

CLOSE TO HOME



The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group Newsletter

May - July 2003

Speak Out to Maintain Neighborhood Control of Projects and Funding!

By Willie Bridges, FRNNG President

Currently, Minneapolis residents are in the middle of one of the most important struggles in recent memory. Due to a state law change on corporate tax rates in 2001, the funding source for NRP, a unique and internationally recognized neighborhood improvement and empowerment program, was severely cut. Since then, NRP, the City and neighborhoods have been looking for other sources of funding to continue NRP. On January 14, residents from over 35 Minneapolis neighborhoods met to fashion a resolution supporting continuation of NRP and its funding. They urged that \$11 million from a total \$33 million City Community Development Fund be set aside by the City Council for NRP and the neighborhoods. To date, the NRP has provided nearly \$3 million to your local neighborhood association, the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG).

Since 1993, NRP funding has made it possible for FRNNG to successfully improve the livability of Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood and greatly increase citizen participation. Due to funds provided by the NRP, FRNNG has been able to implement:

- Low-interest home improvement loans and grants (\$1.8 million)
- Development of Northrop School and McRae Park play grounds and window replacement at Field Middle School (\$415,000)
- Funding of the FRNNG neighborhood office, staff, program implementation, annual events, recruitment of volunteers and new block leaders (\$230,000)
- Removal of a blighted and crime ridden commercial building (\$186,000)

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Come Support the Parade and Family Day Events – June 7th!

Summer is fast approaching, so that means the FRNNG Annual Parade and McRae Park Family Fun Day is right around the corner. Come out and see your neighbors, have fun and support the neighborhood organizations and businesses that make Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood a great place to live. This year's event will be held on Saturday, June 7th with a parade theme focused on "kids". The parade route has changed this year to make it shorter for the kids. Parade units should gather at 10 a.m. at the Walgreen's parking lot at 44th & Chicago. The parade will begin at 11 a.m. and go south along Chicago to 48th Street, east on 48th to Elliot, then north on Elliot to McRae Park. The Family Fun Day events will be underway at the park when the parade arrives.

The McRae Park Family Fun Day promises to be even bigger and better than last year! They will feature music by the Jazz Workshop, a dance recital, Children's Carnival Games with prizes, concessions, face painters, balloon artists, and more! Tickets will be sold for all events for the bargain price of 35 cents each or three for a dollar. Event prices vary.

It is not too late to get involved in the parade and fun day festivities. If you want to volunteer or be part of the parade, please call the FRNNG office at (612) 721-5424 and if you want to volunteer at Family Fun Day, call the park at (612) 370-4909 or email: mcrae@minneapolisparks.org. See you there!





Projects & Committee Update

We can use help with these projects.
Please call (612) 721-5424 for more information.

Business Committee/Phase 2 Task Force

Enhancing and supporting the business community that strengthens the neighborhood.

- **FRNNG Website:** Text on Committee activities was created for the website.
- **Fundraiser:** Recommended to FRNNG Board that a fundraiser for the neighborhood be planned in coordination with Parkway Theater.
- **2003 Parade:** Recommended reallocating \$350 to help defray parade costs.
- **New Neighborhood Directory:** Will help Communications Committee with updating directory content and provide some level of funding.
- **Paint & Fix Grant Program:** Approved MN Sword Club grant application for signage to begin project.
- **Dream Team (48th & Chicago):** Approved Valerie Anderson and Kirsten Arbiter as new "neighborhood" voting members of the Dream Team.

Communications Committee

Improving two-way and timely communication within the neighborhood between residents, FRNNG, McRae Park, churches and businesses that contribute to FRN Neighborhood's quality of life.

- **FRNNG Web Site:** Recommended FRNNG Board approve expending \$99 for "Contribute" software for the office to facilitate the updating of the web site. New site is up and running. Site address is www.frnng.org
- **Close to Home newsletter:** Private funding from subscriptions and sponsorships continues to grow. Now at 63% of costs, but need it higher.
- **New FRN Neighborhood Directory:** Homebased business submissions continue to come in for the new directory. Committee working out funding for production.

Housing Committee/Phase 2 Task Force

Creating a safe and healthy environment for all FRN residents by developing housing strategies to rehabilitate existing housing stock and affordable rental housing, promote the racial, cultural and ethnic diversity of the FRN Neighborhood and create opportunities for older home-owners to remain here despite changing circumstances.

