

CLOSE T^o HOME



The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group Newsletter

February-March 2013

2013 City Budget Invests in Minneapolis While Decreasing Spending

Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak and the City Council unanimously approved the City's 2013 budget, which will mean major investments in infrastructure, public safety, economic growth and reform. Overall the City's spending is down about 3 percent from 2012.

The \$1.085 billion budget provides:

- A boost in funding for streets and other infrastructure, with infrastructure improvements in 2013 three times higher than previously planned.

- An investment in public safety, adding \$2.5 million to the Police Department, with the aim of having 10 more officers on the force by next summer. Next year's budget also adds \$1.1 million to hire firefighters so that the Fire Department can prepare for expected retirements. This level of investment comes on top of a federal SAFER grant of \$1.07 million received earlier this year.

- Economic growth in the city through continued investments in the City's community planning and development efforts that have produced strong

results in job growth and training, business growth and development, and promoting transit-oriented development.

- Major reforms and efficiency savings that better align the City's construction and development review services with its planning and economic development work. These and other reforms of the Department of Regulatory Services are projected to save the City between \$300,000 and \$400,000 in the first year alone.

Budget challenges

The 2013 budget was made possible through more than a decade of solving tough financial challenges that faced the City.

The challenges include:

- Paying down debt. The City has paid down or avoided \$241 million in debt since 2002 and restored its AAA credit rating.

- Reforming pensions. After years of effort, the City succeeded in merging into the State's PERA retirement system several closed pension funds whose taxpayer-funded obligations were exploding. In 2012 alone, this reform saved taxpayers

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Community Input Sought on Development of Northrop School Site

The Minneapolis Public School District (MPS) has contracted with the City of Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) to collaborate on a call for offers to sell its Northrop School site at 1611 E. 46th St. The site is zoned R3 – medium density residential. Offers are being accepted through February 5, 2013.

As proposals are received, CPED and FRNNG will be holding one or more meetings for the purpose of getting community input on development proposals.

If you are interested in attending any of these meetings or wish to make a comment about the development of the site, please email the FRNNG Housing Committee at (housing@frnng.org), or call the FRNNG office (721-5424) and leave a message. Please include your name, address and phone number in your email or voice message.

Visit us online at
www.frnng.org



FRNNG Meeting Information

Full Board

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

Business Committee

• 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, LNPC
business@frnng.org

Community and Safety Committee:

• 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, McRae Park Rec Center
communityandsafety@frnng.org

Housing Committee

• 1st Monday of each month at 6 pm, Sisters Sludge, 46th St. and Bloomington Ave.
housing@frnng.org

Education Committee

• 1st Thursday of each month beginning in October, at 6:30 pm, LNPC
education@frnng.org

Parks Committee

• 1st Monday of each month at 7 pm, McRae Park Rec Center
parks@frnng.org

Greening Committee

• 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at Turtle Bread Restaurant, 48th and Chicago
greening@frnng.org

Communications Committee

• 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6 pm at Turtle Bread Restaurant, 48th and Chicago
communications@frnng.org

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

11th Ward Update

By Council Member
John Quincy

Dear Neighbors,

Thank you for the opportunity to keep you updated on what is happening at City Hall.

Freeway ramps end up being a major entry point into the neighborhoods of Minneapolis. At the request of the City of Minneapolis, MnDOT set aside \$500,000 of the budget for the reconstruction of 35W and Crosstown for what is being termed the Gateway Project. Over the next few months, MnDOT will meet with selected representatives from the adjoining neighborhoods to look at what the neighborhoods want as a Gateway off the freeway and into the neighborhood. The committee will

be looking at the areas around 46th, Diamond Lake Rd, 60th, Nicollet, Lyndale, Penn and Portland and examining everything from landscaping to signs to statuary to anything else that would fit within the budget to help welcome people to the neighborhood. Later this year, MnDOT will hold a public input meeting to show the plans being developed. It is an exciting opportunity and Field Regina Northrup is well represented on the committee.

