

CLOSE T^o HOME



The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group Newsletter

December-January 2009-2010

Food Producing Community Gardens in Field Regina Northrop

What would our neighborhood look like if vacant lots, grass strips along parking lots and underused parkland were places to grow berries, nuts, fruit and vegetables? What if neighborhood residents, schools, churches, businesses and local organizations worked together to grow, pick, harvest and eat these foods in the neighborhood? And think of the benefits to the environment; food travels very short distances—the trees, shrubs and plants provide added ecological services, and we wouldn't have to use the gas mower very often!

These are just some of the ideas that have been talked about by the recently formed FRN Greening Committee. As a group, we have discussed the desire to increase food production throughout the neighborhood, while also providing places for the community to come together, be more environmentally conscious and to educate ourselves about the importance of food grown locally.

There are many options to explore for the increasing of community green

spaces as food production gardens. Though many of the resident of our community have their own yards, these gardens could become a place to collaboratively learn more about how to produce food, about the many varieties of crops that can be grown here or even be places to produce foods for local charities.



In the past year, Homegrown Minneapolis was developed bringing together over 100 stakeholders within the city to make recommendations for the City of Minneapolis to increase access to local foods through the increasing of farmers markets, commercially oriented urban agriculture and community/ school/home gardens to positively impact the health, food security, economy and environment of our City and the surrounding region. The final report and recommendations were submitted to the Minneapolis City Council on June 26, 2009, where they unanimously passed a resolution sup-

continued on page 3

On the Corner— 48th and Chicago



So this is Christmas, and what have you done? Another year older, and a new one just begun. And so this is Christmas. I hope you have fun. The near and the dear ones. The old and the young.

Who wrote that? Answer at the end.

Happy Holidays from the corner of 48th and Chicago. If you are like most people, you now face the daunting and expensive task of holiday shopping. Make it easier and more enjoyable, by staying "Close to Home" and frequenting the independently owned businesses on 48th and Chicago.

Like all businesses, we have lots of sales and specials going on. Visit www.48chicago.org and click on **Close to Home/December** for details. Did you know there are over 50 businesses,

continued on page 3

Visit us online at www.frnng.org

FRNNG Meeting Information

Full Board

• 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (LNPC), 17th Ave. and 46th St. The full board does not meet in Dec.

Business Committee

• 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, The New Congregation UMC (formerly Asbury UMC), 4501 Bloomington Ave.
Contact: Cory Hample at chample00@gmail.com

Community and Safety Committee:

• 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, McRae Park Rec Center
Contact: Kim McCoy at kmmccoy69@msn.com

Housing Committee

• 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 pm, LNPC
Contact: Shannon Guernsey at scguernsey@yahoo.com

Education Committee

• 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm, LNPC
Contact: Tom Arneson at 6:30 pm, LNPC
tomarneson@msn.com

Parks Committee

• Meeting schedule varies
Contact: Sandra Smith at 822-1227

Greening Committee

• 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm at Turtle Bread Restaurant, 48th and Chicago
Contact: Gina Di Maggio or Tony Pavelko, thegreeningcommittee@gmail.com

Communications Committee

• 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6 pm, LNPC
Contact: Kirk Anderson at kirkanderson48@gmail.com

Meeting times may change due to weather, holidays or personal reasons. Please confirm with the contacts listed above.

8th Ward News



by Council Member
Elizabeth Glidden

Dear Friends and Neighbors – Thank you for this opportunity to provide news on city issues in Minneapolis.

Minneapolis Elections 2009

Minneapolis used Ranked Choice Voting for the first time November 3rd. This new voting method allows voters to rank up to three candidates for each office. On election night, unverified first round results were compiled using ballot counter machines in the precincts.

I am proud to continue serving as the Ward 8 Councilmember and to work with the new Ward 11 Councilmember John Quincy — thank you for this honor and privilege! For more election information go to: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections.