- **Home Improvement Loan Program:** Recommended to the FRNNG Board to using \$50,000 for this year's low interest loan program to provide loans as low as 5% and an additional \$4,500 for marketing.
- **Project for Pride and Living (PPL) House:** Groundbreaking ceremony will be scheduled for this June for the PPL home at 4515 - 5th Avenue. Hope to sell by December 2003.

visit us at

www.frnng.org

April Elections- a Valued Member Leaves While a New Face Joins the Board

The results of the April 22nd Annual FRNNG Election for Board of Directors are in and the outcome bodes well for the next year. Current President Willie Bridges, Treasurer Patrick Aylward, and the Representatives from Northrop and Regina Neighborhoods, Karen Pratt and Nancy Kaiser respectively, were reelected. Paulette Wilson, current Field Neighborhood Representative, was elected to replace long time activist Tom Ellis, who will move to Rosemount, as 2nd Vice President.



Regina residents caucusing to select a neighborhood representative: (left to right: Julius Lee, Inez Melton, Nancy Kaiser, incumbent representative, Tony Demello, Kirk Anderson (back to photo) and Herb Gysler, Community & Safety Chair)

Finally, the board received new energy with the election of Rod Taylor as the new Field Neighborhood Rep. Only 6 of 13 board positions were up for election this year, so we can expect a smooth transition as the new board takes office June 1st and continues to implement neighborhood improvement projects and generate citizen participation in the community.

We offer heart felt appreciation to outgoing board member Tom Ellis for his selfless commitment to our neighborhoods throughout many years. Since 1993, Tom, a Regina resident, has served on the FRNNG Board of Directors as President, 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents. His work on the board has been critical to the creation of the 1995 Phase 1 Action Plan and its implementation. Additionally, he has helped to move the FRNNG association to higher levels of organization and structure. Tom and his wife Cassie are moving to Rosemount and we wish them all the best in the years ahead.

The new Field Neighborhood Representative, Rod Taylor brings new energy and passion to the board. Rod and his wife Pam and their daughter Kelcy have lived in the neighborhood since 1999. Rod chose to run for office because of his concerns for block safety, keeping Field, Hale and Northrop Schools providing high quality education in a time of fiscal austerity, and the continuing revitalization of neighborhood commercial districts.



Volunteer Opportunities

Call FRNNG at (612)721-5424)

Annual Southside Housing Fair and Annual Teen Job & Opportunity Fair

Needing volunteers to help work on the March 27 Housing Fair or the March 13 Teen Job & Opportunity Fair.

Commitment: If you can make daytime meetings, three to four meetings. Otherwise, help behind the scenes and on the day of the event.

The Parade is Coming in June!

Help plan and work on this year's event scheduled for Saturday, June 5.

Commitment: Three planning meetings from January to June, or behind-the-scenes promotion and on the day of the event.

All Committees Open to New Volunteers

Interested in helping your community on issues of Housing, Business, Communications, Parks, Schools and Safety? **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.

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.

Close to Home newsletter

Layout editors (familiar with Quark XPress) and copy editors are needed so we can spread the work of publishing the newsletter over more volunteers. **Commitment:** Minimum of one CTH issue per year

Neighborhood Web Site

We need people with or without web site experience to help us maintain the FRNNG web site. **Commitment:** Adjust to your schedule.

Adoption Option Workshop

Joan of Arc Church is sponsoring a workshop on Saturday, March 20, 9 am to 12 noon. This workshop is for potential adoptive parents to explore adoption options. Participants choose up to 4 half-hour break-out sessions offered by local adoption professionals and adoptive parents, addressing issues of open, domestic and international adoption and Minnesota's Waiting Children program. Coffee, juice and bagels provided from 9 to 9:15. For further information and registration, please call 823-8205. St. Joan of Arc Church is located at 4537 Third Ave.