I am always available to answer your questions at 673-2211. If you would like to receive the 11th Ward Monthly E-News, please send me an e-mail at John.Quincy@minneapolismn.gov



Minneapolis Among Nation's Top 10 Winter Vacation Destinations

Minneapolis is one of the best winter vacation destinations in the country according to new rankings from Livability.com.

The new list highlights cities that embrace their cool climates and offer residents and visitors a wealth of outdoor recreation, arts and culture, dining and entertainment options.

Minneapolis was recognized for its wealth of amenities visitors look for: a thriving arts community, interesting nightlife, quality, independent restaurants, unique shopping and plenty of outdoor activities such as cross-country skiing, sledding, tubing, ice skating and the U.S. Pond Hockey Championships.

A Neighbor's Dog

Austin doesn't see a lot of his 10th Ave. neighbors like he used to— after all he is 17 (that is about 119 in human age!) and doesn't go for long walks anymore. He still loves his treats and don't even think of giving him just one. In this picture he sat proudly for a surprise Christmas gift from his dog dad John to his loving dog mom, Kathleen. She has known and loved Austin longer than she has been married to John. Isn't he handsome?



2013 City Budget... from page 1

\$20 million. Minneapolis will also retire all its pension debt in 2012.

• **Holding the line on wages.** The City partnered with employees to hold the line on wages at several points during the last decade, which has saved jobs and help hold down property-tax increases. Mayor Rybak thanked City employees for their partnership.

• **Target Center.** From 1994 through 2012, Minneapolis property taxpayers were saddled with Target Center costs. As a result of the Vikings stadium deal that passed earlier this year, \$5 million in annual Target Center costs were lifted off the backs of Minneapolis property taxpayers.

The overall increase in the 2013 property-tax levy is 1.77 percent, which is below the rate of inflation. In fact, 70 percent of taxpayers will not feel this increase, or will see a decrease in their property-tax bill. Had it not been for the City's careful financial planning over the years, taxpayers would likely be paying 35 percent more in property taxes than they currently are.

To view the City's 2013 budget, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget.

More Open Streets Events in Minneapolis in 2013 Thanks to New Grant

Streets will become centers of activity at four "Open Streets" events in Minneapolis in 2013, thanks to a grant from the Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA) and the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association (BCBSA). The \$50,000 grant to host the events was formally accepted Dec. 7 by the Minneapolis City Council and Mayor R.T. Rybak.

Next year's events are expected to draw at least 30,000 residents outside to have fun, get exercise, and connect with others in their communities. Open Streets events close a neighborhood commercial street to vehicles for four to six hours. During that time, the street is opened to pedestrians, bicyclists, and other activities like Zumba, Yoga, Nice Ride 'slow bike races' and more. Minneapolis has held three Open Streets events over the last two summers, and this funding will mean each quadrant of town will have its own event in 2013. For the first time, each of these events will be co-sponsored by the City.

Minneapolis is one of ten cities nationwide to receive funding through the "Play Streets" program, which aims to combat childhood obesity and improve the community's health and wellness. In addition to funding, the grant award includes technical assistance and marketing support from PHA, BCBSA and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. The winning cities were chosen based on their ongoing commitment to increasing physical activity among kids, health education and programming, sustainability of the program, and community development.

Minneapolis has held three successful Open Streets events so far, including events on Lyndale Av. S. in the summers 2011 and 2012 and an event on Lowry Ave. N. in the fall of 2012. These Open Streets events have been organized by the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition, with funding from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MN.

Jones Financial Group Opens Office in FRN

Patricia Jones, Principal of Jones Financial Group, is excited to introduce her firm to the FRN community with its new office at 4748 Chicago Ave., Suite 6. For over 10 years, Patricia has helped individuals and families plan their financial future and move toward their goals with confidence.

Depending on your life stage, you may face major financial events in the not-too-distant future—whether sending children or grandchildren to college, buying a home, preparing for retirement, managing retirement income, or providing for long-term health care. The challenge goes beyond simply deciding which investments to choose. The real challenge is to formulate strategies for accumulating and preserving

wealth that extends to future generations. That's where we can be a valuable resource.