City Budget 2010

The Minneapolis City Council is in its last weeks of reviewing the Mayor's proposed budget for 2010, set to be approved Monday, December 7. Critical facts about the Mayor's budget include:

- The Mayor's proposed City budget for 2010 focuses on jobs, while preserving public safety gains and continuing to invest in infrastructure. It includes expanding a program that offers low interest loans and financing tools to small businesses, and \$1.2 million to help more people find and get jobs through the City's Workforce Centers.

- Minneapolis state funding has been cut by more than \$40 million

during 2009-2010, while costs for health care and pensions are escalating.

- Minneapolis' required funding for pensions has dramatically increased – from \$7 million in 2003 to \$25.1 million in 2010.

- Minneapolis spending has increased 1% from 2003 to 2010, while state spending has increased 12%.

- Total City spending is cut by \$100 million in the Mayor's budget, with a \$19 million cut to the general fund (this fund supports police, public works, fire, and other basic services).

- The Mayor has proposed a property tax increase of 11.3% for 2010, dropping to 5.5% in 2011. Because the consolidated TIF district decertifies in 2010 (this is the funding source for NRP – neighborhood funding), the 11.3% property tax increase has been described as having an "actual" impact of 6.6%. Over 60% of the Mayor's proposed property tax increase will be dedicated to funding pension cost increases.

I am always available to answer your questions at **673-2208**, including about the city budget and other issues, and would enjoy meeting with you during my Community Office Hours, 9-11 am every Monday morning at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E 38th Street, Rm 129. If you would like to receive the 8th Ward Monthly E-News, please send me an e-mail at

Elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Merry  Christmas

Community Gardens... *from page 1*

porting local foods and established a Homegrown Minneapolis Implementation Task Force to work towards these goals. You can read the full recommendations at: www.ci.mpls.mn.us/dhfs/homegrown-home.asp.

Local non-profit Gardening Matters links community residents with the resources of how to start-up and maintain a community garden. Building on their core ideas of community gardens, they also recognize that localized food provides many benefits to neighborhoods. "Interest in urban gardening is growing at a rapid rate," says Kirsten Saylor, Executive Director of Gardening Matters, "more consumers are concerned about the source and affordability of their food." In addition, the FRN neighborhood has very few places to buy fresh food and has few community gardens compared to other Minneapolis neighborhoods, none of which produce food for area residents or for charity. To see the map of community gardens follow the link:

www.gardeningmatters.org/Directory/index.htm

Other local organizations such as Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) recognize that, "Minneapolis is becoming a national leader in advancing local food systems," said Joanne Berkenkamp, IATP's Local Foods Director. In addition she believes that community voices must be part of shaping new, innovative ideas for groundbreaking local food production.

We need your thoughts, opinions, and help to make this happen. If you are interested in learning more about food producing community gardens or want to be part of the conversation with other Greening Committees, please contact the FRN office (721-5424) for more information.

On the Corner... *from page 1*

all within walking distance, of your home in the Field Regina Northrup neighborhood? Here a few ideas, that can eliminate the need to go to the mega malls, or the huge box stores. Stay "on the corner" to make your holidays fun, festive, easy and enjoyable.

For gifts of good taste, all your party, banquet, and catering needs why not try; Bagu Sushi, Adrian's Tavern, Pepito's, Turtle Bread, Cafe Levain, Bigga Pizza, Mike's Corner Store, Pumphouse Creamery or the newly remodeled and revamped L'Ecosse. These are some of the best restaurants in town for fun, food and merriment.

For your beverage needs check out the new, and greatly improved, Ken and Norm's. Don't forget the wine and champagne for all your holiday parties and get-togethers. They have great selections and knowledgeable staff to help you. Ask for John or Kevin— I think they are great!

Need unique, special, holiday gift, cards? You'll want to stop in at A Turkish Affair, Shop in the City, Mike's Corner Store, Parkway Hardware, True Colors Bookstore, Twin City Tennis, or the *new* Mike's Bikes.

