

CLOSE TO HOME

THE FIELD REGINA NORTHROP NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP NEWSLETTER

January/February 2015

Metro Blooms' Best Alley Garden Award-winning garden inspires neighbors

By Carrie Shidla

When Carol Warner moved into her Northrop bungalow, her outdoor space certainly wouldn't have won any awards with its rotting retaining walls and vast concrete surfaces. But the home had potential, so she moved in and got to work. Thirteen years later, her lush gardens have gotten notice—and also an award by the Metro Blooms nonprofit organization for Best Alley Garden in 2014.

A backyard transformed

As an artist specializing in colorful metalworking, Carol's visual arts training

Continued on page 2



Zinnias thrive in Carol Warner's award-winning garden in Northrop.

Remembering Pearl Lindstrom and Her Historic Home

Late neighbor's home now on National Register of Historic Places

By Stearline Rucker

On any sunny day, you could see Ms. Pearl Lindstrom out tending to her gardens or chatting with a neighbor. We are sad to share that Ms. Lindstrom passed away November 19, 2014, at the age of 92. Her smile and warm manner will be missed in the neighborhood.

Pearl Lindstrom lived in the little house on the corner of East 46th Street & Columbus Avenue South. When Ms. Lindstrom moved into that little house on the corner more than 50 years ago, little did she know that one day her home would be added to the National Register of Historic Places. Not one to call attention to herself but always encouraging others, she was gracious when interest in her home began to swell because of the story of the home's special history.

A black family in an all-white neighborhood

In 1931, Arthur, wife Ethel, and daughter Mary Lee moved into the house on Columbus. Unfortunately, they were not welcomed into their new neighborhood. Not one neighbor came to their door with a cake or hotdish and a friendly smile. Instead, throngs of people surrounded their home day after day, hoping to drive out the black family that had moved into the all-white neighborhood.

Continued on page 10



The late Pearl Lindstrom on her front porch.

President's Letter

Hello Neighbor:

Happy New Year! Your Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG) board of directors wishes you the best in the coming year.

A successful "Night on 48th"

Thank you for supporting and attending the "Night on 48th" celebration. This was a very successful event for our community. I had the opportunity to meet many of you who live in the neighborhood.

Continued on page 3

In our neighborhood

Award-winning garden, continued from page 1

influences everything she does in her garden, taking into consideration color, texture, and scale to create beautiful outdoor space. “When I moved in, it was ugly—and I can’t do ugly!” she laughed. “One thing led to another.”

Her backyard and alley spaces now include a succulent garden, edibles and a small lily pond with a waterfall, which many neighbors have noticed. “I can hear the sounds from the waterfall from my patio, and it drowns out alley noises. My neighbors often comment on the sounds and enjoy it as well.”

Carol considers her style organic and free-flowing, and it has evolved along with her garden over the years. She has removed concrete to increase her garden size and retain rainwater, and completely removed grass from her yard.

“I sold my lawn mower 10 years after I bought it for the same price!” she said. “I now use sedum ground cover, which is a lovely chartreuse-green color.”

Bringing neighbors together

One of Carol’s favorite aspects of gardening is the community-building aspect to it. “Our neighborhood is so connected; we share plants and things like that. Just being outside and being accessible, I meet so many people when I am in my garden. It’s a friendly, interactive thing to do.”

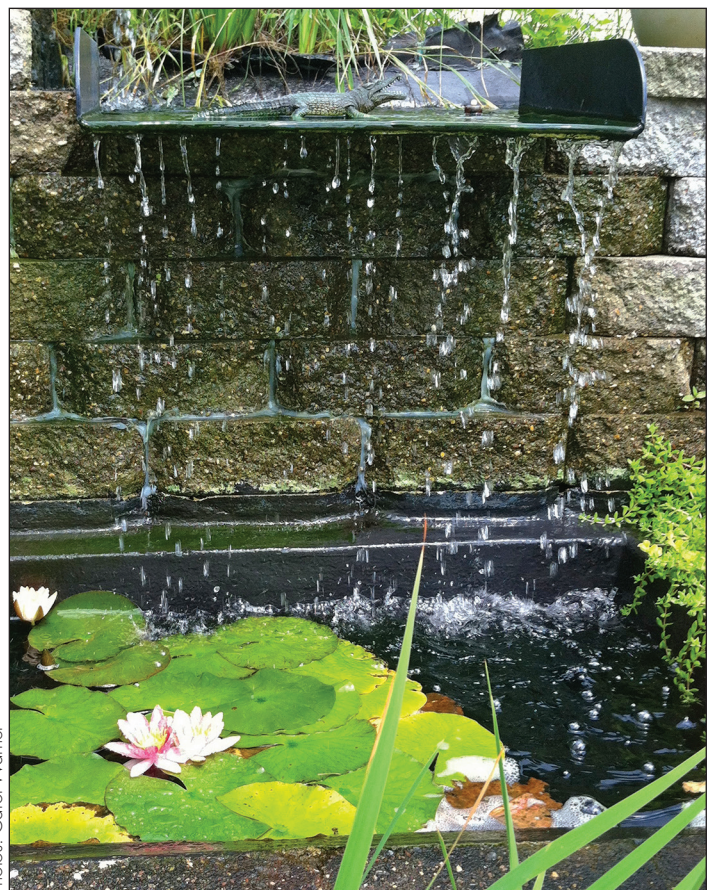
She has also noticed a change in the neighborhood in recent years, with new neighbors moving into the community and learning to garden and creating beautiful spaces. In the front yards, the gardens blend together, and “many of us have chairs in our front yards—it’s so friendly this way.”

