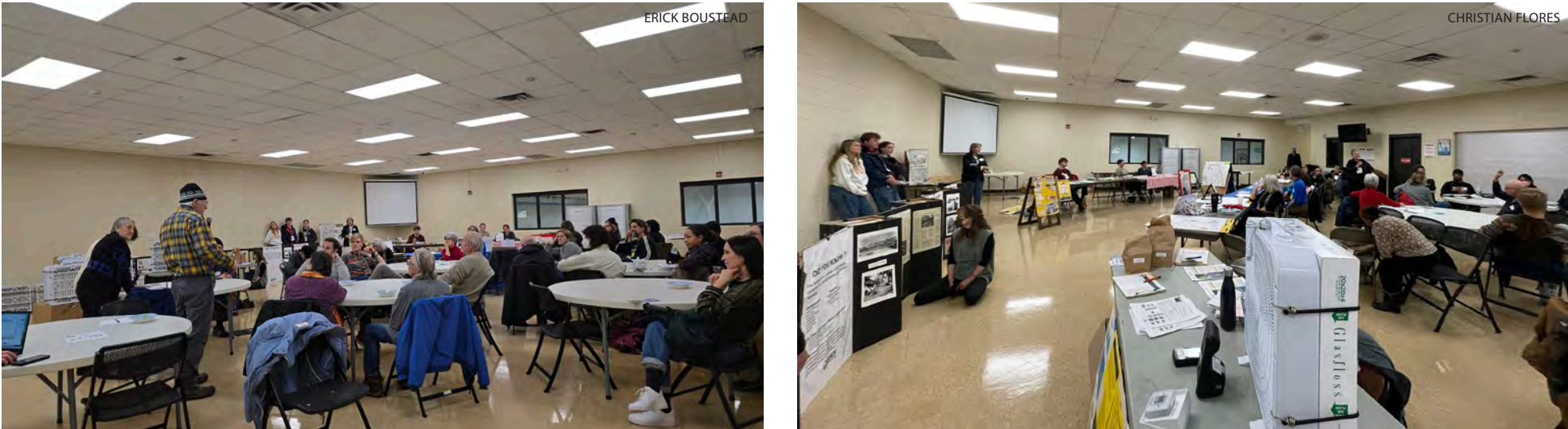
Zero Burn Coalition Requests Help to Close the Hennepin County Trash Incinerator

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

scenes from the December 5th Community Journalism launch!



On December 5th, community groups, writers, and Alley volunteers gathered to launch the community journalism work through the alley newspaper. Stories were shared, common ground solidified, and momentum gained to continue working together to keep bringing relevant news and discussion to the Phillips Community.

JANUARY EVENTS

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

Niimiwin ("Everyone Dance" in Anishinaabemowin), showcases contemporary Indigenous art within the theme of movement. In the exhibition, artists from various disciplines who are connected to Minnesota work through material, process, result, and kinship to 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

The NYAC Showcase features work in photography, printmaking, film, installation, and more by youth and Culture Bearer mentors from Little Earth Community. For gallery hours, visit 2riversartgallery.org.

Somali Museum
Thursday - Sunday
11 AM - 5 PM
Midtown Exchange
Basement level
2925 Chicago Avenue
Adults: \$11
Youth and Seniors: \$8

After months of preparation, the Somali Museum of Minnesota has reopened at a new location at the Midtown Exchange. Featuring newly curated exhibits, the site is convenient to the D line, bus route 21, and the Midtown Global Market. Whether reconnecting with an old friend or going for the first time, make it a New Year's resolution to visit this Minneapolis cultural treasure and immerse yourself in the heritage, art and history of the Somali people.

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

The focus of this new exhibit at the Hennepin County Historical Society is Phillips' own historic Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery. *In Memoriam* shines a light on individuals buried in the cemetery and asks what a cemetery can tell us about ourselves and the history we share with the deceased. For museum hours, visit hennepin-history.org

Puppet Story Time
Saturday January 4
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
The Avalon Theater
1500 E Lake Street
Free

Kids and families: head to the Avalon the first Saturday of each

month to sing, dance, play, and enjoy a mesmerizing puppetry storytelling session with puppet librarian Chelly from In Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre. No registration required.