CALENDAR

April to May

April

- 5 Housing Committee & P2 Task Force
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church
6:30 pm
- 13 Business Committee & P2 Task Force
TBA, 6:30 pm
Community/Safety Committee
McRae Park, 7 pm
- 14 SCABA Pepito's, 12 noon
- 16 Close to Home deadline
- 19 3rd Precinct Advisory Council (3PAC)
3000 Minnehaha Ave., 6:30 pm
- 20 Communications Committee
Chicago Deli, 6:30 pm
- 21 FRNNG Executive Meeting, 6 pm
FRNNG Board Meeting, 6:30 pm
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church
- 27 FRNNG Annual Meeting
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church
7 pm

May

- 3 Housing Committee & P2 Task Force
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church
6:30 pm
- 5 SCABA Pepito's, 12 noon
- 23 Business Committee & P2 Task Force
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church
6:30 pm
Community/Safety Committee
McRae Park, 7 pm
- 24 FRNNG Executive Meeting, 6 pm
FRNNG Board Meeting, 6:30 pm
McRae Park
- 29 3rd Precinct Advisory Council (3PAC)
3000 Minnehaha Ave., 6:30 pm
- 30 Communications Committee
Chicago Deli, 6:30 pm
- 31 Neighborhood-wide Block Leader Mtg.
McRae Park, 6:30 pm

McRae Park Schedule

906 East 47th Street

This is a sample of classes and activities offered at McRae.

Complete schedule can be obtained at McRae or at

www.minneapolisparks.org

612.370.4909 (voice) 612.824.4170 (fax)

Registration for Spring Programs will begin Monday, March 15.

Registration for Summer Programs will begin Monday, May 3.

Pre-School

Indoor Playground!

Ages 5 & under w/Parent/Guardian

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

April 5 - May 7

(not held on MPS Release Days)

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

FREE!

Classical Ballet & Jazz

Ages 3 - 5

Tuesdays, April 20 - June 1

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

\$45/session

More Ballet & Jazz

Ages 4 - 6

Tuesdays, April 20 - June 1

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

\$45/session

Youth

Recreation Plus

Kindergarten - 6th Grade

Mondays - Fridays

September 2 - June 8, 2004

2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

\$97/month, \$24/School Release Days +

\$15 administrative fee

Recreation Plus Open House

Tuesday, March 23 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Kids Night Out

Ages 6 - 12

Fridays, March 19, April 16 & May 21

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

\$5/time

Teen Programs

Homework Help

Ages 11 - 17

Mondays, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

FREE!

Teen Scene

Ages 12 - 17

Wednesdays April 7 - May 26

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

FREE!

Adult Programs

McRae Area Recreation Council (MARC)

Mondays, 6:30 p.m.

FREE!

Wednesday Walkers

Adults, but all are welcome!

Wed. April 7 - May 26

7:00 - 8:30 pm.

FREE!

Family Special Events -call for times

Announcing the NEW McRae Park Computer Lab! Spring Hours: Mon, Tues. & Thur. 3:30 - 8:30 pm, Wed. 6 - 9 pm & every other Friday 5 - 9 pm. Call the park for class information or to reserve the lab. Photo ID may be required for internet use.

Ward 11 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. 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 feel free to e-mail me at scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or call my office at 673-2211.

New Airport Noise Exposure Map Released

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) recently released a draft of a new Noise Exposure Map (NEM). The NEM will be used to determine which homes are eligible for the ongoing Sound Insulation Program. The new map, with the sound contours is available on my website www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward11

There are numerous problems with the new map and the assumptions used to create it. For example, the MAC assumes a 38% runway use of the new north/south runway. This means that more homes in Bloomington are included in the 60 DNL and less from Minneapolis. It is unlikely that this many flights will be using that runway. The MAC has a track record of reducing the area eligible for sound insulation in Minneapolis by projecting use of the crosswind runway in the 1996 projections, which use never materialized. The MAC stopped insulating Bloomington homes affected by the crosswind runway arguing that the projected traffic never occurred but it refused to expand the number of

homes in Minneapolis which were subjected to increased noise.

Additionally, the MAC's projections assume a similar reduction in the number of hush-kitted aircraft as has happened over the last few years. During that time, Northwest eliminated use of the very noisy 727's. The noise equivalent of the 727 in the current Northwest fleet is the DC-9. Northwest recently spent a large amount of money to refurbish all their DC-9's so it seems highly unlikely that they are now going to retire them soon.

The MAC's assumptions also contain a very minimal increase in night flights. In order to obtain the total number of flights assumed per day, the number of night flights will need to increase considerably more than is currently being projected.

