

# CLOSE TO HOME

THE FIELD REGINA NORTHROP NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP NEWSLETTER

July/August 2015

## Southside Sprint Puts Neighborhood on Bike Map

By Jason Lardy

The Southside Sprint brings bike racing back to the streets of south Minneapolis for the fifth consecutive year on July 19. This year's event has been named the Minnesota State Criterium Championship, a designation organizers expect will mean more racers, more fans and more excitement.

Amateur bike races are often contested in suburban office parks or country roads with few spectators and few opportunities for family fun. The Southside Sprint is applauded by racers for its urban setting, enthusiastic crowds and plentiful dining and shopping options on the course. "I was impressed with the crowds, the support, the staffing, the businesses and the neighbors. This is the largest crowd I have seen at an amateur race – and without a doubt the most fan support I have ever been privileged to witness," noted USA Cycling official, Steve Haugh.



Photo: Stephanie Williams

There's something for every bicyclist – and bike enthusiast! – at the July 19 day-long Southside Sprint Bike Race. Above, kids assemble at the starting line to participate in the Kids Fun Race.

### Championship-Caliber Racing for Everyone

The most popular event of the Southside Sprint schedule is the Family Dental Clinic Dash – the Kids Fun Race. This free event for kids ages 4-12 gives little racers a chance to show off in front of family, friends and neighbors. It's just

one of the opportunities the Southside Sprint provides for racers of all levels. Race officials state that the race brings in the most new race license purchases of any Minnesota race each year. These new riders appreciate the Beginner Racing Clinic offered before racing starts and

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## Weekly Nokomis Farmers Market

The days are hot, the nights are long, and the Nokomis Farmers Market is in full swing! The market is bursting with farm-fresh produce and other local goods at 52nd Street and Chicago Avenue every Wednesday night from 4 – 8 p.m. *Continued on page 4*



Photo: Nokomis Farmers Market

## President's Letter

I want to say thank you to all our volunteers for helping with our 50th anniversary of the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood. A big thank you to Ryan Holweger, who is chairperson of our parks committee, and Stearline Rucker, our staff person, for coordinating all these events for the day. We appreciate also working with Anne from McRae Park and her staff on this event. And thanks to Harvey from Turtle Bread for his contribution to our celebration.

*Continued on page 3*

the dedicated beginner races that put coaches into the race alongside racers.

The event also showcases top Minnesota talent each year, including locally-based professionals, World Masters and US National Champions. Defending men's Elite Champion, Colin Catlin, has won numerous races around the Midwest, including multiple MN State Championships. He currently splits his season between the University of MN team and the NorthStar Junior Development Team—a regional youth development squad. His sister, Kelly, took the women's Elite prize in 2014 and is preparing to represent the United States at the upcoming Pan Am Games in Toronto.

### Family Fun

Outside the fences, the Southside Sprint offers entertainment for everyone. The Twin Six Family Fun Zone includes free kids' art activities, fitness and lifestyle exhibits from sponsors and other neighborhood businesses and the always-popular snow cone machine. This year, the Fun Zone will include an Athletes' Village on 48th Street where teams will gather to warm up, cool down and interact with fans. Young race fans can get autographs and pictures with their favorite racers within a few steps of the finish line.

All of these activities bring new visitors to the neighborhood each year. Many racers live in the Twin Cities suburbs, greater Minnesota and neighboring states. For some, it's their first visit to the Field Regina Northrop neighborhood. St. Paul racer Loren Willis noted, "I came back in the evening for a burger at Town Hall Tap and a scoop at Pumphouse Creamery. None of that would have happened without the Southside Sprint."

### Never-ending legs

Never-ending legs – that's every bike racer's dream. Minnesota racers feed on the energy of the Southside Sprint's fans and find themselves with "never-ending legs" every summer in the heart of the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood.

Said racer Terra James, "That was the best Minnesota race I have ever raced! A crowd like that makes a race feel like five minutes and gives a girl never-ending legs!"