What could be better than the gift of good health. First of all, take care of your own holiday stress and pamper yourself at the Shenandoah Wellness Center, Dynamic Minds Inc, Hypnosis Center & Training, Curves on Chicago, Southside Chiropractic, or Creekside Acupuncture. Once you feel better, these folks can set up gift programs for you to give for the holidays.

Entertaining at the house? Then you want to stop at Parkway Hardware, see Chris, or Dick's Metropolitan Carpet,

ask for Dick or Dorothy and get those last minute essentials for holiday decorating and spruce ups.

Friends have pets? Then stop and see Joyce and the staff at Minnehaha Pet Hospital. Gifts, and pet needs right on the corner.

If your friends and family live far away, then get your photo and portrait needs taken care of at Patrick Nau Studios. What could be nicer than a wonderful family portrait?

And if you need a quick holiday make over, you can visit our newest neighbor, The Beauty Room, at the northwest corner 43rd and Chicago. This is a new business, that has restored the building to its original splendor and is a welcome new neighbor. 12 stylists on site! Can they fix my gray hair?

And if you can't decide from this list, then stop by Wells Fargo or City County Credit Union for gift cards, and let your friends and loved ones visit our wonderful businesses at there leisure and explore the corner.

Did you know there are over 50 businesses "On the Corner"? Most people don't. That's why I mention it twice; 50 BUSINESSES!!!

Stop, shop, dine and enjoy this wonderful corner that we lovingly call 48th and Chicago.

Go to www.48chicago.org, click on **Close to Home/Events** tab, top left corner for so much more!

Those words at the beginning were by John Lennon.

All of us, On the Corner, wish you a merry, safe, joyous and happy holiday season.

Keith Lis
Wells Fargo Bank Branch Manager
SCABA Secretary

Happy New Year!



Update from Cedar Avenue United



This past month, Cedar Avenue United has been working on simple ways to calm traffic along the Northrop corridor, bounded by 42nd Street to the Parkway.

The first week of November, CAU created and installed “Burma Shave” inspired signage between 45th and 46th Streets. Look for additional signs in the next few weeks.



PAST OUR HOUSES



PLEASE GO SLOW



WE'D LIKE TO SEE



OUR CHILDREN GROW

CAU hopes the nostalgic signs will gently remind commuters that Northrop is also a residential neighborhood and to slow down as you travel Cedar Avenue.

Combined with the lane striping of several blocks in September, CAU's agenda is beginning to be defined. “We are working with City, County, businesses and neighbors to produce a comprehensive redesign plan focusing on neighborhood livability, traffic taming, multi-modal transportation, local business development and historic preservation,” say CAU's founders, Will Peterson and Steve Basile.

For more information and upcoming events, including the introduction of Cedar Avenue PACE cars and a dialog on redesigning and/or moving the intersection at Edgewater Drive and Cedar Avenue further to the south, visit their blog, cedaravenueunited.blogspot.com or their website, www.cedaraveunited.org. CAU meets

the first Wednesday of every month at Sibley Park Recreation Center, 40th St. and 19th Ave., at 6:30 pm.

Vacation Bible School at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church

Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, located at 1620 E. 46th St., would like to offer parents the gift of time. A free, twice a month vacation Bible school type children's program will begin on November 7. Parents are welcome to join in the contemplative worship service from 5-6 pm or to drop kids off at 4:45 pm and come back at 6 pm for a community meal (suggested donation for the meal \$2/\$5 per family). Program dates for November are the 7th and 21st; December dates are the 12th and 26th. 15 slots are available. The kids will enjoy songs, crafts, games and stories. If you have questions call Youth and Family Program Director Kristin Green at 721-8786 or Pastor Kara Root at 721-4463.

Senior Helpline

NHS Welcomes Our New Nurse Marcia Maderious

Nokomis Healthy Seniors wanted a nurse for foot care who could bring warmth, a kind smile and their outstanding nursing skills to our foot care clients needing a nurse. To meet this need, NHS has hired Marcia Maderious, who will do home visits and will be able to do pedicures twice a month at our *Nurse Is In* clinic on Thursday mornings. If you would like more information or to schedule a pedicure with Marcia or Judy, please call the NHS office at 729-5499.



