

CLOSE TO HOME



The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group Newsletter

May 15–July 15, 2004

2004 Parade and Family Fun Day on June 5

One of the highlights of our neighborhood's year is just around the corner. The FRNNG parade and the McRae Park Family Fun Day are scheduled for Saturday, June 5, and both are great ways to enjoy early summer, celebrate with neighbors you already know and make new friends.

The 14th annual Field Regina Northrop parade "Our Neighbors—Our Friends" again winds through our streets and showcases many of the things that make our neighborhood special. Parade units should gather at 10 a.m. at the Walgreen's parking lot at 44th and Chicago. The parade begins at 11 a.m., and the route is as follows:

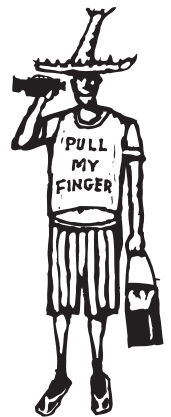
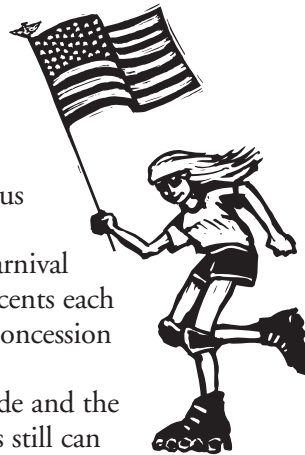
- South on Chicago to 48th Street,
- East on 48th to Elliot, then
- North on Elliot to McRae Park.

The McRae Park Family Fun Day will begin at 11 a.m. and continue to 3 p.m. A full array of activities will offer something for everyone in the family. Entertainment will include music by the McRae Park Jazz Workshop. Children will enjoy carnival games with prizes, face painters, balloon artists and more. Concessions will include the famous McRae Park ribs. Tickets for the carnival games will be 35 cents each or three for \$1. Concession prices vary.

Both the parade and the fun day festivities still can

use your time and talent. If you would like to volunteer or be part of the parade, please call the FRNNG office at 721-5424, and if you are interested in volunteering for the family fun day, call the park at 370-4909 or e-mail mcrac@minneapolisparcs.org.

See you there!



Annual FRNNG Elections

Participants at the annual FRNNG meeting on April 27 elected the following new directors to lead the activities of our neighborhood group for the next year:

- First Vice President—Kathleen Fluegel
- Secretary—Sully Gilbert
- Field Neighborhood Representative—Rod Taylor
- Regina Neighborhood Representative—Nancy Kaiser
- Northrop Neighborhood Representatives—Karen Pratt

The following directors were elected last year for two-year terms and will continue to serve in their positions until 2005:

- President—Willie Bridges
- Second Vice President—Paulette Wilson
- Treasurer—Patrick Aylward

Thanks to all who participated in the election and to the new and on-going FRNNG Board members for their dedication, energy and great ideas for making our neighborhood the best it can be!

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT WILLIE BRIDGES

Spring is a time of renewal, change and growth. The FRNNG board will be losing two of its members, but also will gain new members. We will have a new permanent Community Organizer soon as well. But first, I would like to acknowledge all of the hard work our volunteers have contributed to this organization through this time of transition.

Mary Katherine Johnson will be leaving her position as First Vice President of the FRNNG board in June 2004. I would like to acknowledge Mary Katherine for all that she has contributed to the board during the time that I have worked with her. She has been a great asset and an advocate for the FRNN neighborhood residents for many years. Mary Katherine has shared a wealth of knowledge with the board, and I would like to thank her for all that she has done for our community. We hope that she will continue to share her knowledge and energy with us, and I wish her the best of luck in the future.

Susan Tabor also will be leaving her position as Secretary of the FRNNG board in June 2004. Susan will continue to volunteer with the FRNNG committees, and I would like to thank her for all of her hard work as Secretary.

I encourage all residents to volunteer for the various committees. There are many projects underway, and we could use your energy and creativity. Plus, it is a great way to get involved and get to know your neighbors.



Welcome Back Spring as an FRNNG Volunteer!

