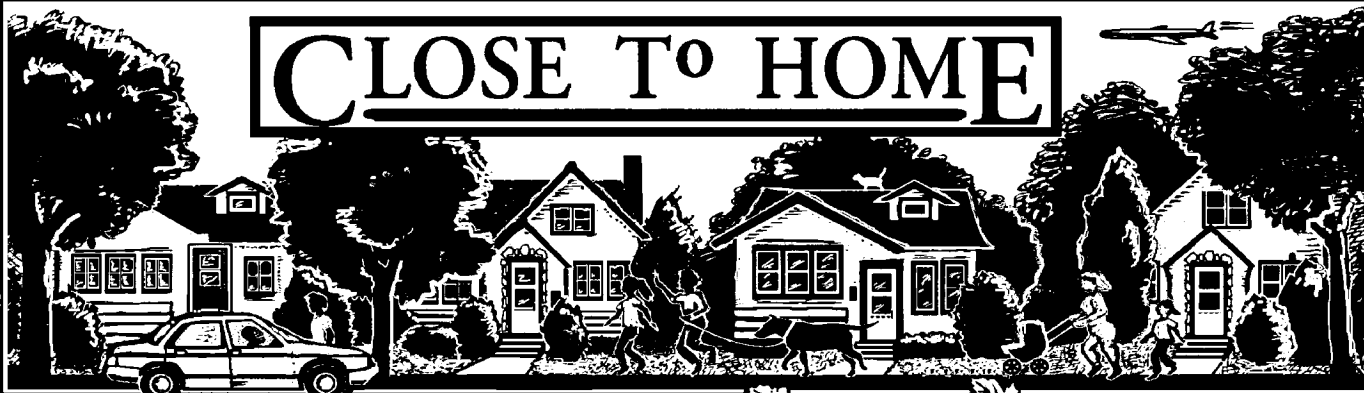


CLOSE TO HOME



The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group Newsletter

August - September 2006

FRNNG 17th Annual Parade a Success!

On June 10th FRNNG held its 17th Annual Parade in conjunction with McRae Park's Family Fun Day. Both events were well-attended and provided two great summer get-togethers for the neighborhood, all in one day. Some highlights of the parade were a motorcycle club, a drum corps, The Lady Lakers dancing ensemble, a bagpiper, the Hale/Field elementary marching band, and much, much more. The Family Fun day was buzzing with activity including: arts and crafts dealers, tasty food, kids' activities, and a great raffle. A big "Thank you!" goes out to all participants in both the Parade and the Family Fun Day – you made the day exciting and memorable. Thanks are also in order for the fabulous volunteer organizers who put together a day to remember: Sully Gilbert, Inez Melton,



The Drum Corps made sure that the parade was lively and that everyone marched in time.

Community Meeting Held Regarding Reuse of Northrop School

On June 22, the Minneapolis School Board and School District officials met with the Field, Regina, and Northrop neighborhoods at McRae Park to gather community input on a proposed reuse of the old Northrop elementary building. The proposal was submitted by The City Inc., an alternative school, and their representatives were also on hand to present their offer. There was a very large turnout from the community and people took full advantage of the opportunity to provide input on the proposal. The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group Board has since voted to formally oppose the proposed reuse of the Northrop School by The City, Inc. On July 11th the FRNNG Board presented a formal statement to the Mpls. Public School Board expressing their disapproval of the proposal and the way the School Board has conducted themselves in this matter. If you would like more information about the proposed reuse of Northrop School by The City, Inc. please visit the FRNNG website, www.frnng.org or call the office at 721-5424. If you have suggestions, comments, or concerns about the proposal please contact the



McRae Park's family fun day attracted neighborhood residents with fabulous food, fun games, and great entertainment.

Beth Minehart, and Kathy Theibert. Thanks also to all the volunteers who helped out the day of the events and to all the staff and volunteers at McRae Park! See you all again next year!