2010 Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour Wants Your Home!

The 2010 Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour is looking for homeowners and home improvement professionals



who would like to put their homes on the Tour. Nomination/applications are due Thursday, January 21, 2010, and early submissions are encouraged. The Tour, in its 23rd year, will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25, 2010.

Past participating homeowners have said they “liked the incentive” to get their home improvement projects done in time for the tour, though it is not necessary to have remodeled the whole house. “It was nice to get all the compliments from strangers to reinforce what I'd heard from friends and family,” said one homeowner.

“Contractors often help staff the homes, and homeowners ask their families and friends to contribute a few hours,” said Margo Ashmore, Tour coordinator. “A good support network hosting the home makes it fun. Talk it up at fall and winter gatherings. Community leaders also should start now, identifying individuals or clusters of well-kept and remodeled homes to ask to participate.”

Contractors and other vendors may nominate homes they have worked on, and are encouraged to call for more information. Green, energy efficient and historically-sensitive remodels and expansions get special notice. Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) manages the tour as a celebration of city living that encourages homeowners to improve existing homes. Many organizations and businesses sponsor the tour. For more information, call Tour Coordinator Margo Ashmore at 673-5103 or email her at link@nrp.org. The application can be downloaded from www.MSPHomeTour.com under “nominate.”

A Fresh Look for Field School

Thanks to a coordinated effort from Field School staff, parents, students, neighbors, local businesses, and community organizations, the Field playground has a fresh new look. The old chain link fence is a thing of the past, and a new garden on the north side of the playground, the Garden of Hope, was built and planted over the past summer.



Plans for a new fence at Field had been discussed for years. But a Field parent, Terri Nelson, finally made it happen this year. With funding from the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group, the Hale-Field Foundation, and the Field PTA, Terri led the effort to upgrade the playground fence at Field. She coordinated with the school district, obtained bids, and arranged the installation.

Terry Mazig, a Field teacher, was the driving force in adding the garden, which incorporated a concrete peace sign. Terry worked with Field art teacher Del Bey and Field students to design the garden. In addition to NRP funds through FRNNG, Terry obtained many private donations and many hours of volunteer service.

A planting and clean-up day was planned for August 19th. Despite the terrible weather earlier that day, many Field students and parents helped plant the garden and clean up the playground and the north side of the school. Terry Mazig said that “this was truly a community project with donations, planting

help, clean up help and all the enthusiasm for the new Garden of Hope: a symbol of hope for peace in our community and peace in the world.”

New Creation Baptist Church to Host Holiday Bazaar

New Creation Baptist Church, located at 1414 E. 48th St., will be hosting their 2nd Annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, December 5th, from 10 am to 3 pm. Please come out and support this fun event. There will be food, prizes and gifts for the holiday. For more information call 825-6933.

South Minneapolis Housing & Home Improvement Fair Logo is Updated

The 2010 South Minneapolis Housing & Home Improvement Fair logo has been revised with the addition of their website, www.housingfair.org. Check it out, and see the next issue of *Close to Home* for more information about the upcoming fair in March.



Get Us Online!

We are looking for ways to cut cost and reduce waste – please help us by registering to receive

Close to Home electronically.

Visit www.frnng.org and look for the link to register. You can also register to receive other communications via email as well. Your email address will be used for FRNNG in only the way you intend and you may unsubscribe at any time.

Thank you for supporting us in this effort.



McRae Park Schedule

906 East 47th Street

The following is a sampler of events. The complete winter schedule is available at McRae Park or online at the address below. You can register for programs at the address listed. Contact the park for more information.

www.minneapolisparcs.org

370-4909 (voice) 824-4170 (fax)

Preschool/Kindergarten

Amy's ABC Stretch

Pre-Schoolers are like little sponges, soaking up all that is around them. How about filling their minds with a fun and active way for them to learn their ABC's! Our instructor, Miss Amy, has many years of experience combining stretching and rhythm to teach kids between the ages of 3-5. The kids will use our "big room" to do stretches and exercises that will improve their coordination while learning their alphabet! This is a 2 hour class that meets every Monday and Wednesday morning. Children must be potty trained to participate in this class.

