



thealley

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@alleynews

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CENTERFOLD:
FRONT PAGES FROM
OUR 50TH YEAR



December 20th -- Now in its second year, the Winter Solstice Lantern Parade brought light and delight to South Minneapolis on the longest night of the year. Community lantern making workshops and the parade event are organized by Phillips' own Semilla Center for the Arts and Barebones Puppets, along with In the Heart of the Beast Theatre, and Artstart.

Fire and Ice

By HARVEY WINJE

This Wendell Phillips quote was a response to a friend, Brother May, who had asked, "Wendell, why are you so on fire?" after a fervent speech against the moral outrage of

slavery.

Phillips's reply highlights the immense challenge he and other abolitionists faced in changing the deep-seated apathy, indifference, and resistance to their cause. The "fire" represented his passion and moral clarity, while the "mountains

of ice" symbolized societal inertia and opposition to abolishing slavery.

There is societal inertia and opposition to

**"Peace if possible,
Justice at any rate"**

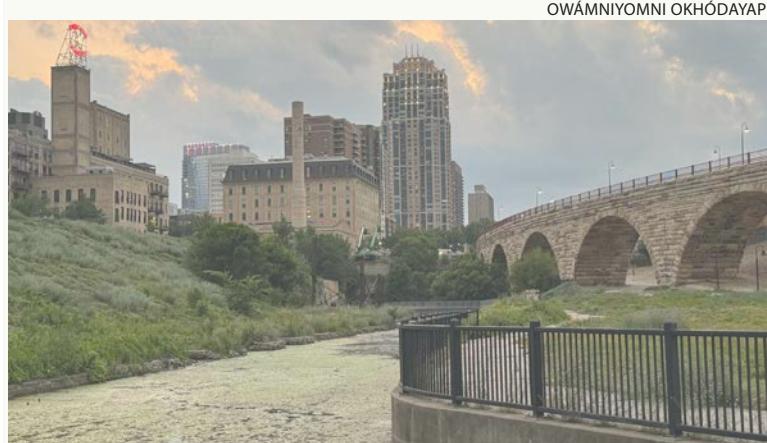
(another of the quotes Phillips favored) when it comes many issues

confronting us today. The late Senator Paul Wellstone claimed the quote as a favorite, along with **"Brother, I'm on fire because I have mountains of ice before me to melt."**

He used it often to inspire others in the face of their own significant challenges.

Design Plans for Owámniyomni Restoration Unveiled

by OWÁMNIYOMNI OKHÓDAYAPI



OWÁMNIYOMNI OKHÓDAYAPI

Current conditions, Mill Race



The Owámniyomni Project, View of the Mill Race

After nearly a decade of relationship building, community conversations, and reimagining what the riverfront could be, Dakota-led nonprofit Owámniyomni Okhódayapi has unveiled its design for restoring the land and water at Owámniyomni, just north of the Phillips neighborhood. The project area includes a five-acre site adjacent to the Upper Lock on the Mississippi Riverfront, along with three additional acres managed by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board.

Owámniyomni, known to many as St. Anthony Falls, has been a sacred place for Dakota and

other Indigenous peoples since long before Minneapolis existed. The land holds significant spiritual power for the community as a space where families have gathered to pray, hold ceremonies, and welcome new life into the world. Settler industrialization of the Mississippi River reshaped the land for milling, power, and other industries that erased much of the original landscape.

Today, Owámniyomni Okhódayapi is working to transform the area into a place of public education, community gathering, and healing through cultural and environmental restoration. The project is led by Dakota voices and values. The unveiling of this new design marks an exciting and important step toward realizing that vision.

Led by a team of Dakota Knowledge Keepers representing multiple Dakota Tribes and communities, the design centers Dakota relationships with land and water.

"The design emphasizes interconnectedness – uplifting the intrinsic relationship between land, water and other relatives – while restoring habitat and creating a welcoming space that will benefit the community for generations to come," said Shelley Buck, president of Owámniyomni Okhódayapi.

Key features of the design *Continued on page 10...*

Sign up for a free copy of the alley each month by scanning this QR code or visiting:

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



WHAT WE CARRY

by ATLAS OF BLACKNESS



SAINT GRIM

Last month, Atlas of Blackness presented "What We Carry" at the John and Denise Graves Foundation's Creating Change Gallery, an intimate exhibition featuring the 2024 Black Scholar Fellows. Over many months, these young storytellers, artists, and cultural workers traced the emotional, structural, and historical forces that shape Black life in the Twin Cities. Their work examines the weight held in our bodies and families, the memories our cities ask us to carry, and the moments that refuse silence. Centering Black mental health, the complexities of Black motherhood, the long shadow of loss, and the quiet transformations that make survival possible, this exhibition insists that these experiences are not marginal or private. They are primary sites of knowledge and power, especially for women, nonbinary people, and Black youth coming of age in an uncertain time. Curated by Lucina Kayee and Patience Zalanga, "What We Carry" honors the depth of their stories and the communities that shaped them.

What the artists hold

Working across photography, painting, and oral storytelling, each artist offers a body of work that pushes against dominant narratives about Black life. Their projects emerge from lived experience, research, and the emotional terrain they have learned to navigate.