Racing begins July 19 at 8:00 a.m. and concludes with the final State Championship awards ceremony at 4:00 p.m. The Twin Six Family Fun Zone runs during

all race events at the corner of 48th Street and Chicago Avenue. Racers will toe the line just south of the 48th and Chicago intersection. Full race details can be found at: [www.southsidesprint.com](http://www.southsidesprint.com)

*Editor's note: Jason Lardy is co-founder of the Southside Sprint. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Northrop.*



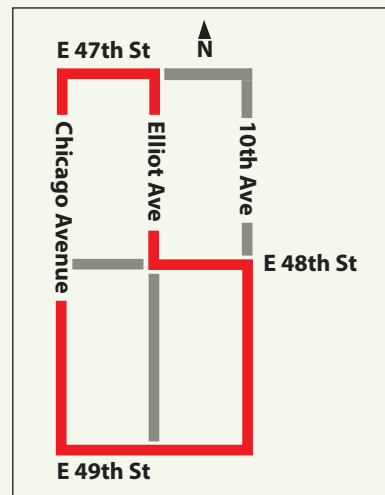
Photo: Stephanie Williams

Women's elite champion, Kelly Catlin, is cheered by appreciative fans as he crosses the finish line near 48th Street and Chicago Avenue, the main intersection on the route of the Southside Sprint Bike Race.

## Southside Sprint – Sunday, July 19

Beginning Racers Clinic	7:00 a.m.	Family Dental Clinic Dash	2:30 p.m.
Jones Financial Group Masters Race	8:00 a.m.	FREE Kids Fun Race (Ages 4-12)	
Masters Category 4/5		Pepitos Grand Prix	2:50 p.m.
Bikes & Pieces Citizens Race	8:45 a.m.	Men Category 1/2/3	
Southside Chiropractic Challenge	9:20 a.m.		
Men Category 4/5			
Healthsource Chiropractic Junior Jam	10:10 a.m.		
Juniors 9-14, 15-18			
Rue48 Salon Women's Race	10:50 a.m.		
Women Category 4			
Town Hall Tap Brewmasters' Sprint	11:30 a.m.		
Men Masters			
Moreno Agency Cup	12:30 p.m.		
Men Category 3/4			
Wells Fargo Women's Cup	1:30 p.m.		
Women Category 1/2/3			

### Race Route



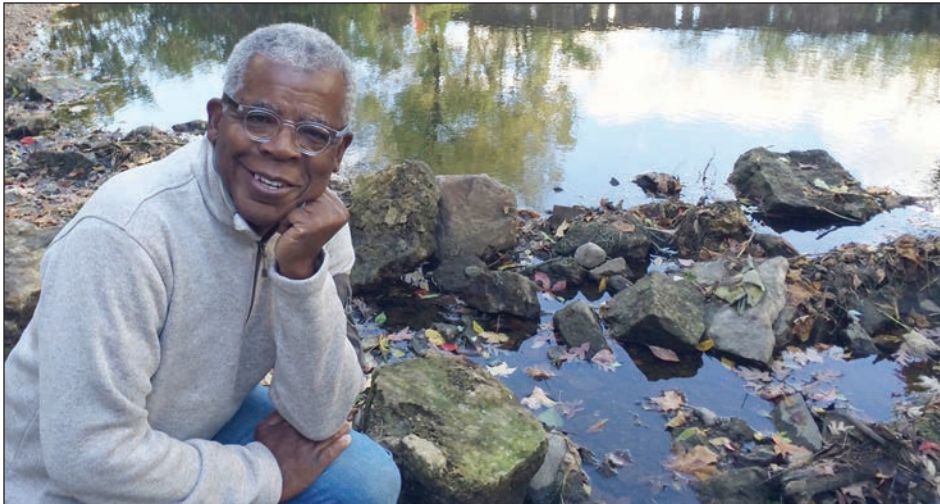


Photo: courtesy Willie Bridges

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

When I look back on that day seeing families playing, laughing and having fun, the one thing I notice most is the diversity of our community. I notice people greeting each other and kids playing together and people just having fun. We have such a great community. This event was about

you, FRN. It shows what we have accomplished in fifty years' time, and makes us want to be good stewards of the ongoing and future needs of our community. We are a welcoming community in FRN. Be safe this summer. Wear your bike helmets, buckle-up in your cars, remember to lock

your back door, and close your our garage door anytime you are working in your front yards.

