

CLOSE TO HOME



The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group Newsletter

December-February 2005-06

FRNNG 40th Anniversary Concludes with Annual Neighborhood Celebration

FRNNG's 40th Anniversary Celebration was a three week long celebration honoring our neighborhood. The event kicked off with the Annual 48th Street South Chicago Avenue Business Alliance Street Fair which was well attended and lots of fun.

Additional events included a historical presentation from Phil Schmidt, the founder of the original neighborhood group, and long time residents, Alberta Johnson, Heidi Adelsman and John Sims. The event was hosted by St Joan of Arc Church. This event was an informative chronicle of the 40 year history of the neighborhood.

Authors Warren Bowles and Cass Dalglish, local authors, presented a reading of their works to an appreciative audience at Amazon Bookstore.

Pastor Roy Vanderwerf of Oakland Methodist Church conducted an ecumenical church service, with Pastor Bruce Buller, former FRN Chair as a keynote speaker. Musical talent was provided by local musicians from neighborhood churches.

The Anniversary wrapped up with the Annual Neighborhood Celebration at McRae Park and a big Block Party with special appearances by the National Guard, Fire Department and elected officials.



above: *The Army National Guard landed in a helicopter to kick off the celebration*

right: *The Ecuadorian dancers performed late in the afternoon to help wrap up the celebration*



Events included a raffle, lunch, moonwalk, face painting, and performances by the McRae Jazz Band and

From the President...

Paulette Wilson, FRNNG President

The FRNNG board is a committed group who have a desire to work in an effort to continue to build on the strengths of the community. Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 8 pm. at FRNNG offices at 1620 E. 46th St. in Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church or at McRae Park. Community members are welcome to attend.

In addition to board meetings there are several committee meetings that are held monthly. Please contact the FRNNG office if you are interested in serving as a volunteer or participating in the following neighborhood committees: Business, Communications, Community & Safety, Education and Parks.

The following Board positions are open: First Vice-President and Field Neighborhood Representative. Please call the office if you are interested in receiving information about serving the the community in these positions.

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Calendar

December to February

December, 2005

- 5 FRNNG Housing Committee
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 6:30 pm
- 13 FRNNG Business Committee
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 7 pm
- 14 SCABA
Pepito's, 12 noon
- 21 FRNNG Executive Board Meeting
McRae Park, 6 pm
FRNNG Board Meeting
McRae Park, 6:30 pm
- 25 *Christmas Day*
Hanukah begins at sundown (8 days)

January, 2006

- 1 *New Year's Day*
- 6 **DEADLINE:** articles for Feb/March
Close to Home
- 9 FRNNG Housing Committee
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 6:30 pm
- 10 FRNNG Business Committee
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 7 pm
- 11 SCABA Pepito's, 12 noon
- 16 *Dr. Martin Luther King Day* observed
- 17 FRNNG Community/Safety Committee
McRae Park, 7 pm
- 18 FRNNG Executive Board Meeting
McRae Park, 6 pm
FRNNG Board Meeting
McRae Park, 6:30 pm
- 24 FRNNG Communications Committee
Chicago Deli, 6:30 pm
- 25 Block Club Leaders' Group
McRae Park, 6:30 pm

February, 2006

- 6 FRNNG Housing Committee
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 6:30 pm
- 8 SCABA Pepito's, 12 noon
- 14 FRNNG Business Committee
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 7 pm
- 15 FRNNG Executive Board Meeting
McRae Park, 6 pm
FRNNG Board Meeting
McRae Park, 6:30 pm
- 20 *Presidents' Day*
- TBD form a Nominations Committee for annual
Board elections in April

Ward 11 Update

by Council Member Scott Benson

To my friends and neighbors in Field, Regina and Northrop— Thank you for the opportunity to update you about the happenings at City Hall. I will try to keep my column short but informative. If you have any questions or want to learn about something more in depth, please e-mail me at scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or call my office at 673-2211.

Starting next January, the City is implementing a system known as Minneapolis 311.

This system replaces dozens of phone numbers that residents call for City services ranging from garbage pickup to street repair. In many cases, the 311 agent will be the one and only person the caller will need to speak with for a particular request. The call operators will have access to a searchable database to provide answers to questions about the city, city services or regulations. In addition the operators will have the ability to immediately send notification to city departments for requests

that will take response by city staff, such as fixing pot holes or reporting an abandoned vehicle.