A never-ending process

Her advice to new home owners learning their way around their yards is simple: “Just get outside! Meet your neighbors, and ask questions. It’s an ongoing process, and it never really ends.”

As an artist, she also recommends getting dirty to energize the mind. She shared, “I think there is something special about doing this sort of calm, at times mindless and meditative work, and I really believe it facilitates creative thinking.”

You can see this and other award-winning gardens at www.metroblooms.org. Carol Warner is a Northrop-based artist who currently teaches at the Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center (www.cafac.org). For more information, go to www.carolwarner.com. For more information about Metro Blooms, see page 11. ❖



Photos: Carol Warner

From the president & committee notes

President's letter, continued from page 1

Here is a snapshot of what people had to say about our community:

“My neighbors were so welcoming when we moved into our home.”

“I feel like I'm part of the community here.”

“People care about each other.”

“I like that we have a newsletter and I know what is going on in the community.”

“The neighbors look out for each other.”

“I'm glad that we can walk to 48th and Chicago with our kids.”

FRNG committee updates

I would like to welcome Ian Campbell and Nate Lansing as the new co-chairs for the Housing Committee. They will be having monthly Housing meetings on the first Monday of the month at Town Hall Tap at 7:00 P.M. and are looking for new members. If you would like information about joining this committee email: housing@frnng.org

Consider joining a committee

There are several other neighborhood committees I hope you will consider joining, as well: Business, Community and Safety, Education, Parks, Greening and Communication Committees. We always need volunteers for all of our committees. You can find out when these committees meet by calling the office, checking our website or in this newsletter on page 11. These committees are planning various activities for 2015 and would like to have your input as they plan for next year.

A safe and friendly place

This is just my reminder to be safe: Make sure you lock your house doors, close your garage doors and keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice.

Strong home sales

Did you know that we had more than 100 new home sales in FRN in 2014? That is evidence of the strong appeal of our neighborhood, and a stronger and healthier real estate climate here in FRN.

So, when you see your neighbors, don't forget to say “Hello” and go out of your way to welcome recent arrivals to the neighborhood.

Willie Bridges, President, FRNG



Willie Bridges, president of the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group.

From the Board: Community and Safety

The Community & Safety Committee—led by Ben Elliott

Developing a strong community is not only rewarding, but it just makes good sense. Neighborhoods with a strong sense of community are able to better organize and respond to threats, leading to a safer overall environment. Making Field Regina Northrop (FRN) a more connected and safe neighborhood is the goal of Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group's (FRNG) Community & Safety committee.

The Community & Safety committee (C&S) is led by Ben Elliott, a Northrop neighbor since 2010. Ben, his spouse, Gina, and young daughter, Rosie, enjoy running along Minnehaha Parkway, dining at the Town Hall Tap and visiting the play area at Sovereign Grounds. Ben describes FRN as “a dynamic place—filled with diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, charming homes, beautiful green spaces and fantastic businesses—all in a convenient, central location.”