Photos courtesy of Scott Gruenhagen

continued on page 5

continued on page 3

Calendar

August and September

August

- 9 SCABA Meeting
Pepito's, noon- 1 pm
- 15 FRNNG Community/Safety Committee
McRae Park Bldg., 7 pm
- 16 FRNNG Executive Board Meeting
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 6 pm
FRNNG Board Meeting
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 6:30 pm
- 28 3PAC, 3rd Precinct, 6:30 pm
- TBD: Neighborhood Celebration Committee Meetings
Note: the Housing & Business Committees will not meet in August

September

- 1 DEADLINE: articles for Oct./Nov.
Close to Home
- 4 Labor Day
- 11 Parks Committee Meeting
McRae Park Bldg., 7 pm
Housing Committee Meeting
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 6:30 pm
- 12 Business Committee Meeting
Oakland Ave. United Methodist Church
7 pm
- 13 SCABA Meeting
Pepito's, noon- 1 pm
- 16 SCABA Fall Festival
48th and Chicago Ave.
- 19 FRNNG Community/Safety Committee
McRae Park Bldg., 7 pm
- 20 FRNNG Executive Board Meeting
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 6 pm
FRNNG Board Meeting
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 6:30 pm
- 25 3PAC, 3rd Precinct, 6:30 pm
- 26 FRNNG Communications Committee
Chicago Deli, 6:30 pm
- 27 Block Club Leaders' Group Meeting
McRae Park Bldg., 6:30 pm
- 30 Annual Neighborhood Celebration
Noon - 3 pm, McRae Park
- TBD: Neighborhood Celebration Committee Meetings

11th Ward Update



by Council Member Scott Benson

To my friends and neighbors with FRNNG—Thank you for the opportunity to update you about the happenings at City Hall. If you have any questions or want to learn about something more in depth, please feel free to e-mail me, scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or call my office at 673-2211.

35W/Crosstown Delay

The 35W/Crosstown project, scheduled to start construction later this year, has encountered yet another detour. For the past few years, MnDOT has been juggling a number of road construction projects. MnDOT sent out their request for bids to build this project using a new financing strategy. As part of the bid request, the contractor would float the State of Minnesota a loan of up to \$90,000. No bids were received.

So what does that mean to the 35W/Crosstown project? I am not certain. MnDOT is going to meet with the contactors and try to figure out the next step, but even in a best case scenario, the scheduled August start date has been delayed by several months. I will continue to track the schedule with the cooperation of MnDOT, and if you have any questions, please contact me and I will help find the answers.

Project Safe City

In response to the increases in violent crime, the Minneapolis Police Department developed the Minneapolis Safe City Initiative. The Minneapolis Safe City Initiative incorporates input from the community and corporate partners into the strategies to reduce violent crime. Among the top Safe City Strategies are:

- An immediate and efficient use of resources. A \$4 million investment (a dollar-for-dollar

match of \$2 million from the City of Minneapolis and \$2 million from the State). Results in citywide presence and visibility now.

- Assign a police unit to the geographic areas targeted by the initiative.

- Leverage the Minneapolis Police resources by collaborating with other law enforcement and criminal justice partners, and eliminate duplication of efforts.

- Assign a police unit to every active gang in Minneapolis, and prevent retaliation after homicides and assaults.

- Juvenile Unit. The number of juvenile suspects involved in robberies and other violent crime is increasing. The new Juvenile Unit will: focus on investigating and prosecuting crimes involving repeat offenders; coordinate city-wide strategies; work with probation officers to enforce conditions of release; and get input from judges on how best to manage juvenile crime.

- Target Loitering. Identify those most likely to be involved in murders or assaults; arrest prostitutes and “Johns;” make probation visits; go after drug dealing; enforce the curfew.

Specific areas in the 11th ward that will be targeted by this strategy includes increased patrols at the business node at 48th St. & Chicago Ave., and a greater police presence at Bossen Terrace (south of 54th St. between 28th and 34th Aves.)

Electronic Newsletter

I publish an electronic newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening at City Hall. If you would like to receive this update, please e-mail me at scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us and put the words “E-mail Update” in the subject line.