Wish Work Winter Puppet Series

Saturday, January 11 & 18
10:30 - 11:30 AM

Open Eye Theatre
506 E 24th Street
Suggested donation \$5 - \$10

Hinterhands Puppet Company brings more puppetry magic to young audiences with four inventive and entertaining performances in January and February. This month's performances are *Dream of Owls* by Seth Eberle (January 11), and *Naughty JJ and the Carrot Soup* by Michael Sommers (January 18). The donation is a suggested amount, no one will be turned away for lack of funds! Go to hinterhands.com for more information on the programs and Hinterhands.

Hennepin County Fix-It Clinic
Sunday, January 12
12 - 4 PM

American Swedish Institute
2600 Park Avenue
Free

Start the year out right by fixing your broken stuff! Bring small household appliances, clothing, electronics, mobile devices, and more to the county's traveling Fix-It Clinic, co-hosted this month by ASI. Attendees will receive free guided assistance from handy volunteers on disassembling, troubleshooting, and fixing their items. Items must be carry-in-sized or smaller. Go to hennepin.us/fixitclinic for details. All you need to do is show up, no advanced registration required!

Makers Night

Thursday, January 16
6 - 8:30 PM

American Swedish Institute
2600 Park Avenue
Free

Makers Night is a monthly opportunity for makers to gather in a friendly environment every third Thursday at ASI. Bring a project to work on and any tools you need, and be ready to share conversation, tips and questions.



A collaborative of Minnesota artists.

Visit our shop at
 Midtown Global Market,
 920 E. Lake St., Minneapolis
 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.



Hennepin County's free Fix-It Clinic comes to the American Swedish Institute on January 12.



Michael Sommers performing *Naughty JJ and the Carrot Soup*.

EPNI What's new with the East Phillips Urban Farm Project this month?



East Phillip Urban Farm tour in December

- EPNI raised \$300,000 over the past two months thanks to the Mortenson Family Foundation, everyone who generously donated to our fall fundraiser, and a federal Community Energy Innovation Prize that we won in partnership with Cooperative Energy Futures. Thank you!
- In December, EPNI co-hosted a community meeting with some amazing partners to discuss watershed management and start to envision what rainwater recycling could look like at the Roof Depot site.
- EPNI recently expanded our outdoor farm team by hiring two Food Justice Historians and two Urban Farm Community Liaisons!
- Follow along and get in touch online at linktr.ee/epnifarm. Come build and dream with us!



PHC cont.

Continued from page 5...

stability. A homeless encampment on the vacant lots behind PHC was closed on Dec. 5th, and by the Encampment Removal Reporting Ordinance standards, the closure was probably a success. Outreach workers offered housing and ser-

vices that many of the residents declined, but no one asked the residents why they didn't want the services. Instead, everyone ignored the Camp for a few months, and then police officers showed up one day and gave the residents about three hours to clear out. I'm sure this closure was cheaper than other closures (hence the success), but it didn't move

anyone into housing. Fortunately, the newly displaced homeless folks only have to wait 13 days in a Minnesota winter before they can speak to the County Assessors at PHC.

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



February 6, 2025

5-8 PM

**American Swedish Institute
2600 Park Ave**

pwno
WINTER SOCIAL

REUNIÓN SOCIAL DE INVIERNO ISU IMAATINKA JIILAALKA
2025

There's a chill in the air and snow on the ground which means it's time for the PWNO Winter Social!

Come warm yourself at the American Swedish Institute during their free Thursday evening and learn about what PWNO has planned for the year!

PHILLIPS WEST
NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

ASI

HOME | FOOD | CRAFT | KIDS | CULTURE

INGEBRETSEN'S
NORDIC MARKETPLACE

At home in South Minneapolis since 1921

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

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 susananngust@gmail.com to set a time to talk together!


Movie Corner

A Real Pain (2024)



Drama/Comedy
Searchlight Pictures

By HOWARD MCQUITTER II



A Real Pain

Cast: Jesse (David Kaplan), Kieran Culkin (Benji Kaplan), Will Sharpe (James), Daniel Oreskes (Mark), Jakub Gasowski (Receptionist), Liza Sadovy (Diane), Kurt Egyiawan (Eloge), Jennifer Grey (Marcia).