Please slow down when you are driving through our neighborhoods as our kids are out playing, and sometimes a ball may roll in the streets, with the kids running after it without looking. We have to anticipate this, and look out for our kids.

We always need volunteers for the various committees that we have: Housing, Communications, Parks, Community and Safety, Business, Greening and we now have a Program (events) planning committee. We need someone to lead the education committee. If you are interested in participating on any of these committees, please call the FRN office at (612) 721-5424.

Be kind to one another, and say hello to your neighbors. Have a great summer! ❖

## 46th Street Update

By Chris Schommer

By now you have probably seen the construction on 46th Street at the corners of 4th, Portland and Park Avenues that will result in new overhead-mast-style traffic control lights, new pedestrian controls and ADA-compliant curbs by late July. These lights will also now be connected to the downtown traffic-control facility to allow for improved light timing. This project was undertaken by the City of Minneapolis as a result of the significant number of right-angle crashes that have occurred at those intersections, and to make use of 2015 federal grant funding.

This City project is being undertaken separately from the planned Hennepin County mill and overlay project that will remove and replace the entire asphalt surface and lane markings of 46th Street that is scheduled to begin in 2016. Minneapolis Public Works staff believe that they can respond easily to any lane design or re-configuration options that might occur as a result of the mill and overlay without any issues.

The community outreach and feedback that Hennepin County is looking for and many neighbors have been waiting for is coming together; however, no dates are available as of this publishing. FRN will

be posting information on our Facebook and Twitter feeds, and look for a postcard with meeting information when it is available. Project coordinators with Hennepin County are interested in more than just simple feedback, and are hoping to develop an in-depth study with workshops, open house meetings and other tools to allow neighbors to express their concerns and desires with staff. If you already have specific concerns about 46th Street, now is the time to put them down in writing. The neighborhood group would love to hear from you as well, so please contact [frnng@frnng.org](mailto:frnng@frnng.org) or call the office with your ideas and concerns. ❖



## Communications Discoveries

The Communications Committee discovered omissions in the database that's used for neighborhood mailings. Only one of two addresses at a double bungalow, one address for multiple-unit residences that have up to 32 units, and

not all businesses have been receiving this newsletter and other mailings. We welcome you who are reading this newsletter for the first time. We continue to correct the database and appreciate your input. (612) 721-5424. ❖

Look for green beans, peas, carrots, potatoes, beets, kohlrabi, cucumbers, summer squash, cabbages, greens, and broccoli. July also means blueberries at the market! Raspberries will come into season closer to August, and August will also add plentiful sweet corn, tomatoes, and peppers.

If you come by for dinner from the food trucks at the market, you can leave with ingredients for meals for the rest of the week. In addition to produce, our vendors have breads, eggs, meats, cheese, jams, pickled goods, honey, vegan charcuterie, and beautiful floral bouquets to name just a few items. Make plans to meet up with your friends and neighbors to listen to live music and enjoy activities every week, such as kids craft activities, veggie tastings, and more.

Board members from the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group will be at the market on July 22, August 26, and September 23 – so stop by to say hello and get connected with your neighborhood.



Photo: Nokomis Farmers Market

Early summer produce is the season's reward for shopping at Nokomis Farmers Market.

The market's full schedule of events is online at [neighborhoodrootsmn.org/events](http://neighborhoodrootsmn.org/events). You can also keep tabs on the

market on **Twitter** @[@nokomismarket](https://twitter.com/nokomismarket) and on **Facebook** at [facebook.com/nokomis-market](https://facebook.com/nokomis-market). We'll see you there ❖!

## McRae Park Renovation Postponed

By Chris Schommer

The long-delayed McRae field replacement project that was scheduled for this July will be delayed once again, and no construction will occur prior to July 2016.

This project, which was publicized in the March/April issue of *Close to Home*, consists of removing the top layer of soil from the field surface and replacing it with material better able to drain water and support new turf – among other planned improvements. The budget allocated to this project was \$225,000 and the low bid for construction came in at \$350,000. The Park Board is unable to make up the difference in 2015 and the field will continue to operate as it did last fall and winter.

FRN neighborhood committee members, City Council members, and Park Board Commissioners learned about this sudden change of fortune for the neighborhood just prior to the printing of this newsletter, and it appears there is no recourse to fund this project for 2015.