Northrop School *from page 1*

Minneapolis Public School Board. Their names, phone numbers, and email contacts are as follows:

Joseph Erickson, (Chair), 668-0632,
Joseph.Erickson@mpls.k12.mn.us

Sharon Henry-Blythe, 668-0637,
Sharon.Henry-Blythe@mpls.k12.mn.us

Judith L. Farmer, 379-7429,
Judith.Farmer@mpls.k12.mn.us

Peggy Flanagan, 668-0634,
Peggy.Flanagan@mpls.k12.mn.us

Audrey Johnson, 668-0635,
Audrey.Johnson@mpls.k12.mn.us

Lydia Lee, 668-0633,
Lydia.Lee@mpls.k12.mn.us

Colleen Moriarty, 668-0636,
Colleen.Moriarty@mpls.k12.mn.us

The City Inc. Responds

Fred Easter, President/CEO of The City, Inc., (a Mpls. Contract Alternative School) was invited by Close to Home to write a response to the outcome of a community meeting on the reuse of Northrop School. See preceding article.

On June 22, a meeting was held at McRae Park that pretty well dulled the edge of my July 4th celebration.

The Mpls. Public School District invited folk in to hear about the lone remaining viable proposal for the “repurposing” of Northrop school. Nearly 300 residents attended. Many of them came to register their displeasure with and opposition to The City, Inc. occupying the building in the '06-'07 school year and beyond. It has been standing empty for a year.

“A woman works alone, all day, in the building across the street”. “We have small children”. No one but their parents should be allowed to drop them off or pick them up”. One resident has written “this is to big a burden for our neighborhood to bear”.

When I was in elementary school, every class day began with us standing at our desks reciting the Pledge of

Allegiance...One nation...Under GOD...Indivisible...With liberty and justice for all.

Can a country celebrate its greatness if it can find a reason to block any set of its young people from the best educational environment at its disposal? Can it be called great if it would spend, not invest, SPEND, over a quarter million of its tax dollars to make that block? It certainly cannot go on to wring its hands because China and India are more successful educating their young. And it certainly has no right to cluck its tongue because “these people don't value education as we do”.

We say, “... send me your poor, your huddled masses”... We say, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal”... We've lost the meaning. If problems arise from this planned reuse, let's attack them together, like adults, like neighbors, like countrymen, like... one nation, under GOD, indivisible.

Otherwise, we are left to contemplate that when the founding fathers said “men”, they meant white men ONLY... who owned property. Pardon me if the martial music sounds flat and the rockets red glare seems faded in the distance.

Save Sept. 16 for the 48th and Chicago Festival!

In appreciation of our community's continued patronage and support, local businesses have come together to “give you the business”. No funny business, though, just good old fashioned fun. So take a stroll down the block, and mosey on around the corner, and enjoy some chips and a hot dog or two. Immerse yourselves in the myriad of family activities, and revel in the creative artistry within your midst... Now, go write the words “48th and Chicago - Shop Close to Home Festival” on your calendar under Saturday, September 16, 2006! We'll be looking for you all up and down Chicago Ave. from 10 am until 4 pm. Come and watch the children from

Field School and Ramsey International Fine Arts School show off their talents from 11:30 am - 2 pm. There will be dance - jazz, classical and musical dance. Come to sample foods from a variety of our eateries around 48th and Chicago. For more information please contact Dorothy Pitheon at Dick's Metro Carpet: 809 E. 48th St., 827-5646.

Annual Neighborhood Celebration Scheduled for September 30th

Every fall the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group brings the whole neighborhood together in a celebration of diversity and prosperity called the Annual Neighborhood Celebration. Neighbors new and old gather at McRae Park to enjoy FREE food, entertainment, and activities, and there's even a raffle of fantastic prizes—all donated by local merchants. Starting this year and going forward, the Celebration will be held on the last Saturday of September, so neighbors can be sure to set the day aside without waiting to find out the date. It will be held at McRae Park, located at 47th and Chicago, from noon until 3 pm.

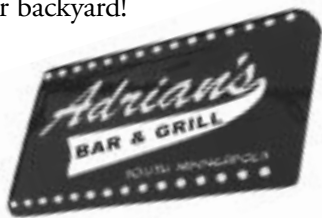
The Planning Committee is already hard at work coming up with ideas to make this year's Celebration better than the last!

Moms Please Join Us!