This should make for a much more convenient system for residents. Rather than trying to figure out whether you call traffic and parking control or the police department to report an abandoned vehicle on your street, one call to 311 will make sure that the correct city staff is notified and your report is acted upon. In addition, all requests for service will be provided with a tracking number, allowing residents to check back later to find out the status. Similar systems are currently in place in several cities throughout the United States including New York and Chicago.

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.



BE SNOW SMART!
KNOW WHERE TO PARK IN
SNOW EMERGENCIES
CALL 348-SNOW



From the President *from page 1*

Included in the Monthly Board Meeting agenda is an Open Forum. This is an opportunity for FRNNG board members to receive updates from our elected officials and community members. Community members interested in presenting topics for board discussion can participate in the Open Forum by calling the FRNNG Office at **721-5424**. The staff will respond to your request and provide direction. Please make your request at least one week in advance of the Board meeting.

Over the last four months the FRNNG Board of Directors have been focused on:

- Annual Celebration— This year's annual Neighborhood Celebration event had special significance as we celebrated 40 years in service to the community. FRNNG has a proud history of contributions that have made significant benefits not only to our community, having received national recognition as a model for neighborhoods. A special thanks to Gerry Sell (Education Committee Chair) who facilitated the 40 year anniversary events, Sean Conley (Community and Safety Chair) for the coordination of the Annual Celebration at McRae Park, and to Jon Steadland (Parks and Recreation Chair) for coordination of the Minnehaha Creek Clean Up, and to all of the board members and the community for their participation and support. Your participation and contributions continue to make this a Great Neighborhood. Thanks for working together and joining in celebration of FRNNG. Stop by and visit the website and see pictures, the Neighborhood Celebration will also be featured on Channel 16.

- NRP Phase II funding— implementation of NRP program and plans for Phase II funding. We are working together with NRP to finalize the distribution of the funds as outlined in our planning document.

- Office Improvements— We have been working to bring the office up to date and to provide greater efficiencies.

We have upgraded the office equipment including a new computer and printer.

- Developing a Board Orientation— for the new Board members and a plan to conduct a Board assessment to understand how we can better serve the community and the neighborhoods that we serve. We are working with NRP and elected officials in identifying opportunities to better represent the communities that we serve.

On behalf of the FRNNG board we are excited about the opportunities for our Community in 2006, and we look forward to making contributions to the legacy of FRNNG.

Paulette

Northrop Urban Environmental Learning Center Relocates

Northrop Urban Environmental Learning Center has relocated to 4315 31st Ave. and is currently offering "tours" of their programs to prospective parents or interested community persons. Upcoming dates are: Friday Nov. 18th, Monday Nov. 21st, Wednesday, Nov. 30th, Monday, Dec 5th, Wednesday, Dec. 14th, Thursday, Dec. 22nd, Tuesday, Jan. 10th, and Friday, Jan. 13th.

You are encouraged to come to Northrop on these dates at 10:30 am when school representatives and parent(s) are available to answer questions and show you around the building. You are then welcome to visit classrooms until 11:45 am. Northrop U.E.L.C. is a Minneapolis Public School. MSP "School Request Cards" must be post-marked on or before January 15, 2006.

What's New on 13th Avenue?

Lately there has been a lot of activity at the residence located on the corner of 13th Ave. and 47th St. in south Minneapolis. The house there, previously occupied by children from Catholic Charities™ St. Joseph's Home for Children (St. Joseph's) nearby, has some new residents.

Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, one of the largest private social service providers in the Twin Cities, own the house. St. Joseph's, which helps children in crisis primarily in Hennepin County, is one of the agency's 46 programs. Due to a restructuring of the program a few years ago, Catholic Charities closed the residence. Over this past summer, the house underwent renovation to welcome the new occupants.

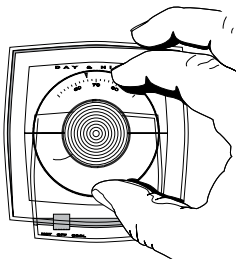
The current residents of the Catholic Charities house are the 2005-06 members of the Catholic Charities Volunteer Corps, or the CCVC. The corps is a yearlong volunteer program for young adults who feel called to service of the poor, are discerning future plans and seeking personal growth. The members commit to working within a Catholic Charities program site, living in community, and supporting one another while they learn about simple living and social justice issues.

Hailing from all over the country, this year's group is thrilled with the new house in the Northrop neighborhood. The CCVC are excited to become active members of the community and look forward to meeting all of their new neighbors.