Continued on page 11...

The alley, like a Cat

By HARVEY WINJE

Cats sense by sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. Their sensory world is much richer than ours because of unique night vision, incredibly sensitive whiskers (vibrissae) for feeling surroundings, excellent hearing for high frequencies, and a strong reliance on smell, plus a specialized "sixth sense" through their Jacobson's organ for detecting pheromones. They love any fish except a 'red herring' and seldom "bite" on clickbait. A cat won't miss a chance to play, cautiously.

Cats are exceptionally flexible due to fifty-three vertebrae, elastic cushioning discs, and loose pelvic connections, allowing for a nearly 180-degree rotation enabling twisting and maneuvering with great agility; thereby always landing on their feet.

Continued on page 8...

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 jolt forward.

Guided and Informed by:
Phillips residents

Governed by Directors: Steve Dreyer, Luke Gannon, Susan Gust, and Natalie Mazey.

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

Business Facilitated by: Erick Boustead

Production Facilitated by:
Mattie Wong

Page Coordinators: EPIC News; MPNA News.

Social Media: Susan Gust, Anais Lowe

This month's contributors to the alley: All My Relations Arts, American Swedish Institute, Majah Barnes, Atlas of Blackness, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, East Phillips Neighborhood Institute, Linnea Hadaway, Naomi Gbor, GGN, Hennepin History Museum, Dwight Hobbes, Laura Hulscher, Sue Hunter Weir, Mary Ellen Kaluza, Marti Maltby, Howard McQuitter II, Midtown Global Market, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Peter Molenaar, Dave Moore, Owamniyomni Okhdayapi, Phillips Community Oral History Project Partners, Phillips West Neighborhood Organization, Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association, ReEntry Lab, Saint Grim, Ventura Village Neighborhood Organization, Harvey Winje.

DONATIONS
Thank you to neighbors, readers, advertisers, subscribers, and GiveMN. Alley Communications is a Not-for Profit 501C-3; donations are tax deductible. **thealley** 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 **thealley** 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
talk with us: connect@alleynews.org

Submissions due the 12th day of the previous month



Franklin Library News

Compiled by CHRISTINA SMITH, Librarian at Franklin Library

Governed by Directors: Steve Dreyer, Luke Gannon, Susan Gust, and Natalie Mazey.

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

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New Year's Day

Thursday, January 1st

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, January 19th

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH + FAMILIES

LET'S READ!

Tues/Thurs: 4:00-7:30 PM

Saturdays: 2-5 PM (Excluding Jan. 1)

Free in-person reading support for K-5 students. Students and trained volunteer tutors meet weekly one-on-one to work on grade level reading skills.

HOMEWORK HELP (GRADES K-12)

Tues/Thurs: 4:00-7:30 PM

Saturdays: 2-5 PM (Excluding Jan. 1)

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

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

Hmoob/Hmong: Hu losis text rau lub tsev nyeebm 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.

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.

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

STEAM WORKSHOP (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

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 12:30-2 PM

Join Franklin Library staff for free coffee & conversations with neighbors.

ADULT TUTORING

Every Saturday, 10 am-12 pm

Are you an adult looking to improve your literacy skills? Would you like help with homework? Are you studying for your GED? Adult Tutoring is a drop-in program for adults seeking 1:1 help with basic level reading, writing, math, and English language. Adults will work with trained volunteer tutors at the library during tutoring hours. Drop-ins are welcome on a first-come, first-served basis.

SISTERS CAMELOT FOOD SHARE

Thursday, January 15th, 2:30-3:30 pm

Stop by for free produce and organic groceries provided by Sisters Camelot.

While supplies last.

HIV/STD TESTING AND WOUND CARE

Friday, January 30th, 10 AM-12 PM

Drop in and for free HIV/STD testing from Native American Community Clinic and wound care provided by the U of M's Mobile Health Care Initiative. No registration required.

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 nyeebm 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.

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Monthly Update: Phillips Community Oral History Project

By PHILLIPS COMMUNITY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT PARTNERS

Welcome back to the Phillips Community Oral History Project monthly updates. This column is an important part of the project's outreach to the Phillips community. It is intended to share key progress milestones and to remain accountable to the people of Phillips.

After several months of interviews (which are still ongoing), the Project has taken steps to transcribe many of them, bringing us closer to making these stories public and giving them a permanent home. The process begins with an automated transcription service, but Project staff and volunteers put considerable effort into matching the text with residents' actual speech, and adding timestamps for future reference.

Along with a more permanent digital home for these oral interviews, we plan to share even more of that content in these Alley updates. As we've gotten the interviews and transcription underway, the content we have shared from these interviews has been limited to small excerpts. Starting in February, our updates will include considerably longer extracts from the interviews. We're especially excited about sharing these extracts, because they fit best into the primary purpose of the Oral History Project: all of us as neighbors sharing our Phillips story with one another.

Several interviews have addressed a rising feeling among neighbors that Phillips has become less safe in recent years. What struck many of us was how community care has come up as part of the response to this rising distrust.