First Evangelical Free Church, 5150 Chicago Ave., is hosting two Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPs) groups (Thursday night and Friday morning). MOPs is for every mom from all backgrounds and ages with children ages birth through kindergarten. MOPs is about celebrating motherhood, meeting needs, and making connections through relationships and resources. Both Thursday and Friday MOPs will take place every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month. Thursday MOPs will meet from 7 pm until 9 pm, and Friday MOPs will meet from 9:30 am until 11:30 am, starting September 14 and 15, 2006 (respectively). Friday MOPs children will be cared for in a parallel program called MOPPETS. No childcare will be provided for the Thursday MOPs group. The cost for Thursday or Friday MOPs is \$45.00 per semester. Deadline for registration is September 1, 2006. Please call the church office at **827-4705** for more information and registration.

Ribfest 2006!

Join us on Saturday, August 12th for Adrian's Ribfest! Stop on by and sample some of our tasty ribs, and join in the neighborhood fun of Ribfest. We will be serving up a variety of ribs and will also have our regular full menu available too. So grab your neighbor and head on down to 48th and Chicago for some mouthwatering ribs, practically right in your backyard!



Community Carnival at Asbury UMC

Asbury United Methodist Church, 4501 Bloomington Ave., will hold a Community Carnival on Wednesday, August 9th from 5:30-8:30 pm. A free supper will be served at 5:30 at the beginning of the Carnival. Popcorn, snow cones, cotton candy, and games for all ages including a dunk tank and a moonwalk will be available. Tickets will be sold for 25 cents with nothing costing more than 4 tickets. All are welcome!

Asbury United Methodist Church also offers free community suppers every Wednesday at 5:45 pm.

KCA Now Taking Registrations for the 2006-07 School Year!

King's Christian Academy (KCA), 4500 Clinton Ave., is a non-denominational Pre-K-8 Christian school dedicated to assisting Christian parents in educating their children. We provide quality education emphasizing high morals and strong character in the formative years. Our educational model integrates family, school, and faith without ethnic or economic barriers. KCA is a diverse school and has been offering an excellent academic education, in participation with parents and churches, since 1955.

We Offer:

- Low student to teacher ratio
- High academic standards
- Latch key program before and after school: 7:30-9:35 am and 4:10-5:30 pm
- Tutoring
- Phonics-based reading program
- Spanish taught in every grade
- Bus transportation available in South Mpls. and one North Mpls. stop

Scholarships Available - *Deadline September 1st!*

For more information on KCA and registration contact us at **825-0809** or online at

www.kingschristianacademy.com

Oakland Church Hosts Community Gathering

Oakland Church, 4405 Oakland Ave., is reaching out to neighbors Sunday, August 13. We invite you to worship on the front lawn at 10:30 am, followed by a picnic dinner. We will have school supplies to give away to students. After lunch, you are invited to Community Gathering for Neighbors and Leaders. It will be a chance to talk about our core values as people of faith or conscience and participants in our democracy. The goal is to work together to create a just and equitable public policy. Everyone is welcome for any portion of the day. For information, call **823-4483**.

Update on Save our Elm Trees Program

The FRNNG Parks Committee is finalizing the "Save our Elm Trees" program that will assist residents in protecting elm trees that are in danger of being infected with dutch elm disease. The typical cost of treating a regular-sized, healthy elm tree is between \$300 and \$500. FRNNG will provide a percentage of the cost to homeowners who meet certain qualifications. Only trees on the boulevard will be eligible for funding. Funds should be available in August. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please call Jon Steadland at **722-9661**.



Senior Helpline

Nokomis Healthy Seniors

Nokomis Healthy Seniors, located at 4553 34th Ave., is open every Thursday morning for “Nurse Is In” from 9 am until 12 noon. You can schedule a pedicure or get your blood pressure checked. If nothing else you can stop in to chat over a cup of coffee and Scandia bakery coffee cake.

We sponsor two monthly support groups at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1830 E. 41st St. The Low Vision Support Group meets at the church on the second Thursday of the month from 10 am until 11:30 am. Julie Rindelaub, from Vision Loss, is the facilitator. The Caregiver Support Group meets at 1 pm on the last Thursday of the month and is facilitated by Aggie Sorenson. The group is open to anyone serving as a caregiver for a loved one. If you have any questions about these groups please call the office at 729-5499.