The Jones Financial Group is small enough to give you the individual attention you deserve. Through LPL Financial, the professionals at Jones Financial Group offer the following services:

- Financial planning through LPL Financial, based on your core values
- Insurance planning
- Asset management through LPL Financial (fee-based, not product-driven)
- Gifting strategies and estate planning
- Investment/Insurance Workshops (open to the community)

Our process begins and ends with you—understanding your core values and current financial picture. Together,

we craft a roadmap defining a sound strategy for pursuing your definition of success. We focus on getting to know you, understanding your needs, and creating a lasting relationship based on the quality of advice we provide. We commit our experience to help you work toward achieving your goals and building a legacy that can significantly impact the people and the causes you cherish. Contact us at **326-1800** or email patricia.jones@lpl.com.

Patricia Jones is a registered representative with, and securities and advisory services offered through, LPL Financial, a Registered Investment Advisor, member FINRA/SIPC.

Ever Wonder What Types of Complaints Minneapolis 311 Receives?

Here is a sampling from our neighborhoods for the period of December 7th to December 14th, 2012.



Citizen Service Request Report

Neighborhood	Request Type	Created Date	Case Reference	Address Line 1	Address Line 2	SLA Target Date
Field	Graffiti complaint / reporting	Dec 13, 2012 3:06:47 PM	101001362720	2ND AVE S	EAST MINNEHAHA PKWY	Jan 4, 2013 8:00:00 AM
Hale	Animal Complaint - Livability	Dec 12, 2012 8:33:01 AM	101001353299	17TH AVE S		Dec 28, 2012 8:33:00 AM
	City Vehicle / Driver Issue	Dec 11, 2012 3:28:03 PM	101001351319	10TH AVE S		Dec 18, 2012 3:28:03 PM
	Sidewalk Snow and Ice - SS	Dec 11, 2012 8:45:27 PM	101001352719	11TH AVE S		Jan 1, 2013 8:45:27 PM
	Snow & Ice Complaint	Dec 12, 2012 12:13:28 PM	101001355099	10TH AVE S		Dec 17, 2012 12:13:28 PM
	Snow - Illegal Dumping	Dec 10, 2012 10:02:13 AM	101001342780	CHICAGO AVE		Dec 17, 2012 8:00:00 AM
Northrop	Snow & Ice Complaint	Dec 14, 2012 12:54:54 PM	101001365143	MINNEHAHA PKWY E		Dec 19, 2012 12:54:53 PM
	Zoning Ordinance Question	Dec 11, 2012 8:33:14 AM	101001347559	12TH AVE S		Dec 17, 2012 8:33:13 AM
	Zoning Ordinance Question	Dec 11, 2012 12:37:40 PM	101001349819	ELLIOT AVE		Dec 17, 2012 12:37:40 PM

Happy
Valentine's Day!



Check Out the South Minneapolis Housing Fair, Saturday, April 13

Fun Home Improvement Event for the Whole Family

Whether you are giving a room a “make-over” or starting from the ground up, you’ll find answers to all of your questions at the 19th annual South Minneapolis Housing Fair.

FREE and Open to the Public

This event is FREE and open to the public and will be held Saturday, April 13, 2013, from 10 am to 3 pm. With its convenient **NEW** location in the Minneapolis Sports Center, 2121 E. Lake St., centrally located in South Minneapolis, the Housing Fair is easy to find. (Behind the Midtown YWCA, parking on site or across the street.)

Great Local Exhibitors and Door Prizes

We’ll have almost 100 amazing exhibitors and vendors to make your dreams come true with expertise and advice on home remodeling, basement



finishing, kitchen and bath transformation, landscaping and much more. All exhibitors are located in the Metro area and provide the highest level of professional services. In addition, you’ll enjoy making connections with local bankers, real estate agents and a broad

range of community experts in a low-key conversational setting.

Volunteers – You Can Get Involved!