C&S is a committed group of

neighbors who discuss important issues such as crime that happens in and near our neighborhood, and how to make FRN an even better place to live. The current C&S agenda includes:

- Dialogue with our crime prevention specialist, Sue Roethle, regarding recent crime, crime patterns and statistics, problem properties and personal safety
- Connect with block club leaders
- Coordinate and encourage neighborhood pride such as the FRNG lawn sign project
- Determine ways to reach out and welcome new neighbors
- Organize neighborhood clean-up events such as “Clean Sweep”

The C&S committee meets in the McRae Park building at 7 P.M. on the 4th Tuesday of every month, January through November. If you have an interest in specific C&S agenda items, or contributing your time to making FRN a more connected and safe community, it would be great to hear from you! Please email: communityandsafety@frnng.org

About your home

Your Winter “To-do” List: Conserve Energy; Prevent Ice Dams

By Beth Greeninger

Roof ice dams create an annual winter headache for many Minnesotans. When serious enough, ice dams cause water to leak through shingles, resulting in costly interior damage. However, with the proper know-how, ice dams can often be prevented before they start.

Ice dams result from three factors

According to Patrick Huelman, Coordinator of the Cold Climate Housing Program at the University of Minnesota, three factors must be present to create ice dams:

- Adequate snow cover on your roof
- Outside temperatures below freezing
- Conditions that allow snow to melt on your roof and refreeze as ice on your soffits

Melting and refreezing

Ice dams usually occur when your home’s heated and unheated spaces are not sealed effectively from one another. Warm air leaking from living spaces into unheated spaces under your roof can cause snow to melt. Eventually the melted snow reaches the roof eaves, which typically remain at a temperature below freezing. This situation causes the snowmelt to re-freeze at the eave, creating an ice buildup. This ice buildup acts as a dam to subsequent snowmelt, which can cause water to back up under shingles and leak through the roof.

Affordable home energy evaluation

Recognizing that ice dam removal and repair is costly (around \$375 with a two-hour minimum is normal), prevention is key. A home energy evaluation can help determine if your home is properly insulated and air sealed. If it’s not, your home is losing heat and you are paying much more to heat your home than you need to, while also running the risk of incurring ice dams.

Partnership with local utilities

Home Energy Squad Enhanced visits are a home energy evaluation offered in Minneapolis. The program is provided by CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy in partnership with the nonprofit Center for Energy and Environment (CEE). At the home energy visit, two energy consultants visit your home to help you identify ways to save energy. During the two-hour consultation, diagnostic tests are completed that include an insulation inspection and a blower door test to measure your home for air leaks. These tests are essential to learning how to help prevent ice dams. The cost for the visit to FRN residents



Ice dams result from the freezing and refreezing of melted snow.

is only \$30 because the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group is supporting the program and helping buy down the cost for residents.

Evaluation and recommendations

At the end of the visit, the energy consultants go over their recommendations for increased energy efficiency in your home and provide you with an Energy Fitness Plan. To help accomplish recommended home improvement projects, the visit qualifies participants to receive low-interest energy financing from the Center for Energy and Environment’s Lending Center.

FRN-discounted visits are limited and visits book up quickly as people start seeing those heating bills rise and ice dams build up. For more information or to schedule a Home Energy Squad Enhanced visit, call Beth at 612-335-5874 or visit www.mncee.org/hes-mpls ❖

Interactive Retirement Information Fair

Start the New Year off right by getting answers to your most pressing questions about retirement. Jones Financial Group is hosting a Retirement Information Fair on Saturday, January 31, 2015, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. at Café Levain (behind Turtle Bread Company). At this community service event, you can learn what our local experts are saying about how best to prepare for and live in retirement.

Prepare for retirement

Leading up to retirement, most of us have many questions about how to prepare for this important phase of life: how to fund our retirement, how to plan for estate issues, how to be tax savvy before and during retirement, what insurance issues should be addressed, how real estate planning can help us, and so on. It's not easy to get the information you need because so many disciplines are involved—until now, that is.

Patricia Jones, Principal of Jones Financial Group, designed this Retirement Information Fair so you can begin to get the information you need. The Retirement Information Fair will be set up like an open house, so you can come and interact with local professionals from each of the

following disciplines and move through the fair at your own pace:

- Attorney who specializes in estate planning
- Certified Public Accountant
- Financial Advisor
- Insurance Broker
- Realtor knowledgeable about real estate retirement issues
- Mortgage Broker

Refreshments will be available, and the first 10 people to register will receive a special gift of appreciation!

We look forward to meeting you at the Fair!

Date: Saturday, January 31, 2015

Time: 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Location: Café Levain, 4762 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis 55407 (The entrance faces 48th Street—behind Turtle Bread Company.)

Jones Financial Group is a local financial advisor firm—helping people like you with your retirement planning and investing.