Nokomis Healthy Seniors also sponsors two community blood pressure clinics. Seniors can go to congregate dining at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1720 E. Minnehaha Parkway, on the first Thursday of the month at 12 noon. In addition to having your blood pressure checked you can eat a meal there by calling Evelyn at 729-6868 two days ahead. The cost of the meal is \$3.00. The other blood pressure clinic is held at Standish Green, 2210 E. 40th St. at 12 noon on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Volunteer Opportunities Call FRNNG at 721-5424

All Committees Open to New Volunteers

Interested in helping your community on issues of Housing, Business, Communications, Parks, Education, Community and Safety?

Commitment: Once a month if possible.

Tutor a Child

Volunteers are needed who are willing to tutor one or more elementary children in reading, math, or both. Daytime and evening sites available in the neighborhood.

Commitment: Two hours per week for a minimum of 10 weeks.

More Block Leaders Needed!

Our neighborhood has over 64 percent of the block organized into active block clubs. If you don't have a block club call the FRNNG office and we can help you get organized.

Commitment: Training from Third Precinct CCP/SAFE, one meeting per year on your block and National Night Out in August.

Annual Parade from page 1



The Lady Lakers entertained parade-goers with their fancy footwork.



Field, Regina, Northrop Board members remind parade-goers what the parade is all about!

Your Parks Need You!

Are you interested in preserving open space or improving park programming? If so, join the FRNNG Parks Committee! Call committee chair, Jon Steadland, for more information at 722-9661.

Write an Article for Close to Home

Close to Home needs your help!

You don't have to be a professional— we'll help with editing.

Call FRNNG, 721-5424, to talk about your idea for a story—or to get an “assignment”

McRae Park Schedule

906 East 47th Street

This is a sample of summer programs offered at McRae. The complete program 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)

The FRNNG parade and Fun Day was enjoyed by all who attended. Everyone invited showed up for the parade and had a lot of fun. Approximately 1,300 people were there to support McRae Park's effort to incorporate community involvement in the park activities. The Art & Craft show, Scholastic Book Fair, Washburn Jazz Band, McRae Jazz Band, Blondies Beat Jazz Band, Clown on Stilts and many fun games and food were enjoyed by all. The winner of the donated painting by Emme White was won by a Washburn Band Mother. Thank you to all the volunteers who were involved in making this a success with the McRae staff.

The new MARC (McRae Recreational Council) council was introduced to the community as well as several new programs that will be coming to McRae Park late in the summer and early fall. The MARC council needs input from the community for programs (art, music, science, dance, theatre, book club, and Sr. Citizen programs) to be implemented at McRae Park. Suggestions can be e-mailed to MARC's new website: **www.marcmn.org** We are looking for volunteers who can teach, coach or sponsor any of these activities.

The Inner City Tennis Program sponsored by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has a great turnout with about 40 kids registered. Tennis lessons are 10:30 am-12:30 pm, M-F. We are still taking sign-ups for kickball and flag football for ages 5-8. The cost is \$10. We are also starting an adult community softball program that will be every Wednesday from 7-8 pm

starting June 28th through July 26th. No need to sign-up, just show up for some fun in the sun while getting to know your neighbors. There is no cost for this program.

Summer Recreation Plus started June 19th with 15 kids signed up! This program runs M-F, 6:30 am-6 pm. Activities include crafts, sports, trips, cultural arts, and much more.

Summer lunch program is back! Lunch will be provided for kids 18 and under M-F, 1-2 pm at no cost.

This year's Aquatennial Event is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18th from 6-8 pm. There will be live music, food, and fun for the whole family.

The park building will be closed August 28th through September 4th, reopening September 5th.

The programs that follow run through August - the Fall schedule was not available as we went to press.

Preschool/Kindergarten

Classical Ballet & Jazz
Ages 3-5
Tuesdays, 6/27/2006-8/15/2006
4:30-5:30 pm
\$40

Children

Kickball
Ages 7-12
Thursdays, 6/22/2006-8/17/2006
4:15-5:15pm
Free

More Ballet & Jazz
Ages 5-7
Tuesdays, 6/27/2006-8/15/2006
6-7 pm
\$40

Recreation Plus
Ages 6-12
Mo Tu We Th Fr 6/19/2006-8/25/2006
6:30 am-6 pm
\$118 weekly plus field trip costs

Sewer Rats
Ages 6-12
Thursdays, 7/27/2006 & 8/10/2006
2-4 pm
Free

Summer Lunch Program
Ages 4-18
Mo Tu We Th Fr 6/26/2006-8/11/2006
1-2 pm
Free

Adults

Adult Open Roller Hockey
Ages 18-99
Wednesdays, 4/26/2006-8/16/2006
6:15-7:30 pm
Free

Volunteer Coaches and Parent Council Members wanted! Call the park for more information!