Director: Jesse Eisenberg. **Screenwriter:** Jesse Eisenberg. **Producer:** Jesse Eisenberg. **Cinematography:** Michal Dymek. **Running time:** 89 minutes. **Rated R.**

Throughout the film music is from one of Poland's chief composers: Frederic Chopin.

Searchlight Pictures



Howard McQuitter II

Jesse Eisenberg (*The Squid and the Whale* [2010], *The Social Network* [2010]) is director, actor, and writer of *A Real Pain*. Mr. Eisenberg and his costar Kieran Culkin (*The Cider House Rules* [1991], *No Sudden Move* [2021]) makes *A Real Pain* very captivating. The two men play first cousins. David Kaplan (Jesse Eisenberg) and Benji Kaplan (Kieran Culkin) meet in Warsaw, Poland's airport to visit the Holocaust sites with an experienced tour guide, along with a handful of others of Jewish descent. The two men were close growing up, but over time became further apart. David is married with one small daughter living in a townhouse in a city in the U.S.

while Benji is a drifter who hasn't figured out a clear path for his future.

Even though *A Real Pain* can be treated as a film that can easily fall into a category with a similar (if not an identical) theme, it successfully conveys emotional sentiment, cerebral undertaking, and an underpinning of grief that I think is one of the best films of 2024.

The contrast is between David, who appears as somewhat of an introvert, but actually is an ambivert, and Benji, who speaks bluntly, if seemingly out of order, putting his listeners back on their heels.

One gets the feeling watching *A Real Pain* that the attempted genocide of the Jewish population worldwide culminated in the Holocaust and sadly not much has changed. There's a reason for the Holocaust museums: Never again.

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

HOB T, cont.

Continued from page 4...

Stage on July 4th, 1973 were joined by another person soon after and were invited to have a workspace in the basement of Walker Community Church and began producing puppets, masks, dramatic scripts for performances and demonstrations in a wide variety of venues.

First MayDay Festival

In spring of 1975, the young theatre troupe joined with people from An Almond Tree Household, New American Movement, and the Street Artist Guild to fashion the first of many MayDay Festivals with Parade and Pageant. Since then, there have been many collaborations with schools, small towns, and other arts organizations including the Minnesota Orchestra.

On Valentine's Day February 14, 1979, Powderhorn Puppet Theatre became In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre.

"As the theatre expanded its scope from the specific Powderhorn Neighborhood, the Theatre changed its name to In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre. The name change marked a point when the group began to define itself as a guild of artists." ...from 25th Anniversary book, *Theatre of Wonder: 25 Years In the Heart of the Beast*, University of Minnesota Press in cooperation with the Frederick Weisman Museum, 1999.

HOB T Name Origin: "I envy you. You North Americans are very lucky, you are fighting the most important fight of all- you live in the heart of the beast." ...Che Guevara



A T 2024

SPENCER POLK

Performers in Bare Bones prepare for final show of the season on November 2

can't say that I strongly support contact with such people because, yes, there are conflicts.

L: There were probably no changes in relations with my family and friends. But I think that my Russian culture has personally strengthened. I began to read more about history. And in general, now I feel Russian in a good sense, as never before.

G: I wouldn't say that the relationship with my family has changed... Yes, the war did affect my family, but the relationship between us is still as strong as it was before the war.

A: My family accepts me and supports me. All my friends are Russian-speaking or from Russia as well, so I don't have issues with language.

to Ukrainian. I understand him a little, but not very much. I don't feel the pressure.

...Look forward to the next part of this article in the Feb. 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.

War, cont.

Continued from page 3...

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.

How has the war affected your perception of your identity as a Russian-speaking person?

L: The first year of the war I was embarrassed that I was Russian. Then it passed. And now I just identify myself as a person from Russia. Accordingly, I am Russian, but I do not associate myself with the decisions of the authorities or politics. Politics are separate, people are separate.

G: I wouldn't say that the war has greatly affected my perception of identity. No, it didn't affect me at all, I would say. I am who I am, and I think that no event in the world can change that. I will not lie to anyone or present myself as someone else for the sake of some kind of social approval.