There are many shared questions as to the management and timeline of this process and why the budget allocation process and the bid process were separated by such a length of time. We hope to receive answers for these questions soon. For more information, please contact our Park Board Commissioner, Steffanie Musich, at [SMusich@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:SMusich@minneapolisparcs.org) ❖



Logo design: Sarah Golden

Members of PAC – Parkway Artists Coalition – continue preparing for the first-ever neighborhood Garden+Art Crawl scheduled for Sunday, September 20. Only the gardens need be located in FRN; guest artists are welcome to join the fun. To participate, contact Sheryl at [kwiltmama60@gmail.com](mailto:kwiltmama60@gmail.com)

More information will be available in the September/October issue of *Close to Home*, or check online at these sources: [facebook.com/ParkwayArtists](https://facebook.com/ParkwayArtists) [www.parkwayartists.blogspot.com](http://www.parkwayartists.blogspot.com)

# Emily Poskie— New FRN Secretary

Emily Poskie has been named the new Field Regina Northrop secretary. Emily is an Internal Business Consultant at Thrivent Financial in downtown Minneapolis. She met her husband, Geoff, in college at the University of Minnesota where she earned a degree in Journalism/Communications and Business Management. She later went on to receive her MBA at the University of St. Thomas.

Emily enjoys volunteering with local organizations like the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Junior Achievement, Prepare + Prosper, Habitat for Humanity and Feed My Starving Children. Emily and Geoff moved to the Northrop neighborhood in 2010 after his return from the Peace Corps where he served in Romania. Since then, they've welcomed a lively dog, Ella,

and daughter, Elena (almost 1), to the neighborhood.

Prior to the birth of their baby, Emily and Geoff enjoyed checking out the local brew pubs and biking the trails to train for the MS150 each year. Now they enjoy walks around the neighborhood to check out the local businesses, and admire the houses and beautiful old trees. "I'm always so excited to see all of the new improvements that come to our neighborhood," says Emily. "We were convinced that our property value increased the day that Cork Dork started offering beer, Town Hall Tap came to the 'hood and even more when Carbone's became an awesome family hangout! It will be nice to be even more involved in this neighborhood that my family loves so much!" ❖

## Sound Wall Update

By Lindsey Feiner

The Greening Committee and FRNNG volunteers have been working hard this spring to maintain and improve the grounds along the 2nd Avenue sound wall. This spring, FRNNG invested in a heavy-duty, dual-blade mower and volunteers have been out weeding, mowing, raking and bagging.

As the Greening committee moves forward with the upkeep, we will need your help! Are you a master gardener looking to lend your time helping us with ground cover and perennial plantings? Do you have a weed whacker and a few extra hours? Or

even just an idea for how the space could be managed? All volunteers are welcome and needed. Email [greening@frnng.org](mailto:greening@frnng.org) to receive more information about how you can help on this project or come to the Greening Committee meeting, held at Turtle Bread Company, on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

The next clean-up takes place on Wednesday, July 8, at 6:30 p.m. We will weed, rake, and bag the weeds near 49th Street and 2nd Avenue. Keep an eye on the FRNNG Facebook page, website and your mailbox for a schedule of dates and times to volunteer with a cleanup group. ❖

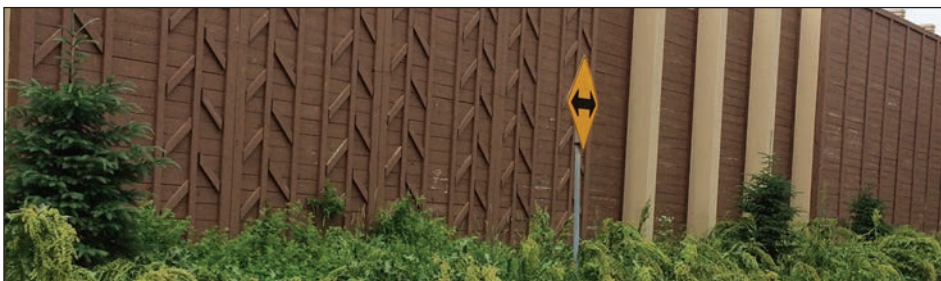


Photo: Tim Price

## 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

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### Layout

Smiling Dog Design

### Contributors

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

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### 2015 FRNNG Board

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Housing: Ian Campbell & Nate Lansing

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Programs: Julie Kral

# Crisis Nursery Protecting Children, Supporting Families

By Carrie Shidla

In fall 2013, Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery returned to the Field Regina Northrop neighborhood, where it is once again located by Field School at 46th Street and 4th Avenue. This nonprofit – whose mission is to end child abuse and neglect and create strong, healthy families – provides essential services to over 2,400 children each year, serving over 700 families.