Kris Hammes
McRae Park Director
906 E. 47th St.
Mpls, MN 55407
370-4909 (voice)
824-4170 (fax)
khammes@minneapolisparcs.org
www.minneapolisparcs.org

*Parks & Recreation...
The Benefits are Endless!*



Thanks to our Sponsors!

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. We appreciate their assistance in keeping communications strong in the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood. If you would like more information on how your organization or business can become a sponsor, 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.**

Patron Level

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South Chicago Avenue Business Alliance (SCABA)

Donor Level

*Dick's Metropolitan Carpet, 48th & Chicago, 827-5646
Minnehaha Animal Hospital, 48th & Chicago, 825-4427
Southside Health Services, 43rd & 4th, 822-3186

Partner Level


Chrysalis, Center for Women, 45th & Chicago, 871-0118
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 18th Ave. & Minnehaha Pkwy.,
722-1083

*Jane Kaiser, River Realty, 42nd & 13th, 423-2028
Ken & Norm's Liquors, 48th & Chicago, 822-0030
Minneapolis Sword Club, 48th & Chicago, 825-9935
Parkway Hardware, 48th & Chicago, 823-2600

*R.U. Remodeling, 42nd & 5th, 281-6703

*Shenandoah Cleaners, 48th & Chicago, 827-7676
T.A.'s Texaco, 46th & Chicago, 823-7100

*new sponsor in 2006



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FRNNG, Inc. 1620 E. 46th St. Mpls, MN 55407

NOTE: In sending in your subscription payment, **you
automatically become a member of FRNNG** with all
applicable voting rights.

CLOSE T° 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.

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Contributors:

Jennifer Bartle, Councilman Scott Benson, Linda Bowers, Becky Coleman, Sean Conley, Fred Easter, Kate Ellis, Sarah Granger, Val Gunderson, Kris Hammes, Nokomis Healthy Srs., Dorothy Pitheon, Jon Steadland

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 September 1

Names and Numbers
Web site: www.frnng.org

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
Community Organizer Kate Ellis

2006-2007 FRNNG Board

*Executive Committee Officers

*President Paulette Wilson

*1st V.P. Steve Williams

*2nd V.P. Sandra Smith

*Treasurer Herb Gysler

*Secretary Jane Kaiser

*Field Neighborhood Rep. Barbara Harris

*Regina Neighborhood Rep. Neal Porter

*Northrop No. Neighborhood Rep Val Gunderson

*Northrop So. Neighborhood Rep Sue Redepenning

Business: Rev. Roy Vanderwerf • 721-5424

Communications: Gary Johnson • 827-4979

Community & Safety: Sean L. Conley • 827-3781

Housing: Stearline Rucker • 721-5424

Parks: Jon Steadland • 722-9661

Other Committees/Projects

Center for Energy/Environment: Jim Hasnik

Education: Gerry Sell

Fund Raising: Staff

Neighborhood Tutoring Project: Gerry Sell

Teen Job/Opportunity Fair: Needs daytime volunteer

Useful Phone Numbers

8th Ward Council Elizabeth Glidden 673-2208

11th Ward Council Scott Benson 673-2211

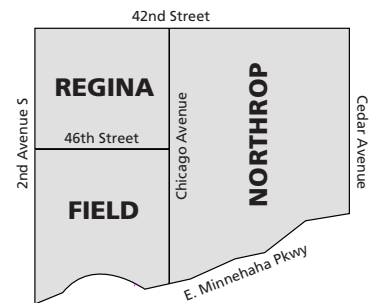
Sue Roethle CCP/SAFE 673-2839

Housing Inspector 673-5858

Senior Helpline 729-5499

McRae Park Director Kris Hammes 370-4909

Airport Noise Complaints 726-9411



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Minneapolis, MN 55407



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The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group Newsletter