Much more information can be found about the CCVC, on-line, at **ccvolunteercorps.org**. Questions can be directed via email or by phone to Kim Smolik, CCVC program manager, at **651-298-0959** or **ccvc@ccspm.org**.

Happy Holidays!

Managing Energy Costs



The best way to lower your energy bills is to use less energy

With winter upon us and with natural gas prices are at record highs and expected to remain high throughout the winter. Here are some energy saving tips from Minnegasco to reduce energy costs.

Maintain your heating system

- Check furnace filter at least monthly (more often if you have dogs or cats) and change or clean as needed.

- Have your furnace or boiler checked by a qualified technician once a year. Most manufacturers recommend regular checks.

Schedule an energy audit

Have an energy expert perform a home energy audit for your home. The auditor will inspect your home for energy-saving opportunities and provide you with a full report.

Convert to a natural gas fireplace

If you have a conventional wood-burning fireplace, consider converting to an efficient, clean-burning, direct-vent natural gas fireplace insert. Always be sure to keep your wood-burning fireplace damper and doors tightly closed when the fireplace is not in use.

Use appliances wisely

Know and understand suggested operating techniques for common household appliances and equipment, such as your range, refrigerator, oven, dishwasher, water heater, and clothes washer and dryer. Our fact sheets provide many valuable tips.

Turn down your thermostat

Keep your thermostat comfortably low (65°F to 68°F) when you're at home during the day, and dial your thermostat down (55°F to 58°F) when you leave the house for more than a few hours and when you go to bed at night. Lower your thermostat setting to 55°F during winter vacations or when you're away from home for long periods of time.

Make windows work for you

In the winter when it's sunny, open window shades or draperies to let the sun warm the house. When it's not sunny, keep window coverings closed to insulate against cold outside air.

Use water sparingly

Save energy and water by running your dishwasher and clothes washer only for full loads and taking short showers instead of tub baths. Install a water saving showerhead and repair any dripping faucets.

Stop drafts with caulking and weatherstripping

To reduce cold drafts and heat loss, seal windows and doors with weatherstripping. Apply a bead of caulk where the door and window frames meet the inside wall. Download our Caulking and Weatherstripping fact sheet for complete details.

Ice dams are caused when warm spots on your roof melt the snow, and the snowmelt refreezes near the roof's edge. The warm spots on the roof are caused by heat escaping to the attic from your living area. The solution is to maintain a cold roof by sealing bypasses, insulating and ventilating your attic. Download our Ice Dams on Roofs fact sheet for complete details.

Add insulation where needed

After you have caulked and sealed bypasses, adding insulation can help you reduce energy use and save on future fuel bills. Download our Insulation and Ventilation fact sheet for all the details.

Keep warm in winter

Close doors to unused rooms and adjust registers to promote upward airflow. Keep furniture, rugs, boxes and other items from blocking vents.

For more information about saving energy at home, visit

www.commerce.state.mn.us/pages/Energy/MainInfoCent

or

www.mn.centerpointenergy.com

Did you know that you can lower your fuel bills during the coldest winter months by simply turning down your thermostat by 5°F for four or more hours a day?

Change in Stormwater Billing Structure

Stormwater is the water that runs off your property when it rains. Just as the City has to treat the water that runs out of your house through the sewer system (what goes down the sink, toilet, shower, etc.), they also have to treat the water that runs off your roof, driveway, and walkways into the storm sewer system.

The City of Minneapolis has changed the way they bill property owners for stormwater treatment. Before the change, the fee for stormwater system was combined with the fee for the sanitary sewer system. Now, the two fees appear separately on your bill, and the total you pay may be more or less than it was before the change.

You can apply for credits to reduce the amount you pay for stormwater processing. To be eligible for credit, you need to show that you're something to reduce the amount or improve the quality of the water that runs off your property. The credits could reduce the amount you have to pay by 50 or 100 percent.

How do you get the credit? The easiest do-it-yourself option is to put in a rain garden. There are other more complicated measures you can take to get credits. You can find for information on the various options at ci.minneapolis.mn.us/stormwater

Renters' Credit Update

In a previous *Close to Home* issue, we reported on a proposed cut to the renters' credit. The renters' credit is a way of keeping housing affordable for low-to-moderate-income renters. The governor's and the House's proposed budgets suggested drastic cuts to this credit.

With the legislative session over, we can now report that no cuts were made to the renters' credit this year. So when tax time comes around again, be sure to apply for your credit as usual.

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? Call the FRNNG office at 721-5424.