A grass-roots neighborhood produced event like the South Minneapolis Housing Fair is built on hundreds of hours of volunteer time. Your efforts could help to insure the success of the Housing Fair and the improvement in the safety and value of your neighborhood. For more information on how you can get involved contact the Event Coordinator, Margo Ashmore at manager@housingfair.org or call 867-4874.

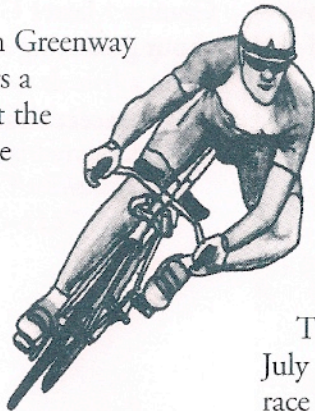
We’ll see you at the Fair!

Southside Sprint Bike Race Expands to Two-Day Festival

New Midtown Greenway Time Trial Kicks Joins Popular Event

The 2013 Southside Sprint will add a second day with the inclusion of a time trial race along the Midtown Greenway on Saturday, July 20. The Southside Sprint criterium race will return to the neighborhood around 48th and Chicago on Sunday, July 21. The addition of a second date will attract racers from around the Upper Midwest.

The new Midtown Greenway Time Trial gives racers a chance to race against the clock. The 3-mile race course will showcase Minneapolis’ bicycle “super-highway”. Racers will finish in front of the Freewheel Bike Midtown Bike Center and fans will



enjoy a festival of food, live music and outdoor fun in addition to the thrilling racing.

The new event will begin at 5 pm as the Festival opens. Racing will start at 5:30 and conclude at 8 pm. Live music will continue throughout the racing, ending at 10 pm. Race categories will be available for all types of bikes and all levels of ability –

from beginners on beach cruisers to elite athletes on dedicated time trial bikes. Since riders will start individually, the Midtown Greenway Time Trial gives everyone a chance to try racing in a safe, supportive environment.

The Southside Sprint criterium on July 21 will again include 8 individual race categories, the popular Kids Fun Race, BMX stunt riders and the Twin

Six Family Fun Zone. Racing starts at 8 am and continues until 3 pm.

A beginners clinic at 7 am will give new riders the chance to learn to race before starting the Bikes & Pieces Beginners Race.

In just its second year, the 2012 Southside Sprint was the largest amateur road bicycle race in Minnesota. In 2013, the event will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the South Chicago Avenue National Classic Bicycle Races – the first bike races contested on the streets of South Minneapolis.

More information about the Southside Sprint is available at www.southsidesprint.com.



Thanks to our Supporters!

Close to Home would like to thank the following individuals, local businesses and organizations in our community for their generous financial contributions to the production and mailing of this newsletter. Now we are asking you to support not only this publication, but also all of our other activities. Anything that you can give will be very much appreciated and put to good use. Also, since we are a "501(c)3" organization, any donations are deductible to the full extent of the law. If you would like more information on how your organization or business can become a supporter, please call the FRNNG office at 721-5424. **We also encourage residents to support our local businesses so that they can continue to be a strong and vital sector of our community.**

Under \$100

Southside Chiropractic, P.A.
55th and Chicago, 827-0657
Pathfinder Care Management
48th and Chicago, 729-9096

Partner Level- \$100-\$199

Minnehaha Animal Hospital
48th and Chicago, 825-4427
T.A.'s Automotive, Inc.
42nd and Bloomington, 823-7100

Gardening Tips— Resilient Gardening

By Jennifer Rensenbrink

I recently finished the book *The Resilient Gardener: Food Production and Self-Reliance in Uncertain Times*, by Carol Deppe. Sounds a little heavy-handed, yes? But the author's broad definition of "uncertain times" actually gave me a lot to think about. For example, a back injury that prevents you from watering your garden for a few weeks is an uncertainty to which we can all relate.

What can we do to make our gardens more resilient—resilient to drought, excessive heat, and home owners with busy lives? Here are some strategies we should consider when adding new plants to our landscape this year.