Securities offered through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC

www.myjonesfinancial.com
(612) 326-1800 ❖

Snow-related information

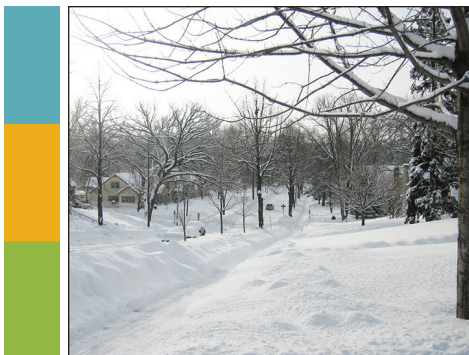


Photo: Sue Filbin

A city ordinance requires that property owners clear snow within 24 hours of the end of a snowfall. Property owners are also required to clear ice from sidewalks.

It's against the law to shovel or blow snow into streets and alleys

Free sidewalk sand is available at 6036 Harriet Avenue South.

For more info:

www.minneapolismn.gov/snow/shovel/

Close to Home

Close to Home is the official publication of the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG) and is published six times per year by the FRNNG Communications Committee.

Editors

Chris Schommer & Carrie Shidla

Layout

Smiling Dog Design

Contributors

Council member Elizabeth Glidden, Willie Bridges, Ben Elliott, Sue Filbin, Beth Greeninger, Ryan Holweger, Nate Lansing, Stearline Rucker, Carrie Shidla, and Chris Schommer

Articles, photos, and announcements are welcome. Please email: communications@frnng.org or call (612) 721-5424

The deadline for the next issue: Friday, February 6, 2015

The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group, Inc.

Established in 1965

1620 East 46th Street

Minneapolis, MN 55407

FRNNG Info Line (612) 721-5424

Fax: (612) 721-4539

E-mail: frnng@frnng.org

Program Manager: Stearline Rucker
Program Assistant: Sheryl Schwyhart

2015-2016 FRNNG Board

**Executive Committee Officers*

*President: Willie Bridges

*1st V.P.: Tom Powers

*Treasurer: Shannon Guernsey

*Secretary: Shelley Nystrom

*Field Neighborhood Rep: Barbara Harris

*Regina Neighborhood Rep:

Kori & Nate Stephens

*Northrop N. Neighborhood Rep:

Matt Steele

*Northrop S. Neighborhood Rep: Mike Lyon

Business: Karen Young

Communications: Chris Schommer

Community and Safety: Ben Elliott

Education: Gerry Sell

Greening: Ted Moe

Housing: Ian Campbell & Nate Lansing

Parks: Ryan Holweger

Programs: Open

About your home

Protect your family from lead poisoning

By Nate Lansing

Where lead-based paint is found

The most common source of childhood lead poisoning is from homes containing lead-based paint. Nearly 91% of the homes built in the Field, Regina, and Northrop neighborhoods were built before 1969 and thus have even greater risk because of the much higher concentrations of lead.

Lead-based paint was used throughout homes, and particularly in areas of high humidity such as windows, bathrooms, kitchens, and exterior applications. Windows are of particular concern for exposure to the paint due to their exposure to heat/cold, humidity, and constant friction of opening and closing.

Lead contamination can also be found in the soil surrounding an older home. Over time, chipping and peeling paint can accumulate in the soil below. Contaminated soil can be tracked into the house where a child can be exposed to it.

How children are exposed to lead

Children under the age of six are at a particular risk for exposure to lead. Crawling on floors, putting objects in their mouths, and chewing on things are all behaviors that increase the chance of ingesting lead dust or chips. Up to 50 percent of ingested lead is absorbed by a child's body.

Lead dust can also be inhaled through the air. This is of particular concern during remodeling projects. Any dry sanding or scraping of lead-based paint creates dust. Nearly 100 percent of inhaled lead dust is absorbed into the body.

Health effects of lead poisoning

Lead is a neurotoxic chemical that affects the pathways in the brain. It is a particular hazard to young children (under age six) whose brains are still developing. Lead poisoning has been shown to cause decreased IQ, learning disabilities, and behavioral disruptions (such as aggression, hyperactivity, and impulsive behavior). Once a child's brain has been affected by lead poisoning, there is no treatment to reverse the damage. Lead paint exposure has also been shown to cause miscarriages in pregnant women and affect the developing fetus.

Testing your children

The Minnesota Department of Health recommends a yearly blood lead test for children up to six years of age who live, play, or spend time in a house built before 1978 or who live near a roadway with heavy traffic or a business where lead is used. In our family, we have our children tested every six months and will continue past the age of six. Regular screening is important because lead moves out of blood and into tissue and bones. Without regular testing, you may miss an exposure to lead and not properly diagnose your child's lead poisoning.