Commitment: Once a month if possible.

Tutor a Child

Volunteers are needed 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 minimum of 10 weeks.

Write an Article for Close to Home

If you are a writer (or a wannabe writer), *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"

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.

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.

FRNNG Annual Neighborhood Celebration 2005

Contributors

Adrian's Bar	Hazel Butler	Minnehaha Animal Hospital	Sovereign Grounds
Amazon Books	Hunley Surratt	Minnesota Telecommunications Network	Spots Communications
Barbara Harris	Inez Melton	Minnesota Vikings	Stearline Rucker
Barbara Nolan	Jeff Pratt & the Army National Guard	Nokomis Cycle	TA Shell
Bergan's SuperValu	Jody Kurpierz	Pamela Taylor	Target
Beth Minehart	Jolene Brown	Parkway Hardware	Ted Gleckner
Carlo Lachmansingh	Joyce Wilkins	Parkway Shoe Repair	The Transit Station
Cathy Lue	Ken & Norm's Liquor	Paulette Wilson	Toby's Style Shop
Celi Dean	Kirk's Mobil	Pepitos	Turtle Bread
Chicago Deli	Know Reality	Sandra Smith	Twiggs
Christopher Hammitt	Kowalski's	Sean Conley	Twin City Tennis
Cub Foods	Kris Hammes	Shenandoah Cleaners	Victory Automotive
Dayle Murphy	Lanhart Auto Repairs	Shop in the City	Vintage Touch Barber Shop
Dunk N Jump	Lula's	Sister Sludge	Virginia Clark
Ed Conway	Marjorie Tendle	Southside Community Health Services	Walgreens
Gerry Sell	McRae Jazz Band		Welna Hardware
Group Ecuador Tierra Viva			Willie Bridges

We couldn't have done it without you!

McRae Park Schedule 906 East 47th Street

This is a sample of winter programs offered at McRae. The complete program schedule is available at McRae Park or online below.

You can register for programs on-line!
Contact the park for more information.

www.minneapolisparcs.org
370-4909 (voice) 824-4170 (fax)

McRae Park Upcoming Programs and Activities

Wrestling Program
Ages 6-13
See park for more info.

Basketball Program
Ages 9-14
See park for more info.

Indoor Playground
Ages 5 & under /w parent or guardian
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
10 am-12 pm
Free

Kids Club (after school program)
Ages 6-12
Monday-Friday
2-6 pm
\$25/weekly

Jazz Workshop
Adults
Saturdays
12-4 pm

McRae Area Recreation Council
(MARC)
Adults
1st Monday of each month
7 pm

Classical Ballet & Jazz
Ages 3-5
Tuesdays
4:30-5:30 pm

More Ballet & Jazz
Ages 5-7
Tuesdays
6-7 pm

For further information on these programs and more, please call McRae Park at **370-4909**.

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!*



Christmas at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church

Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church will offer the gift of peace and quiet to the neighborhood during the month of December, the heart of the holiday season. On Thursday evenings from 6:45 to 7:15, a brief Service of Light will be held in the church sanctuary. A little music, a brief scripture reading, and a little meditation and prayer promise a resting place to participants in the often hurried weeks leading into Christmas

Celebration *from page 1*

Ecuadorian Dance Troup, and a surprise visit by the National Guard helicopter, which landed at McRae Park piloted by former local, Jeff Pratt.

Stay tuned to Channel 16 for video of the celebration.

A special "Thank you" to everyone who participated.



Everybody wants a piece of the raffle



Scooby Doo and Blossom face off in the moonwalk, and in the end, Scooby was no match for the super hero

All photos courtesy of Sean Conley

celebrations. The service on December 22 will be a "Blue Christmas" observance, especially designed for those whose grief, anxiety or struggle make it difficult to connect with the joyful expectations around them. In addition to the on-going services on Sunday mornings at 10:30, the church will also offer three Christmas services: on Christmas eve at 4:30 and 11 pm, and a "Pajamas and Christmas Stories" communion service on Christmas morning at 10:30. Come as you are! 1620 E. 46th St. **721-4463**.

Thanks to our Sponsors!