In an interview with Donna Neste and Carrie Day-Aspinwall, they talked about the role of community efforts like Phillips Clean Sweep in building community safety. Day-Aspinwall playfully referred to Clean Sweep as one of the many "weed and seed" programs that have been working "to weed out that crime and seed in the good things." Neste noted that such community efforts have often benefited from federal funding, and stressed the need to keep such community support alive: "We really made a lot of headway ... [W]e lowered crime and all kinds of stuff but it's got to be a sustained effort."

Derrick Herod's interview was a reminder that even if our lives as Phillips residents individually change, many of us continue to feel connected to all of our neighbors. Herod said,

"It made me stay — the people, yeah the people. The homeless — I can relate to them. I was once one of those people and now a lot of my acquaintances are, you know, still in that bind. So I don't want to make them feel like I'm abandoning them just because I have a place to stay and stuff. So I just come around anyway to help out when I can."

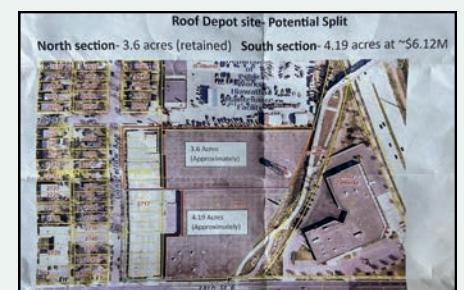
Luke Gannon of East Phillips Improvement Coalition, who has led and transcribed several interviews, said, "Hearing stories like [Herod's] reminds me that this neighborhood is a network of care and shared resilience."

The Phillips Oral History project is funded in part by grants from the City of Minneapolis, and in part by grants from the University

Continued on page 11...

EAST PHILLIPS INDOOR URBAN FARM UPDATE

- EPNI's Purchase Agreement for the Roof Depot expired officially on November 15, 2025.
- Minneapolis has since offered EPNI a new deal: EPNI would purchase approximately 4.19 acres at a price of \$6.12 million. The City would retain approximately 3.6 acres.



EPNI has met with community twice. Many community members requested:

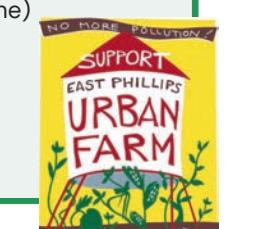
- The price be lowered
- No disturbance of foundation
- Land owned by Little Earth

Cooperative Energy Futures is working hard to protect the solar array on the Roof Depot, which is at risk because of the Trump Administration.

Coming Soon: EPNI is Hiring

- Community Empowerment Director (Full time)
- Farm Coordinator (Full time)
- Bookkeeper (Part time)
- Community Education Aid (Part time)
- WEX (Full or Part time)

Use the QR code to get information: 



Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery

BY SUE HUNTER WEIR

242ND IN A SERIES

Lena Potts

The Hidden Life of a Phillips Home

MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL

RIGHT: The Goodrich-Russell Home as it looked in the early 1900s.

BELOW: The former Goodrich-Russell Home as it looks today. For many years it was the home of Phillips activist Lynn Mayo and former City Council Member Dean Zimmerman. Today it is the home of the Fawn Goodbear Tibbets family.



1905, they provided housing for 75 women, helped 105 women find jobs as domestics, provided free meals to 200 people and free nights' lodging to 90 guests. On Thursdays and Sundays, people gathered at the home for "music, singing, and a jolly good time."

In 1905 the Home was given a new name. It became the Goodrich-Russell Industrial Home for Working Girls at that address. The home was named after Cora Goodrich and E. Augusta Russell, two of its benefactors.

The purpose of the home was to provide training as domestics for young women from the South who wished to move North. At the time wages for domestics in Southern states were reported to be \$1.25 a week compared with \$4.00 a week in Minneapolis, and domestics were in high demand here. Prospective employers paid transportation costs with the understanding that they would be repaid once the women began working for them. Newspapers printed testimonials from satisfied employers, and the *Minneapolis Journal* proclaimed the program a "great success."

The house was described as a "... pleasant and substantial building." It had an industrial-sized oven with a capacity for baking 65 loaves of bread at a time. Residents were trained in a number of domestic skills including cooking and sewing. The home prided itself on its instruction in "fine washing," which would "rival that of [a] famous French laundress." A music teacher moved here from St. Louis, Missouri, to offer piano lessons to those who wanted them.

The Goodrich-Russell Home provided other services in addition to its training program. In

Minneapolis Encampments: A Stone Around The Neck A call for more stringent social service screening

By DWIGHT HOBBS

I survived homelessness and can say first hand that since '92, this city has dealt with it like a cat covering up its waste.

For instance, a couple years ago or so, the community welcomed Powderhorn Park's tent city only to have cars vandalized and people trying to burglarize homes. So, Minneapolis took an "everybody out of the pool" approach and the disenfranchised, notably women with children simply trying to get by, were thrown out. Bad actors committing crimes, including assault and rape in the encampment proved a stone around their neck, endangering and ultimately costing decent, flat broke folk what little shelter they'd found as they desperately tried to get system assistance.

Now, we've seen a dozen shootings within days, to which the response amounts to useless hand wringing on one hand and a shut the whole thing down answer on the other. The ongoing crisis calls for stringent social services screening, not a basically one size fits all solution. You help those who want to help themselves instead of parasites who take handouts for granted and get high as a priority.