We recently talked with Joel Bergstrom, Development and Communications Director for Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, about the many resources they provide to our community.

## 24-Hour Crisis Helpline

Parents in crisis can call the helpline at 763-591-0100 to access services, where a family advocate will answer to provide support to families in need. “Almost every family initiatives services through the helpline,” said Bergstrom.

## Childcare

The actual Crisis Nursery itself can house up to 20 children – newborns through 6 years old – or residential care for up to three days at a time. During these stays, children receive nutritious meals, engage in playtime in the gym or playground, do crafts and activities, and get individual attention from professional child-care providers. It’s a safe, nurturing environment during a critical time.

## Crisis Counseling

“When the children are being cared for in the nursery, we will work with parents to help work through whatever crisis matters they are facing,” said Bergstrom. During the intake process, a family advocate assesses how severe the crisis is and gauges adequacy of basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, and income, and provides referrals and an action plan to stabilize the family.

## Home Visitation

Through the 4th Day Home Visiting Program, master’s-level practitioners visit the homes of clients weekly for up to 18 months. The program is designed to provide intensive support for families to make long-term change. According to Bergstrom, “This is how we can really work with families, helping them knock down barriers to self sufficiency long term.”

In addition, Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery provides other important services such as Pediatric Assessment and Medical Management (PAMM) to provide medical care for children who may not have regular access to healthcare. There are also many opportunities for parents

to participate in parent education sessions and to join support groups.

If you, or someone you know, encounters a family crisis, take that first step. According to Bergstrom, “If anyone feels like they could use our services, they should not hesitate to call our crisis line. Taking that risk and asking for help takes a lot of strength and courage, and we are so grateful that people do.”

The Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery Helpline is 763-591-0100. For information on how you can volunteer, see “How you can help” and visit [www.crisisnursery.org](http://www.crisisnursery.org) ❖

## You Can Help

Interested in volunteering time or resources to an organization committed to strengthening families? Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery serves Hennepin County residents – which, as Development and Communications Director Joel Bergstrom points out, “is about a quarter of our state’s population.”

Here’s what you can do. The meal and snack opportunities would be a great way for groups of families, friends, co-workers, or faith communities to get involved in community service.

- Make a meal! Groups of up to six can volunteer to cook a meal for the kids at the Crisis Nursery. The time commitment is just 2.5 hours, plus grocery shopping.
- Organize a snack time. There are three healthy snack times a day for the children – another great group opportunity. Requiring just 90 minutes, plus shopping for snacks, this is an easy place to start.
- Volunteer to assist with childcare. For deeper involvement, you can volunteer direct service to the children. There is an application process, and training and orientation, for people wanting to help in this way. The time commitment is 3-4 hours every-other week.
- Donate. Individual donations make up a majority of the funding of Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery.

Visit [www.crisisnursery.org](http://www.crisisnursery.org) to learn more about the many ways you can help Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. ❖

# Welcome Three New Businesses

## High Class Comics: A Labor of Love in 21 Days

A merry band of friends has pooled their talent, energy, and devotion to all things related to comic books in a new store – High Class Comics – located at 733 E. 48th St. The space used for more than 25 years by recently retired shoe-repair man, Bernie, has been renewed in clean, freshly painted surroundings. The walls are now lined by displays of vintage and new collectible (and readable!) comics, new and retro video games, toys, original artwork, and an ever-expanding inventory of fun-related merchandise.