Mo We 1/12-3/18/2010

10 am-12 pm

Ages 3-5

Fee: \$45

Indoor Playground

If your little one has energy to burn then you need our Indoor Playground - complete with balls, toys, trucks, trikes and mats. Get to know other families in the neighborhood and make new friends.

Tu Fr 1/6/-3/24/2010

10 am-12 pm

Ages 3-5, w/parent or guardian

Fee: \$15

Children

After School Cool

Come on over to McRae after school and play board games, enjoy some foosball, get in on an awesome art class, play big games on the giant McRae field, and on Fridays it's Movie Day! Chill out with your friends all while enjoying your McRae Park. This is an adult supervised program.

Mo Tu We 1/5/-3/27/2010

2-5 pm

Ages 6-12

Fee: \$125

Children/Teens

Cheerleading

Jump, kick, leap and dance! Learn all McRae Park's cheers and dances that will be performed at basketball games. Pom-poms and cheer uniforms will be provided to each participant, but will need to be returned at the end of the basketball season. Come join the fun! You must register in person and fill out a waiver. Program sponsored by MARC. Practices on Mondays from 6:30 - 7:30 pm and games are on Saturday mornings.

Mo Sa 1/10-3/14/2010

9:30 am-12 pm

Ages 10-13

Fee: \$0

Youth Sports

Fundamental Hockey

Sibley Park and McRae Park have joined together and are now forming a combined hockey team for the younger crowd. We start the season at Sibley Park with floor hockey and move to the outside ice at McRae park once the ice is ready. The kids will learn all the very basics of this fun sport. All kids must provide their own skates and stick. The season runs from December thru February.

Tu 12/2/2008-2/10/2010

6 -7 pm

Ages 5-6, girls and boys

Fee: \$0

Seniors

McRae Morning Mix-It-Up

Thursday mornings at McRae Park is the place to be, we offer you open computer time with help if you want it and a great "Use it or Loose it" fitness class from 10-10:45 am. This is a low impact arobics class and you can stand or sit in a chair, we just want you to move!! Take part in either of these activites or just drop by for a visit and a cup of coffee. The fee is just \$1 every week! Try us we think you'll like us!!

Th 1/8 -3/26/2010

10 am-12 pm

Ages 55-100

Fee: \$1

Community

M.A.R.C.

MARC is the "McRae Area Recreation Council" and it is a parent/community member volunteer council that sponsors athletic programming and special events at McRae Park. We are looking for volunteers to help with the sports teams and special events. Please consider getting involved with your park and your community...the benefits are endless!

Mo 1/1-12/31/2009

7-8 pm

Ages 21-100

Fee: \$0

Field Trips

Snow Tubing

Come with your friends to the best snow tubing in the metro area! Elm Creek has a moving sidewalk that brings you up uphill so that you can soar down the run in their over-sized inner tubes. You can reach super fast speeds in one of the 20 lanes separated by snowberms that have a long, safe runout at the end. Please brings a bag lunch or money & dress for the weather this is an outside trip!

Fr 2/27-2/27/2010

10:30 am-3:30 pm

Ages 6-12

Fee: \$15

Field Trips

Friday Night Skates

McRae Park wants you to come out and enjoy our 3 awesome ice rinks! For 3 Friday Nights we will turn on the big lights, and you and your friends can come on over to ice skate, roast marshmallows and drink some hot chocolate. This is open to everyone of all ages and skating abilities! We have skates to borrow if you don't have a pair-so don't let that stop you from getting out and enjoying your winter time park!

Fr 1/30-2/13/2010

6:30- 8:30 pm

Ages 1-100

Fee: \$0

Anne Kegley, Director
akegley@minneapolisparcs.org
906 E. 47th St.
Mpls, MN 55407
370-4909 (voice) 824-4170 (fax)
www.minneapolisparcs.org



Thanks to our Supporters!