Misguided humanitarians indiscriminately bringing supplies to the downtrodden enable the bad and do little for the good who don't need to make do in a tent city but deserve help getting the hell out.

DWIGHT HOBBS is a long-time Twin Cities journalist and essayist.

</div

JANUARY EVENTS

Winston: A Woman's Fight for Freedom in Minnesota

Through October 2027

Hennepin History Museum 2303 3rd Avenue S Pay what you can

Hennepin History Museum's newest exhibit tells the story of Eliza Winston, the first and only enslaved person to successfully fight for their freedom in a Minnesota courtroom. Featuring artifacts from the museum's permanent collection as well as newly commissioned artwork depicting Eliza, the exhibit is based on the scholarship of co-curator Dr. Christopher P. Lehman, author and professor of the Department of Social Sciences at St. Cloud State University. For museum hours and visitor information, visit hennepinhistory.org.

Are You Thirsty? January 2 & 3 1:30 - 2:15 PM Hennepin History Museum 2303 3rd Avenue S Pay what you can

Are You Thirsty? revives a dynamic 2008 performance by In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre. "Thirsty" just wants a drink of Water ... but first they must explore a myriad of questions contained in that one precious sip. This family-friendly performance ignites the audience to see themselves as relatives of Water, bringing many current Water issues vibrantly to life, and encouraging our important and joyful participation in taking care of Water. For more details, visit hennepinhistory.org/events.

12th Day of Christmas Jul Ball Monday, January 5 6 - 9 PM American Swedish Institute 2600 Park Avenue \$15

Send off the holiday season with a hop, leap, and twirl at ASI's first annual 12th Day of Christmas Jul Ball! Bring a partner or find one here to dance the night away under the twinkling lights in Larson Hall. Special music by some of the area's finest Nordic folk musicians will span multiple traditions. All dance skill levels are welcome, and light instruction will be provided. asimn.org/events-calendar/12th-day-of-christmas-jul-ball

Better Things January Tuesday January 6 7 - 8 PM Moon Palace Books 3032 Minnehaha Avenue Free

January's 5x5 writers' gathering will be a "narrative interventions lab" facilitated by Kyle "Guante" Tran Myhre. Participants will explore questions of how we

might make our values, politics, and principles come to life in the world through creative "interventions" that counter the embedded stories which underpin existing understandings. This will be a place to share skills and ideas, and finally, to share work, either something generated during the lab or something you bring with you. Please note that masks are required at Moon Palace Books.

28th Annual Martin Luther King Day Celebration Monday, January 19 10 AM - 1:30 PM Powderhorn Park Recreation Center 3400 15th Ave S Free

A beloved tradition at Powderhorn Park, this all-ages event celebrates and nurtures the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event is hosted by the Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association and the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, and features family-friendly activities, giveaways, free lunch, live music, performances, inspiration, and community joy. Find more details about this year's program at ppna.org/mlkcelebration.

Sakowin Synergy January 22 - March 21 All My Relations Arts 1414 E Franklin Avenue Free

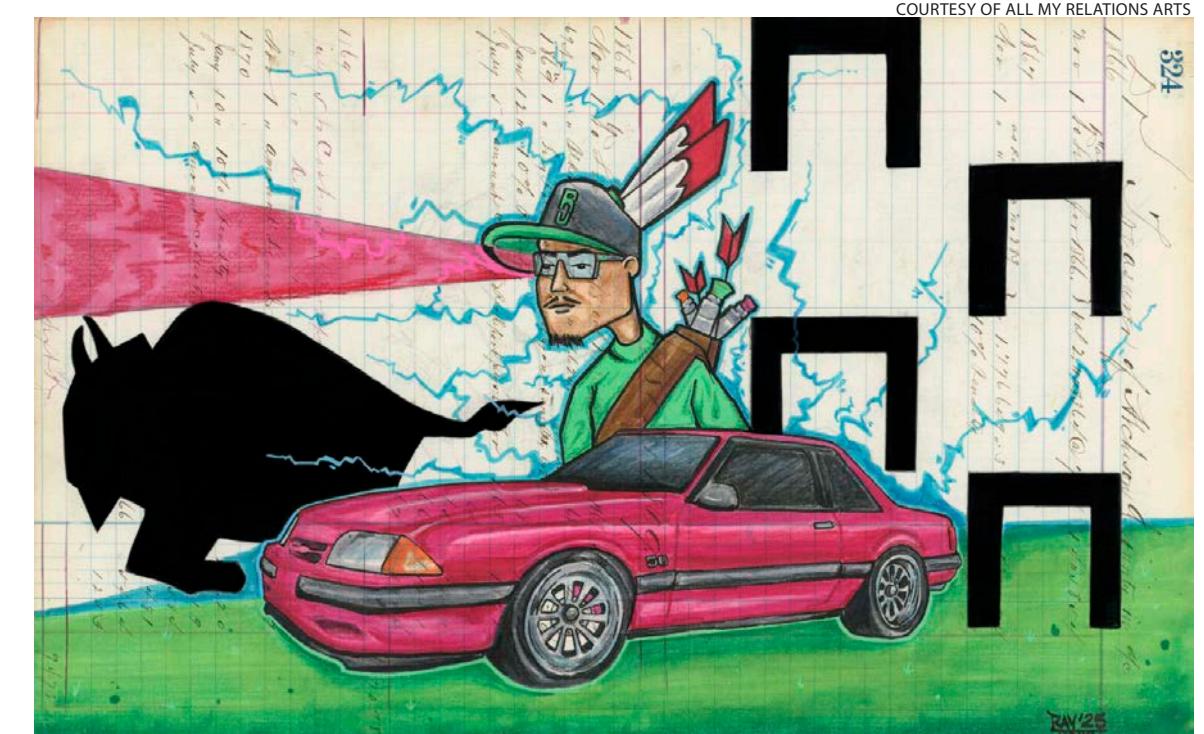
Curated by mixed media artist Ray Janis, *Sakowin Synergy* brings together the works of four contemporary artists: Ray "Rock Boy" Janis, Sheldon Starr, Jim Yellow Hawk, and Dwayne "Chuck" Wilcox.