A: You know, someone is constantly ashamed. I also have some kind of shame on the part of Ukrainians, although I did nothing. And the point is that they always raise this topic. I remember, I just talked to a guy, I knew him before the war, and we didn't see each other in the summer. We met, he was from Mariupol. I asked, how was your summer? He said everything was fine. He said, how are you? I said I was in Kursk. I just mentioned the city of Kursk. He said Russia is over, Russia is over. And it was a couple of days later when the Crimean Bridge was blown up. I'm terribly offended. Because it's the same people, they have the same roots, the same genes.

Have you experienced any changes in your relationships with family or friends because of your linguistic or cultural background?

K: In my family, we still speak Russian to each other. But at the same time, in an environment that speaks Ukrainian, we also speak Ukrainian. There is no problem with that. I know very well people who immediately have an aversion when they hear Russian or see Russian-speaking people. I

Do you feel pressure or bias from others because you speak Russian?

K: In my case, I can't say that I feel some kind of pressure in terms of language, because, again, at the moment in my environment, even those who are from Ukraine still speak Russian. And I repeat again, just with those who speak Ukrainian, I also switch to Ukrainian. There is no problem with that.

L: Do I feel biased? I feel biased only from Ukrainians, and not from everyone, from some radical or inadequate people.

G: Before the war, I met people who were very aggressive when they found out that I was from Ukraine. But I think that there are only a few people like that, especially here in America. And they mostly confess that they hate immigrants in general. I don't think that something has changed much in terms of pressure or prejudice.

A: I don't know. Americans don't see the difference between Polish, Russian, Czech, German, and Ukrainian languages. I start to joke with my friend about Russia or Ukraine, and he starts to switch



Stay Healthy with Flu and COVID Vaccines

Available Monday-Friday by appointment & by walk-in on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month

CUHCC is a full service clinic with medical, dental and mental health services. We serve patients of all income levels, with and without insurance and offer a Sliding Fee Discount Program to help with the cost of care.

Call CUHCC @ (612) 301-3433



COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY HEALTH CARE CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover®



AT 2024

SPENCER POLK

Dancers at 3rd Annual Two Spirit Pow Wow at South High School - July 13



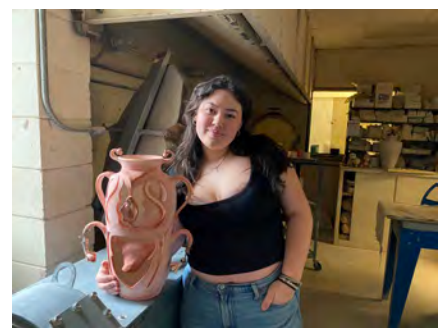
SPENCER POLK

Nicole Mason meets City Officials (MPD Officers Haugland & Martin, Director of CPED - Eric Hansen, and Director of Housing and Policy Development - Elfric K. Porte, II) preparing to evict Camp Nenookaasi.

Ceramicist, cont.

Continued from page 1...

OLIVER STRICHERZ



Macy Gearhart, a South Senior and Ceramicist pictured with her newest work: a vase inspired by the female reproductive system

Top: The front and back of Gearhart's Junior bust sculpture. Below: A bumblebee mug made by Gearhart.