Close to Home would like to thank the following local businesses and organizations in our community for their generous financial contributions to the production and mailing of this newsletter. Now we are asking you to support not only this publication, but also all of our other activities. Anything that you can give will be very much appreciated and put to good use. Also, since we are a "501(c)3" organization, any donations are decuctable to the full extent of the law. If you would like more information on how your organization or business can become a supporter, please call the FRNNG office. **We also encourage residents to support these local businesses so that they can continue to be a strong and vital sector of our community.**

Partner Level- \$100-\$199

St. Joan of Arc Church
4537 3rd Ave., 823-8205

Donor Level- \$200-\$599

Ba-Gu Sushi
48th and Chicago, 823-5254
Minnehaha Animal Hospital
48th and Chicago, 825-4427

Patron Level- \$600 or better

Dick's Metropolitan Carpet
48th and Chicago, 827-5646

South Chicago Avenue Business
Alliance (SCABA)

Support the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group

Help keep FRNNG working for you by sending in a donation of \$15 or more. Combined with the business and church donations, your gift supports *Close to Home* and other activities of the organization. Please keep them coming! FRNNG is a 501.3c organization and all gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

FRNNG

VOLUNTARY DONATION

\$15 \$25 \$50 Other

Name _____

Address _____

CLOSE T^o HOME

Close To Home is the official publication of the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group, Inc., and is published six times per year by the FRNNG Communications Committee.

Editor: Linda Rost
Layout: John Vasiliou
Webmaster: John See

Contributors:

Kirk Anderson,
Margo Ashmore, Jeri Elsner,
Councilmember Anne Glidden,
Anne Kegley, Keith Lis, Daniel
McKizzie, Shannon McWalters

Articles, photos, and announcements of interest to the FRN Community are welcome.

Call 721-5424 or Fax 721-4539

E-mail: frnng@mtn.org
Copy deadline for the next issue is January 1

1620 E. 46th St. Mpls, MN 55407 721-5424

The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group, Inc.

Established in 1965
1620 East 46th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55407
FRN Info Line 721-5424
Fax: 721-4539
E-mail: frnng@mtn.org
Director: Donna Sanders

2009-2010 FRNNG Board

**Executive Committee Officers*

*President: Stearline Rucker

*1st V.P.: Karen Pratt

*2nd V.P.: Sandra Smith

*Treasurer: Kelly Russell

*Secretary: Shelley Nystrom

*Field Neighborhood Rep: Wade Warner

*Regina Neighborhood Rep: Jon Drewes

*Northrop No. Neighborhood Rep: Mary Overzet

*Northrop So. Neighborhood Rep: Sue Redepenning

Business: Kristofer Deniger/Cory Hample

Communications: Kirk Anderson

Community and Safety: Kim McCoy

Education: Tom Arneson

Greening: Tony Pavelko & Gina Di Maggio

Housing: Shannon Guernsey

Parks: *Open*

Programs: *Open*

Useful Phone Numbers

8th Ward Council Elizabeth Glidden 673-2208

11th Ward Council Scott Benson 673-2211

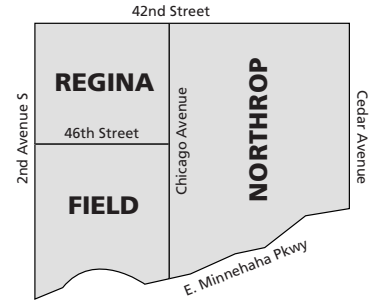
Sue Roethele CCP/SAFE 673-2839

Housing Inspector 673-5858

Senior HelpLine 729-5499

McRae Park 370-4909

Airport Noise Complaints 726-9411



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MPLS, MN
PERMIT #1342



Minimum 20% post-consumer content

The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group Newsletter

Community Gardens in FRNp.1
8th Ward Newsp.2
A Fresh Look for Field Schoolp.5