Prevention is key

Here are some basic steps to mitigate the risk of your family being exposed to lead paint:

- Assume all paint in your home is lead based. If you live in a home built before 1978 and have not had your home professionally tested, assume that all surfaces contain lead paint.
- Maintain the condition of painted surfaces in your home. Check regularly to make sure all painted surfaces are intact.
- Cover areas of lead paint with fresh paint and/or polyurethane. Polyurethane seals the surface and helps prevent degradation of the lead paint layer.
- Use caution when opening and closing windows suspected of containing lead paint. Kids love to look



Hazardous lead-based paint was commonly used on surfaces inside and outside homes built before 1978.

out windows and can be easily exposed to lead dust in these areas.

- Clean regularly. Vacuum (when no visible dust or debris from chipping or flaking paint is present), mop the floors, and wet wipe windowsills often.
- Mulch. Cover exposed contaminated soil with sod or mulch.
- Practice lead-safe practices when remodeling and painting your home. All work areas should be contained. Dampen surfaces with water before scraping to minimize dust. Clean and mop all surfaces after completion of the work.
- Hire a lead-certified contractor for remodeling. Supervise the contractor to make sure they are using lead-safe practices. In the story about the infant who was diagnosed with lead poisoning, the contractor performing the work was lead certified, but didn't use any of the precautions required by the EPA. As a home owner and parent, it is up to you to demand that your contractor use lead-safe practices. If they say not to worry about it, find another contractor.

Visit the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the MN Department of Health websites for more information. Please contact me or your local health department with any questions regarding lead in your home.

About the author: Nate is husband to Jenni and dad to Owen (5) and Helena (3) and lives with his family in a home with lead-based paint that was built in 1926. Nate is a real estate agent who specializes in helping others with kids buy/sell their homes. Nate can be contacted at 612-499-2769 or nate@sellingwithkids.com. ❖

Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan & Improvements

Learn more about lead poisoning

Know where lead paint is in your home

Hire a professional. Homeowners can have their homes professionally tested prior to buying a home or after they have moved in. A professional lead inspector will test every surface of the home with an XRF analyzer, take soil and dust samples to analyze for lead, and provide the homeowner with a “map” of all lead-infused surfaces. An inspection may take close to six hours and is by far the most accurate determination of where lead exists in your home. The typical cost of a home lead inspection is around \$500–\$600.

Do it yourself. DIY lead test kits can be purchased at any home improvement store. The kits are not as effective, but can provide a quick confirmation of suspected lead paint. The EPA has recognized two common lead test kits for use: the 3M™ LeadCheck™ and D-Lead®. Of course, the accuracy of these tests is dependent upon proper technique. Soil cannot be tested using these kits.

Check local government resources. Some local health departments may test samples brought in to their office. Check with your local or state office for more information.

Remember: Before disturbing (i.e. by drilling into, sanding, or scraping) any painted surfaces, you must either conduct a DIY lead test to confirm the absence of lead paint or assume the surface contains lead paint and use lead safe work practices when disturbing the paint.

The Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board (MPRB) is currently in the process of creating the first new master plan for Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park since it was last done by Theodore Wirth in 1934. A series of seven Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings, which were also open to the public, were held between May and September 2014 to navigate this process. During these meetings, the appointed CAC worked with the MPRB project manager and a team of landscape architect consultants to work on both the master plan and the improvements for the Triangle Park located on 54th Street and East Edgewater Boulevard. The CAC developed a recommendation on the concept design for the park that has been approved by the park board. The new play area will have improved equipment and will meet current safety and accessibility guidelines. Construction is tentatively scheduled for 2015.

Public hearings in January

After the new Master Plan document was completed in September, a 45-day

open public comment period began on November 5th. This will be followed up by a public hearing before the MPRB commissioners, which will be held sometime in January 2015. Notice of the hearing will be mailed out to area residents and emailed to project subscribers.

The next phase of the project will be Trails and Shorelines. The CAC will reconvene in 2015, and the meetings will guide the process of improving the trails and shorelines of Lakes Nokomis and Hiawatha. Some trails will be reconstructed to meet current deadlines, and reaches of shorelines may be re-graded and re-vegetated to help improve water quality in the lakes. These improvements will be completed by June 2016. To sign up for email notification or for more information, including master plan maps, please visit

www.minneapolisparcs.org

www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1475&SearchID=564496

A partial rendering of the master plan. Visit www.minneapolisparcs.org for a detailed map.



8th Ward Update

Council Member Elizabeth Glidden



Elizabeth Glidden, 8th Ward council member and council vice president

Dear Neighbor:

Thank you for this opportunity to update you on city and neighborhood issues!