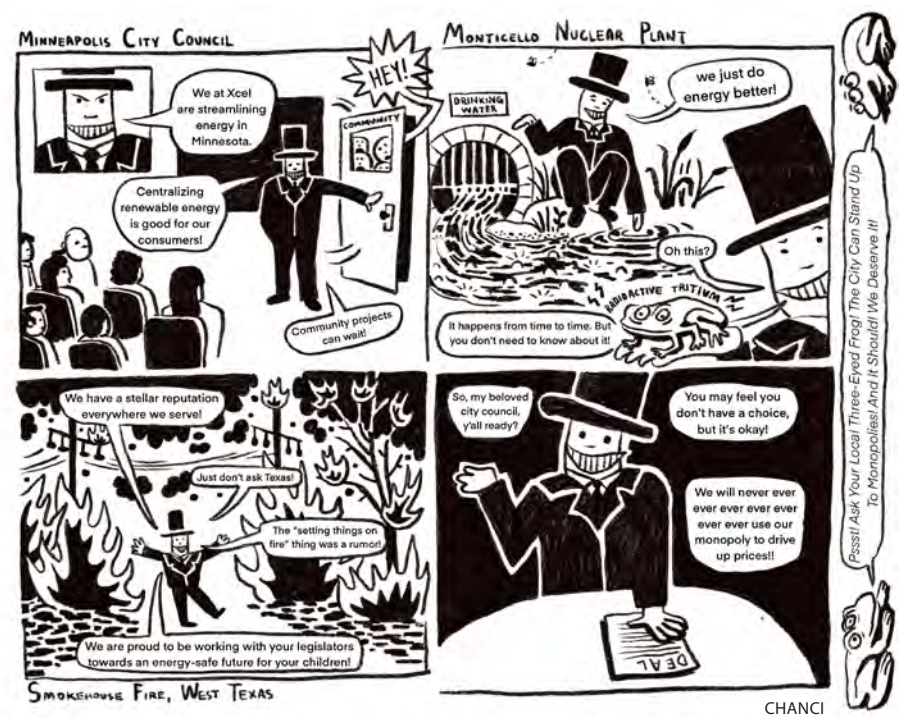
For her sustained investigation, Gearhart is exploring "the idea of bodies, reproductive anatomy, and beauty standards", and expressing "what that means for women and people who struggle with body image" in her work. It's her hope that other people feel inspired by her work. Gearhart provided that for this piece, she wanted to "highlight the anatomy of a typical AFAB (assigned female at birth) body, specifically the reproductive system." She added that in the piece she "experimented with negative space, carved elements, and added sculptural details."

In Gearhart's freshman year, she began a serious ceramic journey and has never looked back. The first piece Gearhart remembers taking pride in at South was a bumblebee mug she made on the pottery wheel, a special connection to Gearhart's love of nature. Now a senior, Gearhart is making big decisions surrounding her post-secondary career. She hopes to work with ceramics forever and wants to go to a school that will allow her to stay connected to clay. But no matter where Gearhart goes, the artist in her will never be taken away. The mugs she's thrown in a minute, every firing that could go awry, the underglazes splashed onto her clothes; they've all interwoven the spirit of clay into Gearhart, embedded forever in the artist's DNA of an astonishing teen.

Editor's note: Visit *The Southerner* at www.shsoutherner.net for the full artist profile. And to read other South High news! The Southerner is the student-written and student-produced newspaper of South High School in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

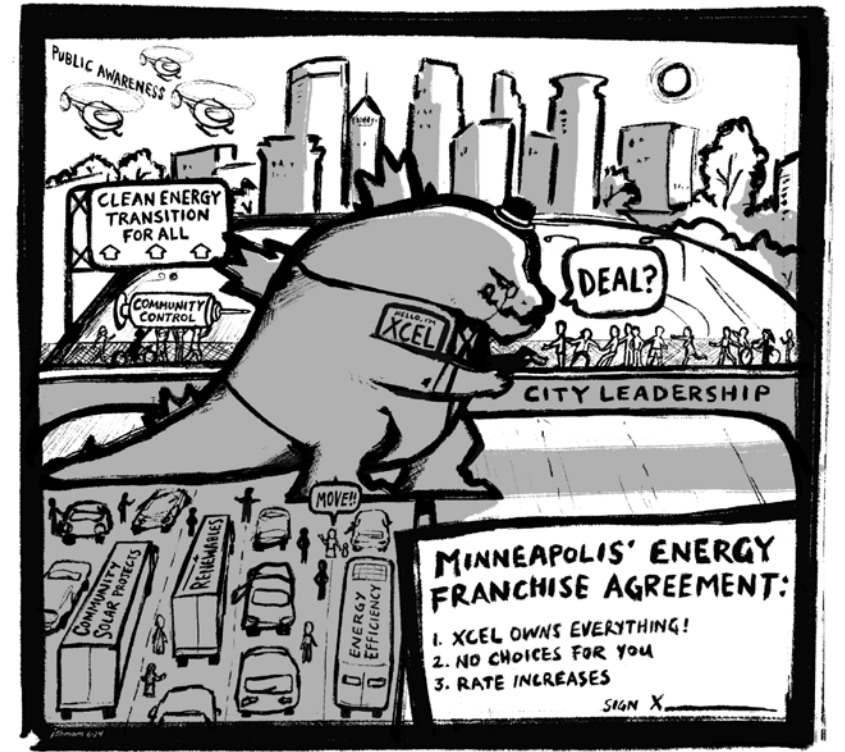
Oliver Stricherz is a junior entering his first year in the newspaper as a staff writer. He is "driven, angered and interested" in human rights and dynamics, hoping to explore human stories.