Sunshine and warm weather provide the perfect atmosphere for welcoming new neighbors and becoming reacquainted with old ones. The FRNNG Board has just the right volunteer opportunities and planned activities for you to do just that. Neighbors can take advantage of the great weather by participating in neighborhood walking groups sponsored by the Community and Safety Committee. Walking is a great way to shed those winter hibernation pounds, and it is also an opportunity to meet your neighbors and keep the community safe. We are still organizing walking groups and all interested residents are encouraged to participate. For more information, contact Herb Gysler, chair of the Community and Safety Committee,

at hgysler4264@msn.com or 823-4264.

Avid gardeners are needed to cultivate the Housing Committee's curb-appeal project. The Parks Committee needs energetic sports and recreation volunteers; the Education Committee can always utilize the teaching skills of volunteer tutors; and the Business Committee wants your ideas so our community can continue to thrive (see the article by Meredith Fox). The Communications Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with the *Close to Home* newsletter and other activities.

Finally, the Parks Committee has a new chair. FRNNG would like to welcome Jon Steadland, who will be working with McRae Park to bring new and exciting programs to our community.



Do You Have an Idea for Improving Our Neighborhood Commercial Environment?

The FRNNG Business Committee is soliciting project ideas for enhancing our neighborhood's commercial environment. Any Field, Regina, Northrop neighborhood resident, organization or business may submit a project idea. The proposed project cost may not exceed \$50,000, and projects must benefit the overall business climate and have a long-lasting impact. Examples of project ideas could include: informational kiosks, parking signs for a business node or a welcome gate for the neighborhood—anything that will enhance the commercial environment of the FRN neighborhood. Project ideas are due by June 4. Send your ideas to frnng@mtn.org or drop them off at the neighborhood office. For more information go to: www.frnng.org or call 721-5424.



Neighborhood Safety Tip

Neighborhood safety specialists suggest that you be aware of what's going on in your neighborhood in terms of three different zones.

The **Blue Zone** is your entire street. You can't always know what's going on at the other end or several houses away from our own, but you still can keep a "watchful" eye out and, if something looks suspicious, call the closest neighbor and alert him or her.

The **Yellow Zone** is that area closest to your own property (your side neighbors and those across the alley). Get to know what cars your neighbors have parked on the street. Be aware if there's a strange vehicle that hasn't moved in 48 hours; it might have been stolen and dumped on your block. If you see trash on the boulevard, pick it up—a clean block shows someone cares and is possibly "watching."

The **Red Zone** is the space in front and back of your property. Anytime someone comes into this zone, you should take notice.

Report any suspicious activity. If you don't feel comfortable calling the police, then contact your SAFE TEAM member.



Online Police Reporting Now Available

by Karen Skrivseth, Third Precinct CCP/SAFE Officer

There are many times when it is not necessary for a police officer to respond, but a police report needs to be done so that the precinct is aware of what is going on in an area. Now, Minneapolis residents can get on their computers and file a police report on-line. Residents can file reports on-line for:

- graffiti damage to property,
- damage or theft from a motor vehicle if there is no suspect information available, and
- cases of theft where property has been stolen, but no unauthorized entry was involved.

Residents cannot file on-line if someone was injured as a result of the crime, you have suspect information or an officer should be dispatched to the crime location.

To make a report on-line, log on to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/e-report. The on-line police Web site is monitored 24 hours a day, but if you need a police officer, call 9-1-1.



Northrop School Update

by Melanie Danke

Not much has changed since the Minneapolis School Board decided to postpone its decision on school closings until this fall. The promised meetings with concerned parents and residents have not yet been scheduled, due largely to a decision by the Board to hire facilitators to structure and lead this process. At the last Parent Advisory Board meeting potential facilitators were presented, but at press time we have no word on whether the Board has hired anyone for this position.

Within the school community, parents recently completed a questionnaire to help our Parent Advisory Board representatives have a clearer idea of what our parents value or would change about Northrop School and, more broadly, the Minneapolis Public School system. Overwhelmingly, parents are excited about the diversity inherent in urban public schools, Northrop's small size and the quality of instruction delivered there.

We would encourage those wishing to communicate their ideas about the future of Minneapolis Public Schools to remain active in this process. The Minneapolis Public School Web site (www.mpls.k12.mn.us) can provide residents with useful contact information for legislators as well as Board members. The "Board of Education" and "Legislative Agenda" links are particularly helpful. In lieu of computer access, the School Board Office number is 668-0197.