"Sakowin" is a profound reference to the Oceti Sakowin—The Seven Council Fires—acknowledging a collective heritage and spirit of the project; "Synergy" underscores the mutual and energy and collaborative exchange brought to it by the artists. The exhibition is woven together with deep respect for tradition and a bold embrace of modernity. Building upon this rich legacy, the artists employ electrifying, vibrant colors and develop new interpretations of traditional motifs and narratives.

Light on Lake Launch Party Thursday, January 29 6 - 7:30 PM Midtown Global Market 920 E Lake Street Free

All are welcome to a free community celebration kicking off *Light on Lake*, a four-night public art experience transforming the Midtown Global Exchange building into an outdoor gallery of light and color. Meet the artists behind the work and enjoy an evening of art, music, and community while the projections light up the surrounding Lake Street buildings.

This party is free and open to the public, but your RSVP will



ABOVE MIDDLE: In the Heart of the Beast Theatre's 2008 performance *Are You Thirsty?*

ABOVE BOTTOM: Ray Janis, *Sakowin Synergy* ledger

..... help ensure the best experience for the community. Find the registration link at midtownglobalmarket.org/new-events/2026/1/29/light-on-lake-launch-party.

Lunar New Year Celebration

Saturday, January 31

Noon - 3 PM

Midtown Global Market

920 E Lake Street

Free

Join the community and bring in the Year of the Horse with festive performances and activities at the Midtown Global Market. Programming details will be posted on the Global Market facebook page in advance of the event.

Bohdan Tataryn, Piano
Sunday, February 1
4 PM
Mount Olive Lutheran Church
3045 Chicago Avenue
Free (offering gathered for Ukrainian relief)

Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts presents Ukrainian pianist Bohdan Tataryn in a recital of



ABOVE: Light on Lake Launch Party



THIS MONTH IN EAST & MIDTOWN PHILLIPS

Merger Update

Last month, we were scheduled to hold the merger meeting. However, in light of escalating violence and the resulting trauma in our neighborhood, particularly due to racist and unlawful actions by ICE agents, we made the decision to postpone the MPNAI + EPIC merger vote. Instead, we convened a meeting to come together as a community, share support, and strategize how we can respond to this moment of crisis while better supporting our diverse neighbors.

To learn more and access immigration resources, please visit <https://www.unitedphillips.org/immigration> or scan the QR code below.



Food Sovereignty Event

Through our Urban Agriculture Program, we hosted a seed workshop that provided free seeds and resources to our neighbors. The Urban Agriculture Program works to expand access to food by distributing resources, offering educational events and support, and building a food sovereignty resource library for East and Midtown Phillips.



To learn more, visit

<https://www.unitedphillips.org/urban-ag> or scan the QR code below.



JANUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH



APRIL



MAY



JUNE



JULY



AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



NOVEMBER



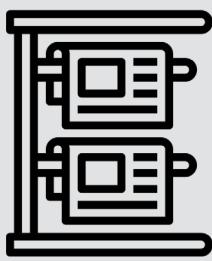
DECEMBER



FRONT PAGES from our

50th YEAR!

Where do you want to see the alley?



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

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



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

Alley cat, cont.

Continued from page 1...

The alley Newspaper's several lives show its adaptability and resilience, too. Always "landing on its feet" through seven phases with leadership by forty people who produced 569 issues adapting to the needs and means of the times. Three attempts at privatizing were deflected in favor of keeping the newspaper Community Owned and Operated. *The alley* would have gone out of publication if one attempt had succeeded as did three other newspapers in that attempted merging.

Alley Communications became the new name in November 1999 reflecting its broadened mission and the evolution of media.

Alley Communication volunteers and staff are mere human beings compared to the alley Cat. It is clear that having more people in leadership roles increases the possibility of having more of the cat's sensibilities available to us. Will you consider joining the leadership or bringing your skills to another specific project?

- Advocating on Issues
- Agitating for Change
- Building Healthy Community
- Documenting History
- Facilitating Deliberation
- Lifting Every Voice
- Promoting Art and Culture
- Connecting Neighbors
- Giving Democracy a Jig Forward

Alley Communications continues these objectives in ways besides *the alley* Newspaper.