Franchise 2025: Minneapolis Negotiates the Future with Its Two Corporate Utilities. Submitted by COMMUNITY POWER MN



SMOKERHOUSE FIRE, WEST TEXAS

CHANCE



ISHMAM AHMED

Long waits to connect to Xcel's grid are stalling Minnesota solar projects —MINNPOST



ANONYMOUS

THIS MONTH IN EAST PHILLIPS & MIDTOWN...



THRIVING BUSINESSES FOR A FLOURISHING NEIGHBORHOOD

The East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC) and the Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association (MPNAI) recently applied for a Business District grant from the City of Minneapolis, with a vision for the future of Bloomington Avenue. Our proposal includes the creation of a Phillips Multicultural Business and Contractor Association, a marketing campaign to promote local businesses, and an Open Streets Festival to celebrate the vibrancy of the neighborhood.

At the heart of our vision is the **Phillips Multicultural Business and Contractor Association**. This initiative aims to connect local business owners and Phillips independent contractors in a collaborative network designed to share referrals, resources, and opportunities. By working together, we can foster mutual support and strengthen the local, walkable economy, all while promoting a sense of community ownership and pride. Over time, we envision these efforts creating a resilient ecosystem where wealth remains in the community, fostering sustainable economic growth.

The concept of a circular economy is central to our vision, emphasizing the continuous flow of resources and wealth within the local community. By keeping money circulating locally—through businesses sourcing materials, hiring talent, and reinvesting profits within Phillips—we aim to build a strong local economy. Phillips is already taking strides toward a circular economy, with local businesses and community organizations circulating resources, wealth, and community identity. However, there is still much work to be done to fully realize this potential.

In fact, research has shown that local businesses outperform chain stores in several key areas. They have deeper connections to their communities, which enables them to leverage local networks, foster customer loyalty, and reduce transportation impacts (which we love for the sake of clean air!). While big-box stores often use their bulk buying power to undercut local businesses, this may come at the cost of our long-term community wealth.

In addition to impacting the flow of capital in our local economy, a thriving business district also has an interdependent relationship with neighborhood safety and well-being. A run-down business corridor feels less safe and deters locals and visitors alike, causing lower foot traffic which in turn can make an area more vulnerable to crime. Well-managed businesses bring more than economic impact, they bring a positive presence (Welna Hardware is a particularly long-standing contributor to the neighborhood).

The businesses on Bloomington Avenue have proven their resilience and importance to the neighborhood. At Macca, Elmi sells whoopie pies and spices, while Super More Value offers gyros to the community. The Grease Pit not only fixes bikes but also teaches people the skills to do it themselves. Royal Cafe, a gathering place for pool players, offers a space where neighbors can connect and unwind and Duce Restaurant sells the best Sambusas and Shaah Caday (Somali tea). These businesses are more than just shops—they are the heartbeat of our community, circulating money, resources, and cultural identity.

The Phillips Multicultural Business and Contractor Association is being designed to create a support system that will help businesses grow, improve their operations, and strengthen relationships within the community. Together, we can make Phillips a model of economic resilience, community connection, and sustainability.

What can you do? Continue to support our local businesses and ensure that the businesses of Bloomington Avenue remain an integral part of our community's future. And if you are a business owner or a resident interested in strengthening Bloomington Ave, reach out!

EPIC AND MPNAI - UPDATED PHASED MERGER PLAN

OUTREACH
Phase 3

FORMING
Phase 4

VIEW OUR PHASED
PLAN



UNITEDPHILLIPS.ORG