2015 Budget Set for Adoption December 10.

The Mayor's proposed budget is set for City Council adoption December 10, just one day after I pen this article. The Mayor's proposed levy increase of 2.4% (which may see a minimum reduction to 2.2% by the council) will cover the cost of inflation to existing services, a park board levy of 4.85%, accumulated debt obligations, and also includes some new spending.

Perhaps the most significant proposal in this budget is implementation of an organics composting program. This new program will be paid for through the solid waste enterprise fund; residents will see an increase of \$4 per month on their bill, or an annual increase of \$48. The City is moving forward with the organics program in part because we have been required by Hennepin County to implement composting in 2015. The program will be implemented gradually in 2015—and has been designed as an “opt in” program available to all, though all residents will pay for the program in order to spread costs properly.

Much of the new spending in the budget primarily supports public safety functions. These changes include:

- City attorney criminal division enhancements, including support for domestic violence prevention. The City attorney will be increasing resources to its new diversion program, which identifies non-criminal remedies for some offences, such as for suspended license.
- 911 operators increased by 4 positions
- Increase to the Fire Department to support critical training, recruitment and hiring needs, including innovative programming in our high schools
- Resources to the Police Department to cover the costs of a cadet class, community service officer class, and a match required for a federal grant that supports hiring 10 additional officers
- Funding for our police department to be outfitted with body cameras. (A pilot project to support full implementation of the cameras is currently underway.)
- Funding to hire three new inspectors for multi-family and commercial buildings and two animal control officers

A commitment to racial equality

I have worked with the Mayor's office to ensure that the budget overall reflects a strong commitment to racial equity, and strongly support her recommendation of two positions in the City Coordinator's new Office of Equitable Outcomes. These positions will support the City enterprise in structural and organizational changes to support the best possible racial equity outcomes in every department.

Non-motorized travel

The City Budget will also include unprecedented support for non-motorized travel, such as by walking and biking. Protected bikeways are funded in the capital budget—a recommendation from the city's Climate Action Plan. Protected bikeways are a way to redesign some streets to better serve pedestrians, bicyclists,

and add green space to the city. Other changes include support for changes to dangerous intersections for pedestrians, better crosswalk markings, and better snow clearing to allow our city to be more walkable in the winter.

Clean energy partnership

Finally, the budget provides initial funding for Minneapolis' new Clean Energy Partnership. The City and its electricity and natural gas utilities—Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy—have committed to a first-of-its-kind in the nation City-utility Clean Energy Partnership. The partnership will result in the City and utility companies collaborating in new ways to help Minneapolis achieve its climate and energy goals. These goals include making energy affordable and reliable for everyone while increasing energy efficiency, increasing renewable energy, and reducing greenhouse gases. Minneapolis recently was designated by the White House as a Climate Action Champion city (one of only 16 in the nation) in part because of its Clean Energy Partnership.

Contact me!

As always, please feel free to contact me at the Ward 8 office, (612) 673-2208 or elizabeth.glidden@minneapolismn.gov.

To sign up for the Ward 8 e-news or find information about my weekly office hours, please go to: www.minneapolismn.gov/ward8.

Community Office Hours for Ward 8 residents are hosted every Monday morning, 9-11 A.M., at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E 38th Street, outside of Room 129. Please call the Ward 8 office, (612) 673-2208, for a time-specific appointment or just stop by. ❖

Elizabeth Glidden
Council Vice President
City of Minneapolis

Sovereign Grounds—More than a coffee shop

By Sue Filbin

If you made plans to meet someone at Sovereign Grounds or at Hakan's, your destination would be the same—the coffee shop at 48th and Chicago. Owned by Hakan Sezer and his wife Kris, many customers feel a first-name connectedness with the friendly and accommodating owners.

Hakan's perspective is that a coffee shop is a social business; it's part of daily life, "from birth to death." Some time ago, two customers got married in the coffee shop with Hakan as the witness. Recently Hakan and four customers attended the funeral of a coffee shop "regular." While they couldn't tell you the career of the deceased, they noted that he and his conversation will be significantly missed.

A bit of history

Hakan and Kris became the owners and operators of Sovereign Grounds in 1996. The name was suggested by customers of a previous coffee shop, Daily Grind, that left the location at 813 East 48th St. During the following winter, as snow swirled and winds howled, Kris and Hakan recognized a need for relief from "cabin fever" for families confined indoors with

small children—as they were with their oldest son, Josh. The playroom was "born" and continues to attract parents and their young children from the neighborhood and around the metro area.