CALENDAR

MAY

- 17 **Third Precinct Advisory Council**
6:30 pm, 3000 Minnehaha Ave.
- 18 **Business Committee and Phase 2 Task Force**
7 pm, Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church
Community and Safety Committee
7 pm, McRae Park
- 19 **FRNNG Executive Committee, 6 pm**
FRNNG Board, 6:30 pm
Both at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church
- 25 **Communications Committee**
6:30 pm, Chicago Deli
- 26 **Neighborhood-wide block leader meeting**
6:30 pm, McRae Park

JUNE

- 5 **Parade and Family Fun Day**
- 7 **Housing Committee and Phase 2 Task Force**
6:30 pm, Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church
- 9 **South Chicago Business Alliance**
Noon, Pepitos
- 14 **I-35W reconstruction public hearing**
7 pm Washburn High School auditorium
201 W. 49th St.
- 15 **Business Committee and Phase 2 Task Force**
7 pm, Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church
Community and Safety Committee
7 pm, McRae Park
- 21 **Third Precinct Advisory Council**
6:30 pm, 3000 Minnehaha Ave.
- 22 **Communications Committee**
6:30 pm, Chicago Deli
- 23 **FRNNG Executive Committee, 6 pm**
FRNNG Board, 6:30 pm
Both at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church

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- 5 **Housing Committee and Phase 2 Task Force**
6:30 pm, Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church
- 14 **South Chicago Business Alliance**
Noon, Pepitos
- 19 **Third Precinct Advisory Council**
6:30 pm, 3000 Minnehaha Ave.
- 20 **Business Committee and Phase 2 Task Force**
7 pm, Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church
Community and Safety Committee
7 pm, McRae Park

Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church is located at 1620 E. 46th Street.

Nokomis Healthy Seniors Programs

In addition to its on-going programs, the Nokomis Healthy Seniors program will offer two special health programs in the upcoming months. On Wednesday, May 26, Byron Cross and Sue Roethle of the SAFE Crime Prevention Program will talk about "Senior Safety." On Wednesday, June 30, Jennifer Lovaasen of the Hiawatha Project Office will give a "Virtual Tour of the Hiawatha Light Rail Line." Both of these free sessions will begin at 1:30 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church (3430 East 51st St.) and are open to the public. If you need a ride to the program, please call Margo at 729-5499.

Nokomis Healthy Seniors, located at 4553 34th Ave., is open every Thursday morning for "Nurse Is In" from 9 a.m. until 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 coffeecake.

At Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1830 E. 41st St., the Healthy Seniors program sponsors two monthly support groups. The Macular Degeneration Group meets at the church on the second Thursday of the month 10-11:30 a.m. Julie Rindelau from Vision Loss Resources is the facilitator. On the last Thursday of the month the Caregiver Support Group meets at 1 p.m. 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 Healthy Seniors office at 729-5499.

Nokomis Healthy Seniors also sponsors two community blood-pressure clinics. On the first Thursday of the month at noon, seniors can enjoy congregate dining at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy. In addition to a blood pressure check, meals are available. Call Evelyn at 729-6668 two days ahead. The cost of the meal is \$3. The other blood pressure clinic is held at Standish Green, 2210 E. 40th St., at noon on the fourth Tuesday of the month.



I-35W Reconstruction Public Hearing Planned

A public hearing about the reconstruction of I-35W in Minneapolis, south of 42nd St, has been scheduled. If you would like to provide input on this important topic, you are invited to attend the hearing on Monday, June 14, at 7 p.m. at the Washburn High School Auditorium, 201 W. 49th St.



Grand Excursion 2004 Celebrates Upper Mississippi River

The Grand Excursion of 2004 celebrates the renaissance of the upper Mississippi River region by recreating the 1854 train and steamboat expedition that brought worldwide attention to what was then America's wild, western frontier. During the Grand Excursion 2004 Flotilla, communities all along a 400-mile stretch of the Mississippi River—from the Quad Cities of Iowa and Illinois through the bluffs of Wisconsin, to the Twin Cities of Minnesota—will host celebrations; and recreational, educational and cultural events.

You can enjoy the Grand Excursion on a boat, a train or a bike. The largest paddle wheeler and riverboat flotilla in over a century will retrace the original Grand Excursion's history-making journey, with harbor, day and overnight cruises at ports all along the route. The flotilla will start in the Quad Cities the last weekend in June and end in the Twin Cities on the July 4th weekend. The Milwaukee Road 261, an authentic, restored steam locomotive, will offer trips from Chicago to Rock Island and between communities all along the flotilla route. A 400-mile bike ride will cover between 35 and 70 miles each day, riding alongside the bluffs of the upper Mississippi region.