Close to Home would like to thank the following local businesses and churches 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. **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

Family Dental Clinic, 45th & Chicago
Minnehaha Animal Hospital, 48th & Chicago
Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, 47th & Chicago
Pepito's Restaurant, 48th & Chicago
South Chicago Avenue Business Alliance (SCABA)
Southside Community Clinic, 43rd & 4th
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 45th & 3rd

Donor Level

Adrian's Tavern, 48th & Chicago
Bergan's Super Valu, 47th & Cedar
Carbone's Pizza, 47th & Cedar
Chicago Deli, 48th & Chicago
Chicago Floral Co., 44th and Chicago
Dick's Metropolitan Carpet, 48th & Chicago
Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, 46th and 4th
Ken & Norm's Liquors, 48th & Chicago
Shop in the City, 48th & Chicago
Southside Chiropractic, P.A., 48th & Chicago

Partner Level

All Brands Vacuums, 43rd & Chicago
Asbury United Methodist Church, 45th & Bloomington
*Audra Reitz, Realtor, Re/Max Results, 45th & 15th
Carlo Lachmansingh Sales, Inc., 48th & 4th
Chrysalis – A Center for Women, 45th & Chicago
City-County Federal Credit Union, 47th & Chicago
Ebu Designs, 46th and Bloomington
*Edina Realty, Karen J. Johnson, 43rd & 12th
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 18th Ave. & Minnehaha Pkwy.
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 46th & 17th
Lanhart's Auto Repair & Towing, 42nd & Bloomington
Michael DeMoss (Chicago Properties), 48th & Chicago
Midwest Floor Covering, 42nd & Cedar
Minneapolis Sword Club, 48th & Chicago
Parkway Hardware, 48th & Chicago
R.U. Remodeling, 42nd & Fifth
Shenandoah Cleaners, 48th & Chicago
T.A.'s Automotive, 46th & Chicago
T.L. Graphics, E. 38th St. and 28th Ave.
Terry's Auto Body, 43rd and Chicago
Twin City Tennis Supply, 48th & Chicago
United Coach and Limousine, 45th & Chicago

*new sponsors in 2005



Support *Close to Home* and Get a 2005 FRNNG Decal

Help keep *Close to Home* coming to your door by sending in a voluntary subscription of \$15.00 or more, and you'll receive a colorful 2005 decal! Combined with the business and church sponsorships,

your donations support a significant portion of the newsletter printing and mailing costs. Please keep them coming!

CLOSE TO HOME VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTION DONATION

\$15 \$25 \$50 Other

Name _____

Address _____

Minneapolis, MN Zip _____

Make your check payable to FRNNG, Inc. and mail this form and your check to:

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. If, however, you are interested in FRNNG membership without making a subscription contribution, please check the membership only box below, fill out this form and mail it to FRNNG. Thank you.

FRNNG membership only

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.

Edited by Linda Rost
Layout by John Vasiliou

Contributors:

Pastor Louise Bender, Councilman Scott Benson, Sean Conley, Kris Hammes, Kristin Hunter, Paulette Wilson

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 6

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

2005-2006 FRNNG Board

**Executive Committee Officers*

- *President Paulette Wilson
- *1st V.P. Kathleen Fluegel
- *2nd V.P. Sandra Smith
- *Treasurer Scott Collier
- *Secretary Sully Gilbert
- *Field Neighborhood Rep. Rod Taylor
- *Regina Neighborhood Rep. Rev. Roy Vanderwerf
- *Northrop No. Neighborhood Rep. Audra Reitz
- *Northrop So. Neighborhood Rep. Mark Williamson
- Business: Meredith Fox/Mike Zabel • 721-5424
- Communications: Gary Johnson • 827-4979
- Community and Safety: Herb Gysler • 823-4264
- Housing: Stearline Rucker • 721-5424
- Parks: Jon Steadland • 722-9661

Other Committees/Projects

Center for Energy/Environment: Jim Hasnk
(Education: Gerry Sell
Fund Raising: Staff
Neighborhood Tutoring Project: Sandra Smith
Teen Job/Opportunity Fair: Needs daytime volunteer

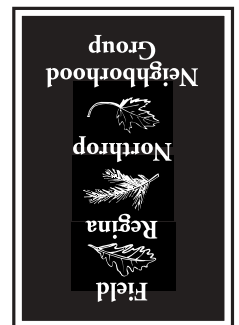
Useful Phone Numbers

8th Ward Council Robert Lilligren 673-2208
11th Ward Council Scott Benson 673-2211
Sue Roethele CCP/SAFE 673-2839
Byron Cross SAFE Officer 673-2958
Housing Inspector 673-5858
Senior HelpLine 729-5499
McRae Park Director Kris Hammes 370-4909
Airport Noise Complaints 726-9411



Minimum 20% post-consumer content

1620 East 46th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55407



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

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