Hosting a reception for then-senate candidate, Al Franken, in 2008 drew a large crowd, many of whom returned in the months following the election. In response to customers' expectations, Hakan and Kris purchased their building from Sven Anderson and began the process of expanding and renovating their business.

Input from customers who include resourceful neighbors, city council members, and city officials was invaluable in the process of planning the renovation that was completed at the end of 2013. With business and financial plans in place, Hakan noted that Highland Bank "helped a lot." Both the bank and the city required the service of an architect to design the space.

The Great Streets Program

The city of Minneapolis supports business initiatives such as improving properties and hiring employees. One program that is related to this effort is the Great



Sovereign Grounds Playground & Coffeehouse, 813 East 48th Street, is a gathering place for people from around the metro area as well as neighbors.

"This is our world. As a first-generation immigrant, you have to have friends—people around you who like you and support you."

Streets Program. In 2007, the city council approved participation in this program in which combined federal and city funds are designated for "planning, cultivating, and sustaining the city's commercial districts." Qualified businesses match the Great Streets Program funding in a ratio of 1:1 or 1:2. These funds enabled the owners of Sovereign Grounds to upgrade the exterior surface of their building with a distinctive natural stone. In 2012, the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) awarded the Minneapolis Great Streets Program its top honor for neighborhood development initiatives.

"This is our world"

Hakan's original world was in his native Turkey where he earned a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering. He worked in that field before following a friend to Minnesota where he earned a master's degree in finance at Metropolitan State University. Now Hakan and Kris

Continued on page 10



Kris and Hakan Sezer enjoy the community they host as proprietors of Sovereign Grounds Playground and Coffeehouse.

Photos: Sue Filbin

Business Beat, continued

welcome customers to Sovereign Grounds seven days per week, from early morning



to eight o'clock every evening. Some or all of their three sons are often present, especially in the expanded kitchen where Hakan roasts Rainforest-Alliance-Certified

coffee beans, Kris bakes muffins, cookies, cakes, and more, and a cook creates seasonal soups, salads, and sandwiches.

On a recent afternoon, after Hakan received “Thanks” from several women and a hug from one of their school-aged children, he expressed gratitude for his customers, stating, “This is our world. As a first-generation immigrant, you have to have friends—people around you who like you and support you.” ❖

If you would like to see your favorite business featured in Business Beat in a future issue of Close to Home, please contact the FRNNG office at (612) 721-5424 or the Communications Committee at communications@frnng.org

Carver Junk Company

On December 20, 2014, Chad & Brandy Dressen hosted the grand opening of their store—Carver Junk Company. Their original store is located near their home in the small town of Carver. What’s exciting to them about having their second store in our neighborhood is their belief in shopping locally, sharing their passion for local, quality goods, and being involved in their communities.

The store at 4748 Chicago Avenue will be open every weekend to show and sell a “...unique variety of higher-end refinished furniture and handmade décor and accessories.” Stop by to see “old” items that have character—and sometimes stories.

www.carverjunkcompany.com ❖



Parkway Shoe Repair

When you brought to Parkway Shoe Repair your favorite shoes, or boots or gloves, or perhaps a belt, dog collar, & the occasional tent, did you notice classical music playing softly in the shop? Bernie, the craftsman behind the counter, turned off the shop radio for the last time at the end of September and will listen to Minnesota Public Radio from home as a retiree. However, he told a dismayed customer that he will “freelance,” meaning customers may bring items that would benefit from Bernie’s skills to two collaborators: Schatzlein Saddle Shop, 413 West Lake Street, (612) 825-2459 and The Shoeshine Boys, 1650 West 82nd St., Suite 180, Bloomington, 55431, (612) 827-4332. ❖



Photos: Sue Filbin

Pearl Lindstrom, continued from page 1

Arthur Lee, a World War I veteran and a postal worker, found loyal friendship and help from his coworkers, many of whom were white. After two years of continued strife and little peace to their life in south Minneapolis, the Lee Family moved.

Research and a monument

In 2001, Professor Ann Juergens published her research of the history of the little house on the corner and the story of the Lee Family. For more than 10 years afterward, Ms. Lindstrom was courteous to those who wanted to learn more about the home and the efforts to raise the awareness of its place in the racial justice history of Minneapolis. In 2011, a monument commemorating Arthur Lee was placed in Ms. Lindstrom’s front yard. This time, the throngs of people surrounded the home in a community celebration and ceremony. Once again, Ms. Lindstrom was a gracious hostess to all her neighbors.