Council Member Benson disputed several other assumptions in the formula, but this gives you an idea of the basis for the city's objections.

The MAC has committed to spend \$150 million for sound insulation out to the 60DNL, but that amount likely will not be enough to do the full sound insulation package to all the homes in that area. Airport users continue to oppose this level of funding.

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.



Business and Church Sponsorships

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 Ave.
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
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
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 18th Ave. & Minnehaha Parkway
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
Shenandoah Cleaners, 48th & Chicago
T.A.'s Texaco, 46th & Chicago
T.L. Graphics, E. 38th St. and 28th Ave. S.
Terry's Auto Body, 43rd and Chicago

*new sponsors in 2003

Nokomis Healthy Seniors Health Programs

Health Programs are monthly meetings designed to promote health. Meetings are held the last Wednesday of the month at Faith Lutheran Church, 3430 East 51st Street. If you need a ride to the program please call the office at (612) 729-5499 and ask for Margo.

June 25— "How my garden started and how it has grown," a NHS participant shares her own experience with gardening.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS



Taken at Recent FRNNG

Executive Committee & Board Meetings

Executive Committee Meetings at 6 p.m, 3rd Wednesday of each month at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 1620 E. 46th St., followed by Board of Director Meetings at 6:30 p.m.

At March Meeting, Executive Committee Approved

- Willie Bridges, FRNNG President sending a letter from the FRNNG Board of Directors to our city council members and the NRP office downtown indicating our support for future funding of NRP.
- Extending FRNNG Staff contract an additional month until the annual contract can be reviewed and voted on in April.

At March and April Meetings, Board of Directors Approved

- Monthly check expenditures.
- Recommendation from the Housing Committee that the two households adjacent to the narrow vacant lot at 4349 13th Ave. S. have first right of refusal on purchasing the lot.
- Willie Bridges, FRNNG President sending letter from the FRNNG Board of Directors to our city council members requesting that the city appoint representatives from the neighborhoods to assist the NRP with their visioning process for funding and organization.
- Recommendations from the Business Committee that \$350 of this Committee's funds be reallocated to support this year's parade; and that \$6,000 be approved as matching funds to support the 48th and Chicago Dream Team Initiative for promotion, architectural renderings and rental of space for neighborhood meetings.
- Recommendations from the Community & Safety Committee that a plan modification be prepared to reallocate \$2,000 in Committee funds to the Nokomis Healthy Senior Program "Senior Helpline" project; and that the Community & Safety Committee continue pursuing discussions with Hennepin County regarding establishing a one-day hazardous waste drop site in or near the neighborhood in the coming months.

July and August— no programs are scheduled for these months. Enjoy the summer and we look forward to seeing you in September!

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 John Vasiliou

Contributors to this issue include:
Willie Bridges, Stephanie Dosser, Herb Gysler, Jennifer Hayes, Kate Heffernan, Gary Johnson, Robert Lilligren, Jeff Roy, Stearline Rucker, John See

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 June 20

Names and Numbers

Web site: www.neighborhoodlink.com/minneapolis/frnng

**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 Jeff Roy

2002-2003 FRNNG Board

**Executive Committee Officers*

*President Willie Bridges

*1st V.P. Mary Katherine Johnson

*2nd V.P. Thomas Ellis

*Treasurer Patrick Aylward

*Secretary Susan Tabor

*Field Neighborhood Rep. Paulette Wilson

*Regina Neighborhood Rep. Nancy Kaiser

*Northrop Neighborhood Rep. Karen Pratt

Business: Kate Heffernan • 721-5424

Communications: Gary Johnson • 827-4979

Community and Safety: Herb Gysler • 823-4264

Housing: Stearline Rucker • 721-5424

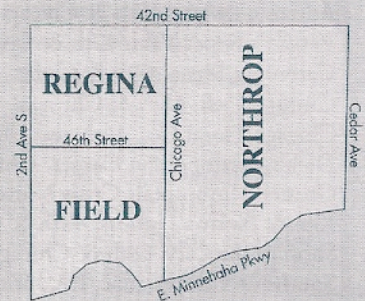
Program: Chair open

Other Committees/Projects

Fund Raising: Staff
Neighborhood Tutoring Project: Staff
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
Danté Dean 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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