You also may participate in local activities in Minneapolis and St. Paul on the July 3-5 weekend. Minneapolis will showcase the Grand Excursion "Gathering at the Falls" as part of its overall July 4 festivities, which will include a parade, music, children's carnival, displays, tours and fireworks.

For more information about Grand Excursion 2004, visit www.grandexcursion.com.



Community Suppers

Wednesday Night Community Suppers continue throughout the summer at 5:45 p.m. each Wednesday evening at Asbury United Methodist Church (4501 Bloomington Ave.). They are free, and all are welcome!



McRae Park Schedule

906 East 47th Street

Complete schedule at McRae or online at www.minneapolisparcs.org.

Pre-School

Free to Be Me!

Ages: 3-5 (w/parent or guardian); M; 6-7:30 pm, July 12-Aug. 9; \$20

Muscle Mania

Ages: 3-5 (w/parent or guardian); M; 5-6 pm, June 14-July 26; \$15

Classical Ballet & Jazz

Ages: 3-5; T; 4:30-5:30 pm, June 8-July 6 (Summer Session1); \$45/session

More Ballet & Jazz

Ages: 4-6; T; 6-7 pm, June 8-July 6 (Summer Session1); \$45/session

Milk & Cookies Camp

Ages: 3-5; Th; 11 am-12:30 pm, June 19-July 17; \$20

Youth

Recreation Plus

Ages: Grades K-6; M-F; June 14-Aug. 20; 6:30 am-6 pm
\$109/week full-time + activities costs; \$20 administrative fee

Out & About Field Trips!

Ages: 6-12; M; 9 am-3 pm, June 14-Aug. 9; \$30

Art in the Park

T; 10 am-noon; June 23, 30, July 7
FREE! (Pre-Registration Required)

Summer Adventure Camp

Ages: 6-12; T-Th; 1-4 pm, June 15-Aug. 12; \$15/week or \$100 for 7 or more

Kids Night Out

Ages: 6-12, F, May 21 (last one till fall!); 6-9 pm; \$5/time

Sign up for Summer Field Trips—Monday & Friday trips available!
Flyers available from the park.

Youth & Teen Programs

PreTeen Club

Ages: 9-12; M; 6-8 pm, June 14-Aug. 9; FREE!

First Tee Golf (Par Level)

Ages: 7-17; T & Th; 11:45 am-1 pm, July 27-Aug. 12; \$30

First Tee Golf (Birdie Level)

Ages: 7-17 who passed Par; T & Th; 2:45-4 pm, July 7-19; \$30

Kidlympics

Ages: 6-14; M, Aug. 9-Th, Aug. 12; 10 am-5 pm, \$25

Teen Programs

PHAT Is Back!

Phat Summer starts at McRae T, June 22
More information coming soon!

Adult Programs

Adult Open Roller Hockey

W; 6:15-8:15 pm; FREE!

Family Special Events

Family Fun Day!

S; June 5; 11 am-3 pm; Tickets 35 cents each or 3/\$1;
Rib tickets sold separately

Volunteers Wanted!

Aquatennial Festival of the Neighborhoods

T; July 20; 6-8 pm FREE!

Announcing the McRae Park Computer Lab! Summer Hours & Class
Schedule available by May 27.



Ward 8 Update

by Council Member Robert Lilligren

The Sears Development— Midtown Exchange Update

The Eighth Ward is home to the second largest building in the state. The former Sears building is second only to the Mall of America in square footage. Many of us remember when Sears was an important and bustling retail center. With all the other exciting things happening along East Lake Street, the largest and most influential building along this corridor soon will be seeing new life. We have all been looking at the dark and vacant building at the corner of Chicago and Lake for too long. Now things there will change and change quickly.

At the first of the year, after a proposal process with unprecedented citizen review and involvement, the City Council selected the Ryan Companies US, Inc. as the preferred developer for the site. The first six months of this year are dedicated to working with Ryan and their partners to create the terms for the development. I have been working very hands-on on this project. I want to see it thrive. Also, I want to make sure there are ample opportunities for the local community to be involved in the project—both in shaping it and in benefiting from business and work opportunities throughout construction and when it opens.