Choose drought-tolerant plants

If you're adding a new shrub or perennial to your landscape, choose one that is specifically bred for drought tolerance. Plants native to our region will always be more drought-tolerant than non-native species. Check the plant's label. I always google the latin name of the plant that I'm interested in buying—Wikipedia will usually give you plenty of information about the plant's origin and needs.

Mind the spacing in your vegetable garden

One of Deppe's recommendations is to increase the amount of space between vegetables in your garden, double the recommended spacing on the seed packet. This bit of advice is hard for me, as my vegetable garden is so small. But the more space you put between plants, the less they have to compete with each other for water and nutrients from the soil. If you increase space, you will want to mulch with a nice thick layer of straw, or weeds will gladly fill in that extra space.



Choose plants and food that thrive on poor soil

Deppe's yard is very shady, but she still uses it for food production by owning a flock of ducks, which give her eggs and meat. As for plants, many native plants thrive on poor soil. My pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) bush grows perfectly well in an area so dry and shady that grass has never grown there. And it provides berries for birds.

Native plants are truly the most resilient of all plants that we can choose for our landscape— after all, they survive in the wild with no care at all. As you look around your yard, ask yourself, which plants would survive a hot, dry summer if I am not able to care for them? Keeping this in mind can help us build more resilient landscapes that support wildlife without using too many resources like water and our most precious resource of all: time.

Jennifer Rensenbrink is a Hennepin County Master Gardener who blogs about gardening and other adventures at:

newhomeeconomics.wordpress.com

McRae Park

906 East 47th Street

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

**www.
minneapolisparcs.org**

370-4909 (voice)

824-4170 (fax)

Anne Kegley, Director
akegley@minneapolisparcs.org

Check Out the *Redesigned* FRNNG Website! Find Us on Facebook...



and Follow Us on Twitter

Support the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group

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

FRNNG

VOLUNTARY DONATION

\$15 \$25 \$50 Other

Name _____

Address _____

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

Senior Helpline

Senior Nutrition Program

Monday through Friday the Volunteers of America host a free/reduced price lunch for area seniors aged 60+. The suggested contribution is \$3.50, however they just ask people to pay what they can afford. No one is ever denied a meal because they cannot pay. Meals are at 1 pm at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church at 1720 E. Minnehaha Parkway. For more info call 952-945-4157 or 729-6668.

CLOSE T^o HOME

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

Editor: Linda Rost
Layout: John Vasiliou
Webmaster: Kirk Anderson

Contributors:

Kirk Anderson, Patricia Jones, Jason Lardy, Nicholas Peterson, Councilmember John Quincy, Jennifer Rensenbrink, Joyce Tesarek

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

Call 721-5424 or Fax 721-4539
E-mail: frnng@frnng.org
Copy deadline for the next issue is March 1

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

The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group, Inc. Established in 1965

1620 East 46th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55407
FRN Info Line 721-5424
Fax: 721-4539
E-mail: frnng@frnng.org
Program Manager: open

2011-2012 FRNNG Board

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*2nd V.P.: Willie Bridges

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*Northrop So. Neighborhood Rep: Pete Berlute

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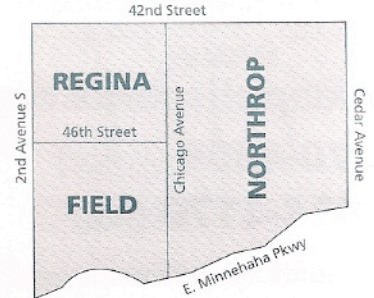
Housing: Nick Peterson/Albert Knight

Parks: Keely Wheaton

Programs: open

Useful Phone Numbers

8th Ward Council Elizabeth Glidden 673-2208
11th Ward Council John Quincy 673-2211
Sue Roethele CCP/SAFE 673-2839
Housing Inspector 673-5858
Senior HelpLine 729-5499
McRae Park 370-4909
Airport Noise Complaints 726-9411



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