Ms. Lindstrom spent her life in service to others. She was enrolled in the Salvation Army as a Junior Soldier at the age of eight and promoted to Senior Soldier at the age of 15. She worked for the Salvation Army Northern Divisional headquarters for more than 36 years while caring for her husband and daughter, Carla Jo. She was blessed with four grandchildren, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Last July, the little house on the corner was added to the National Register of Historic Places. During an interview with *The Daily Planet*, Ms. Lindstrom was asked what meaning the honor had for her. With her always-present smile, she replied, “It just reminds me that there are many, many people that are nice—both black and white. Love people the way you’re supposed to; the way the Bible tells us. We’re supposed to love others as we love ourselves. So that’s what I try to do!”

Ask anyone who ever met Ms. Lindstrom and they’ll tell you that’s exactly what she did. ❖

Metro Blooms: Green spaces; clean water

The Minneapolis Garden Awards are a program through Metro Blooms, a Twin Cities non-profit organization that promotes sustainable, environmentally friendly gardening practices to protect our local waterways.

Each year, more than one thousand Minneapolis gardens are nominated and evaluated by volunteers, Master Gardeners and Master Water Stewards. Awards are given to residents whose garden spaces reflect the mission of the organization to capture rainwater, use native plantings, reduce turf and eliminate use of harmful chemicals.

However, this 30-year organization does so much more—and is just getting started. As a leading resource in our region for raingarden education and community engagement, Metro Blooms has hosted popular workshops all over the metro area that have been attended by more than 8,000 people since 2005. Metro Blooms also provides individual consulting and design services for reduced fees, as well as maintenance of stormwater raingardens.

And as of January 1, 2015, Metro Blooms is excited to announce they will merge with Blue Thumb (www.bluethumb.org), another program with a similar mission. According to Barbara Speltz, Community Engagement and Development Director at Metro Blooms, “This is such a great opportunity for both of our organizations to combine our expertise and resources and be able to expand our reach and educational programming.” Efforts will now be metro-wide—even statewide—with the goal of making Minnesota the “Land of 10,000 cleaner Lakes.”

You can see photos of beautiful award-winning gardens, submit a nomination, access many helpful resources on gardening and stewardship, and view volunteer opportunities on the Metro Blooms website: www.metroblooms.org. More information about educational programming will also be featured in the spring *Close to Home* newsletter. ❖

Thanks to Our Supporters

Under \$100

Southside Chiropractic, P.A.
55th & Chicago, 827-0657

Pathfinder Care Management
48th & Chicago, 729-9096

Partner Level- \$100-\$199

Minnehaha Animal Hospital
48th & Chicago, 825-4427

T.A.’s Automotive, Inc.
46th & Chicago, 823-7100

Donor Level—\$200-\$599

Ba-Gu Sushi
48th & Chicago, 823-5254

Patron Level—\$600 or better

South Chicago Avenue Business Alliance (SCABA)

Dick’s Metro Flooring
56th & Chicago, 827-5646



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 December.

Business Committee | business@frnng.org

1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Sovereign Grounds, 48th and Chicago

Community and Safety Committee | communityandsafety@frnng.org

4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, McRae Park Rec. Center

Housing Committee | housing@frnng.org

New day, time, & location: First Monday of each month at 7 pm, Town Hall Tap, 48th & Chicago

Education Committee | education@frnng.org

1st Thursday of each month beginning in October, at 6:30 pm, LNPPC

Parks Committee | parks@frnng.org

1st Monday of each month at 7 pm, McRae Park Rec. Center

Greening Committee | greening@frnng.org

2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Turtle Bread Company, 48th and Chicago

Communications Committee | communications@frnng.org

2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Sovereign Grounds, 48th and Chicago

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. FRNNG is a 501.3c organization. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

FRNNG VOLUNTARY DONATION

\$15 \$25 \$50 Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

Make your check payable to FRNNG, Inc., and mail this form and your check to FRNNG, Inc., 1620 East 46th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55407

1620 East 46th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55407

CLOSE TO HOME

THE FIELD REGINA NORTHROP NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP NEWSLETTER

Your neighborhood newsletter written for neighbors by neighbors.

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



Close to Home is written for neighbors by neighbors.
The next deadline is Friday, February 6.
Please email articles & images to: communications@trng.org

Neighbor wins garden award. See page 1.



Inside this issue

Remembering Pearl Lindstrom
and Her Historic Home

Page 1

Ice dams & snow removal

Pages 4 & 5

Hazardous lead paint

Page 6

Organics composting
& more

Page 8

New business

Page 10