Mark Bonander

Welna Hardware— Goods for Generations

— Yata Peinovich

When The Alley was planning its 5 year/50th issue in January 1981, I asked myself what business really represents this neighborhood. I spoke to Welna Hardware about doing a story then but due to the hugeness of that 24-page issue, I didn't get to it. Virgil Welna assured me, "Don't worry, we'll still be here tomorrow."

It's true, they were still there at 2441 Bloomington Avenue South as they have been since 1941 when Al and Ann Welna moved to Minneapolis from Holdingford, Minnesota. A hardware store has existed at the site since 1912. In 1954 the Welnas bought the store from Dalsin Roofing Company and asked their son Virgil, just out of the service, to be a partner. Now, 27 years later, Virgil's wife Pat and son Mark are also a part of the family-run business.

In those years, Welna Hardware has been selling more than hardware goods, paint and glass. During the 30 minutes I was there for the interview, they explained some pipe fittings to someone who had decided to fix that plumbing problem himself, and after selling a 20¢ need for a basketball pump to some neighborhood kids, they even held the ball for them while they pumped air into the ball.

The store looks pretty much the way it did when they redesigned it in 1947, about three years before pegboard fixtures swept the country's hardware stores. Although in the 1950s they did briefly sell refrigerators and televisions, Welna Hardware now has a 7,000-item inventory and if what you're looking for is not on display on the floor, it can probably be found by one of the

Welnas in a drawer somewhere. And their affiliation with Our Own Hardware Stores allows them to hastily order whatever hardware goods they might not have in stock.

An old hardware store can speak the colloquial language of a particular time and place, recalling the tools of our pre-modern past as well as the familiar gadgetry of our contemporary homes.

While Welna Hardware doesn't have some of the whirligigs and do-hickeys this writer has seen in some rural community hardware stores, nonetheless this Phillips inner-city store has a tested and tried philosophy. Starting with Al Welna: "Business is good thanks to all the people that come in. It's steady; we're never gonna get rich but if we stay on the ball, you're never going to be poor either."

"Just as we've got three generations working here at the store, we've seen three generations of customers move through the store," Virgil added.

When I asked about their pricing, he pointed out: "People sometimes misconceive that in a small place the prices should be higher. But we are a member of a wholesale cooperative and we have every opportunity to buy competitively, and to be free on our prices." All I can say is, where else can you get a key made for 50¢?

On the way out of the store, Ann Welna (also known as "Grandma" to lots of folks) was at the brass, hand-operated National cash register. Since 1913 it has never needed a service call. Even the bell still works. When I was at the door I could hear the bell ring as the boys were paying for their basketball needle. Had to laugh - maybe tomorrow they'll be back for a rubber patch.

Clipping from *the alley*, May 1981

**Thank You
 WELNA
 HARDWARE
 for 50 YEARS of
 advertising in the
 alley!**

**THANK YOU to Alley
 Communications ongoing
 advertisers in 2026: Welna
 Hardware, Ingebretsen's,
 Sunrise Banks, and HN
 County Commissioner
 Angela Conley**

**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

Thankyou
51
 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

Hey, you
 read *the
 alley*!



Contribute!



Immigration Resources

ICE agents have been terrorizing our neighborhoods. Below are some immigration resources for both vulnerable neighbors and people who want to support them.

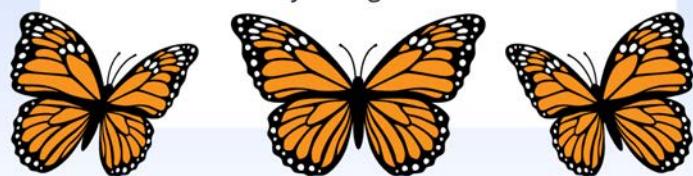
This is also a great time to meet your neighbors, offer a friendly face, and support our immigrant-run businesses.

Monarch

Hotline: 612-441-2881
 Posters for businesses:
<https://monarcamn.org/resources>

Immigrant Law Center of MN

Know Your Rights, Family Preparedness, and Legal Clinics:
<https://www.ilcm.org/immigration-resources/know-your-rights/>



The Hennepin County Board concluded its budget season on December 11th, 2025, and established the budget for 2026.

The budget was shaped by drastic federal cuts and a commitment to maintaining critical services in areas including health, housing, income, and justice.

Some of the priorities accomplished within the \$3.1 billion budget for 2026 include:

- Preserving food access throughout the entire county
- Ongoing housing support
- Opioid response
- Maintained a flat Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) levy
- New youth stabilization center
- Financially stabilized HCMC
- Road projects

2025 Year in Review - District 4 newsletter features highlights including the following and more!

Women's Heart Health Initiative

Zero Waste Initiatives

Community Events & Celebrations

Leadership Positions on County Board Committees

Intergovernmental Relations
 Co-chair
 Public Health
 Chair
 Housing and Redevelopment Authority*
 Chair

Sign up for
 District 4
 Newsletter

hennepin.us/angelaconley

Keep up to date with on socials

@D4Commish



Please reach out with questions, comments, or to learn more about how to get involved.