The development will be called the Midtown Exchange and will include a global food market, office and other commercial space, housing (senior rental, other rental and for-sale), a separate hotel, a parking ramp and other uses. Project for Pride in Living will be partnering to build for-sale townhomes at 29th Street and 10th Avenue as part of the project. There will be some 2,000 jobs created in what is the fastest growth corridor in the state.

The big news is that the Allina Board of Directors recently voted to locate their corporate headquarters at the Midtown Exchange! Allina will relocate about 1,000 jobs there. They will be consolidating operations from several different locations throughout the metro area. This is great news! It brings a high level of certainty to the project.

Minneapolis City staff and Ryan staff are working very quickly to get this project going. We will be finalizing construction contracts by midyear. Ryan hopes to start construction this summer with planned occupancy of the building in the Spring of 2006.



I'd also like to share the answers to some frequently asked questions:

How do I report:

- A streetlight that is out? (800) 960-9235 or www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/contact/email-form-streetlight.asp
- Graffiti? 673-2090 or www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/contact/email-form-graffiti.asp
- Potholes? 673-5720 or www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/contact/email-form-pothole.asp
- Housing violations? 673-5800 or www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/citywork/city-coordinator/operations/inspections/report/

How do I get

- A building permit? 673-5831 or www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/citywork/city-coordinator/operations/inspections/construction/

Where can I find

- Snow emergency information? 348-SNOW or www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow/parking-info.asp

Top Five Reasons to Get Involved in FRNNG

5. Great way to find out what's happening in the neighborhood
4. Opportunity to learn new skills and explore new roles
3. Fantastic way to meet wonderful neighbors
2. Chance to contribute directly to making your neighborhood a better place to live
1. It's more entertaining than reality TV!

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 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 & Fourth Ave.
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 45th & Third Ave.

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 Fourth Ave.

Ken & Norm's Liquors, 48th & Chicago
Shop in the City, 48th & Chicago
Southside Chiropractic, P.A., 48th & Chicago
Turtle Bread Company, 48th & Chicago

Partner Level

All Brands Vacuums, 43rd & Chicago
Asbury United Methodist Church, 45th & Bloomington
Carlo Lachmansingh Sales, Inc., 48th & Fourth Ave.
Chrysalis—A Center for Women, 45th & Chicago
City-County Federal Credit Union, 47th & Chicago
Ebu Designs, 46th & Bloomington
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
Minnesota 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, 38th St. & 28th Ave. S.
Terry's Auto Body, 43rd & Chicago
*Twin City Tennis Supply, 48th & Chicago
*United Coach and Limousine, 45th & Chicago
*new sponsors in 2004



Support *Close to Home* and Get a 2004 FRNNG Decal

Help keep *Close to Home* coming to your door by sending in a voluntary subscription of \$15 or more, and you'll receive a colorful 2004 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, 1620 East 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.

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Layout by Marsha Micek

Contributors: Asbury United Methodist Church, Willie Bridges, Melanie Danke, Meredith Fox, Jennifer Hayes, Council Member Robert Lilligren, Nokomis Healthy Seniors, Amie Rankin, Karen Skrivseth

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

**Call 721-5424
or fax 721-4539**

E-mail: frnng@mtn.org

Copy deadline for the next issue is June 18.

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 (Interim) D'ivoire Johnson

2004-2005 FRNNG Board

**Executive Committee Officers*

**President Willie Bridges*

**1st V.P. Mary Kathleen Fluegel*

**2nd V.P. Paulette Wilson*

**Treasurer Patrick Aylward*

**Secretary Sully Gilbert*

**Field Neighborhood Rep. Rod Taylor*

**Regina Neighborhood Rep. Nancy Kaiser*

**Northrop Neighborhood Rep. Karen Pratt*

Business: Meredith Fox and Mike Zabel • 721-5424

Communications: Gary Johnson • 827-4979

Community & Safety: Herb Gysler • 823-4264

Housing: Stearline Rucker • 721-5424

Parks: Jon Steadland • 722-9661

Program: *Chair open*

Other Committees/Projects

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 Roethelle CCP/SAFE 673-2839

Byron Cross SAFE Officer 673-2958

Housing Inspector 673-5858

Senior HelpLine 729-5499

McRae Park Director Jennifer Hayes 370-4909

Airport Noise Complaints 726-9411



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Minneapolis, MN 55407



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