This space is paid by Commissioner Angela Conley

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



PHILLIPS WEST
 NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION
 JOIN US AT THE AMERICAN SWEDISH
 INSTITUTE FEB. 5, 2025 FOR OUR
 ANNUAL WINTER SOCIAL!
 EMAIL: INFO@PHILLIPSWEST.ORG | CALL / TEXT (ENGLISH): 612-424-0786

COLUMNS Past, Present, and Future

The Parthenon has 23 interior columns for support. The alley has had a wide variety of Columns on interior pages for reader enjoyment and support of its value. These quick summaries are for appreciation of what the alley has been for 50 years and to prompt readers to become writers of similar alley content in the years ahead.



Random alley News



Phillips What Where

Small bits and pieces of local happenings and larger events. This type of column has appeared at many different eras by many different writers. The beauty of the column is it being short, colorful anecdotes of community life, family events, and general news of importance that don't need a long interviewed or researched basis. It is also an easy way for people to submit what they know and think would be important for others to know about without being intimidated by lack of newspaper reporting experience or expertise.

Gallery of Loss

By HARVEY WINJE

Continued from December...

Marti Maltby's January '26 Peace House Community Column on page 4 is about "community as a form of spirituality." This Gallery of Loss series of articles is about loss of trust, buildings, residential neighborhoods, and places of memories. All of those are vessels of community and losing them threatens community as spirituality. Thank you Marti for passing on the words and wisdom from Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy.

Review of Parts I & II

Gallery of Loss Part I October 2025 was reprinted from April 2010 as an example for others to write a personal loss, too, that has broader meaning.

That article prompted more details and analysis. I asked myself, "So what? Why is this of interest beyond my own nostalgia and some laments?"

The article grew into Parts:

Part I set the scene using a 1951 photo in the side yard of my boyhood home at 2512-14 Chicago Ave. where a brand new specialty hospital would be built north and across 26th Street from Northwestern Hospital 20 years later. It was to be one hospital on a large, new campus on which four existing hospitals would share some buildings centered at 25th Street and Chicago Ave. Part I briefly explained how two risky new concepts enabled the construction of Minneapolis Children's Health Center, opening December 1972, and to be a part of Minneapolis Medical Center, Inc.-MMCI. Abbott Hospital and Northwestern Hospital merged in 1970 on paper and became one hospital at 27th and Chicago in 1980. The MMCI Campus was pre-empted by other events including national funds and attention to the Vietnam War.

Part II explained how the new pediatric hospital expanded west of Chicago Ave. 30 years later after it had merged with Children's Hospital of St. Paul; becoming Children's MN in 1994. Part II explained how betrayal by Children's MN, PPL and two

PWW is a photograph appearing in an issue of some object in Phillips challenging readers to send in their guess of what it is and where. PWW Columns started in 1976 and have had a checkered history appearing for several consecutive months then lapsing for a while. Sometimes the winner or winners received a prize like a gift certificate to a local store. It is an even easier column to do now because of quick photography and means to send them to copydesk@alleynews.org with mobile phones.

neighbors led to the demolition of Block 5 that had been mutually agreed to remain residential.

Part III Institutional Leadership: Children's MN, Media, PPL, Messiah Church Children's MN

Dr. Alan Goldbloom, CEO of Children's MN Hospitals and Clinics from January 2003 to December 2014, told a City Council Committee hearing testimony regarding Olivet Presbyterian Church and Parsonage on the south end of "Block 5" 2006, "Phillips is an unliveable neighborhood!"

Phillips residents were shocked by his absurd insult! Phillips was home. Phillips was liveable; although threatened by institutional expansion for decades that threatened liveability.

Dr. Goldbloom bragged of the exceptional care Children's gave to children far from Phillips in a manner that guilted anyone objecting to the damage they did to give care. Apparently, he makes choices when to follow the Oath to which doctors pledge their practice.

Media

A WCCO News report of Goldbloom's retirement in 2014 stated, "Dr. Goldbloom built the specialty center where a blighted neighborhood once stood."

What blight did they mean? The four city blocks occupied by Children's MN were not crime ridden, vacant and boarded houses, or suffering from any uninhabitable conditions. They were occupied with all signs of a healthy community along with retail stores and churches.

It is unlikely WCCO was referring to the blight after this was land stolen, Indigenous inhabitants murdered, eradication of culture and language, and kidnapping children from parents that occurred centuries ago by white settlers.

Phillips Community has sustained decades of slanderous reporting such as this by major media sources.

Project for Pride in Living

A PPL Board member told me how nice the PPL office was compared to what it was before," as



Grassroots Gardening

By YONASSAN GERSHOM

1999

If your garden is like mine, the fall harvest can be a bit overwhelming. What on earth are you going to do with all those extra cucumbers and tomatoes? One solution is home canning. Not only does this give you a way to store more crops, it can also cut down on your food bill. Consider, for example, that a quart jar of kosher dill pickles costs around \$3.00 in the store. If you make your own, assuming that you grow the cukes and dill weed yourself, you can do it for way under a dollar a jar—the cost of salt, vinegar, & spices.

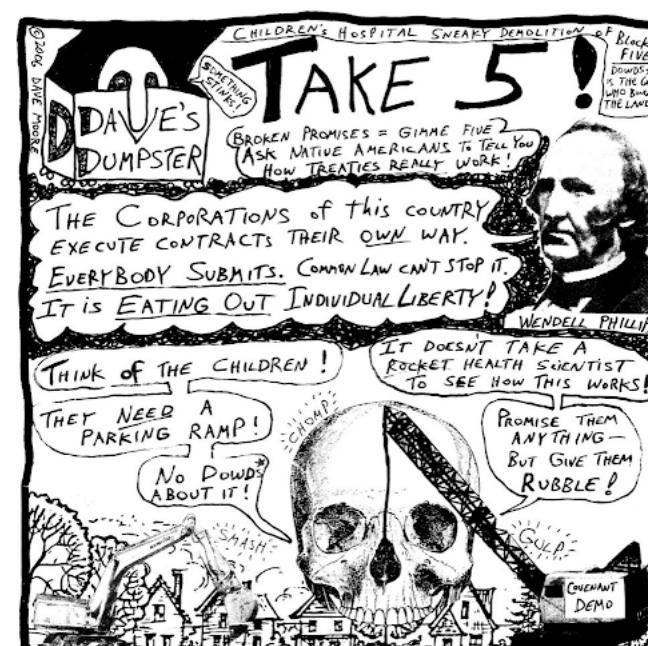
she stood greeting people in the living room of where I grew up. At that same Self-Sustainability office Open House event, PPL CEO, Joe Selvaggio, said he was disappointed my mother didn't attend. I asked if he had invited her. He had not. Years before when my parents still lived in that house, he had used my parents at their kitchen table for a photo-op for People Magazine showing PPL's neighborliness.

Messiah Church

Years later, the Messiah Lutheran Congregation sold their Sanctuary at the north end of Block 5 for \$800,000.00. They also sold the half block of land between Columbus Ave. and Park Avenue and the 1953 Parish Center on the east half of that parcel along with the lease held by Augsburg-Fairview Academy.

Messiah Congregation's website explains their desire to liquidate properties and use monies for their ministry that were being drained by excessive heating and other costs of the building. Church leaders' claim the building was structurally failing was not true; verified by qualified professionals. Misinformation was also given by leaders that the building couldn't be sold if the City had given the building Historic Preservation status. The reference on the Messiah Church website to the Mpls. The Historic Preservation Committee being all white people and wishing to preserve Swedish Heritage by listing the Church as a landmark is disingenuous.

.....



A Grandma's Thoughts

By DARLENE MCCOLLOUGH

1987

Every year I try to take one class, whether it is accredited for my B.A. or not. Sometimes these classes are a little more than I can afford so I must either take a substitute and wait for the cost to drop or go onto another subject. This year the money is really very tight as to do anything outside the normal. I really needed to get just about the cheapest class going. I'm aware that deciding on the class by cost rather than the need is not the way to get an education but then again I'm at the age that any schooling is a good idea.



Lake Street The Great Street & Right on Lake Street

Lake Street the Great Street was used as a Major Heading across the top of several issues intermittently for a few years. It was a bold way to inform and draw attention to major roadwork, store openings—like the development and Grand Opening of the Midtown Global Market. Right on Lake Street ran for several years announcing store changes, special Lake Street Council events, interviews with store owners and customers, and anecdotal stories of interest on Lake Street. Right on Lake Street was produced by LSC staff.

Alley's Gallery of Loss



Hilma Grundstrom Johnson Winje, 1948, taking clothes and quilts from the clothesline in their backyard at 2512-14 Chicago Avenue at this spot where a 800 car parking ramp has replaced the backyards and homes of 26 families. Send photos of your Backyard that has been affected by institutions for The Alley's Gallery of Loss to editor@alleynews.org

The four sets of hinged garage doors here are exactly where the large, automatic, glass sliding doors open into the Children's MN Specialty Clinics.

Above this spot is the curved, glass paneled skyway with music activated by children; at the exact same height above the street as was the second floors of the houses on both sides of Chicago Ave. that were demolished.

If money for ministry were the only motive for property sale, making the property available for competition on the open market would likely have increased gain. Who was in the room when that decision was made? Were there unadmitted motives with sales to Children's MN?

Historic Preservation goes far beyond the bricks and mortar of a building. The land on which people live, and place shelters, and places to exchange their work and products, and places to gather are central to lives and memories of

lives.

Any church is the vessel to hold elements that speak to all of the senses of people and to shield them temporarily from the elements of weather long enough to acknowledge one another in community while amidst pleasing sounds, words, sights, and aromas; providing a brief moment to honor that which holds them together. It is community within brick and mortar.

Messiah Church was one such place that brought together the artistry of brick masons, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, architects, grain workers, newspaper workers and owners, farmers, store workers and owners, stained glass artisans, theologians, composers, and musicians. It was more than brick and mortar for the "brick and mortar" had absorbed the sense of community that it once held.

Part IV in February will explain how decisions of church congregations are usually highly influenced by their pastoral leadership with a couple anecdotal experiences the Messiah Congregation experienced since 1908.

Part V in March will explain the missed opportunity by Children's MN; Messiah Church Sanctuary as a Positive Sum Win-Win-Win-Win for all involved instead of a Zero-Sum, one wins and one loses scenario.