Longtime friends Bjørn Brøsdahl, Craig Lee, Andy Schuler, and Eric Schwichtenberg took possession of the space on May 15 and hosted a grand opening 21 days later. Along with desirable new and retro merchandise, the co-owners look forward to evaluating collections of comics, games, collectible sports cards, action figures, and toys to sell on consignment in the store along with repairing video games. The friends acknowledged many of their friends “... wanted to see the store happen.” You can see what the



Photo: courtesy High Class Comics

Eric Schwichtenberg, Bjørn Brøsdahl, and Craig Lee – High Class Comics.

excitement is all about by stopping in or friending them on **Facebook: [facebook.com/highclasscomics](https://www.facebook.com/highclasscomics)** or calling (612) 432-4092.

## Minnesota Makers: Shop “Local” in Our Neighborhood



Photo: Sue Filbin

Minnesota Makers showcases an ever-changing inventory of distinctive treasures for yourself, your home, family, and friends. “Shop local” right in our neighborhood for items all created by Minnesota artists.

If you’re feeling pride and interest in the trending “maker movement,” a new shop called Minnesota Makers that is dedicated to the creative handwork of Minnesota residents will allow you to “shop local” while literally staying close to home. Co-owners Lynnda Kalk and her daughter-in-law, Christa Tess Kalk, are delighted to expand their Etsy-honed skills into their shop at 1526 E. 46th St., next door to the popular Sister Sludge coffee shop.

The cheerful location features ever-changing merchandise that represents the ingenuity of Minnesota jewelers, fiber artists, woodworkers, fine artists, and other artisans who produce decorative items and gifts for our person, home, and garden.

Christa and Lynnda welcome you and your guests – from nearby or out-of-town – to admire the artistry of Minnesota-based artists. The shop is currently open Thursday - Saturday. Artists are also welcome to show their work to be considered for consignment by calling (612) 564-8056 or visiting Minnesota Makers on **Facebook: [facebook.com/minnesotamakers](https://www.facebook.com/minnesotamakers)**

## Tiny Feet Boutique: More for Children

Along with a recent flurry of families in our neighborhood who are raising children comes a new shop that’s devoted to kids: Tiny Feet Boutique. Located at 815 E. 48th St. at the intersection of 48th Street and Chicago Avenue, Tiny Feet will sell clothing, toys, and goods for infants and children up to 6 years old.

The entrepreneur behind the new store is Dee Adams, who, along with her husband, Mike, founded Artisticrats Childcare Center at

47th Street and Chicago in 2008. Both Dee and Mike are teachers who also hold master’s degrees in educational psychology and education respectively and are the proud, busy parents of four sons.

Several “sneak peak” days will take place during July, with a grand opening sometime in August. You can follow Tiny Feet Boutique’s schedule at their soon-to-be-live website, [www.mytinyfeetboutique.com](http://www.mytinyfeetboutique.com), or search Tiny Feet Boutique on Facebook. ❖

—Articles by Sue Filbin

# 11th-Ward Update

Council Member John Quincy



Council Member John Quincy

Dear Neighbors,  
Thank you for the opportunity to keep you updated on what is happening at City Hall. Crime prevention and reduction is a top priority for the City, as well as our FRNNG residents. The best way to reduce crime and improve public safety is to prevent crimes. And the best ways to prevent crime, is education and neighborhood communication. National Night Out will be here before we know it, on August 4th, so now is a good time to start planning. And speaking of planning, developing the City budget for 2016 is already underway with the Mayor giving her budget address, laying out her budget priorities in mid August.

The 32nd Annual National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4th.

Now is the time to start planning your block event. National Night Out is an annual nationwide event that encourages residents to get out in the community, holding block parties and getting to know their neighbors as a way to encourage crime prevention. It's a great way to promote community-police partnerships and enjoy a Minnesota summer evening surrounded by friends and family.

As with many past National Night Outs, Minneapolis was ranked #1 among all U.S. cities with a population more than 250,000 in 2013. More than 1,480 events were registered in 2014.

Registering your NNO event and applying to close your street/alley is a single online process.

<http://tinyurl.com/mplsno>

Note: Not every street can be blocked off depending on the traffic flow. Generally, bus routes and high-traffic streets cannot be used for block events.

You will need permission of 75% of your neighbors to be approved for street closure – keep their names and addresses handy in the event your permit application needs to be reviewed.

If you register by July 21 you can block your street for free. If you register from July 22 through July 29, there is a \$100 fee. You will not be able to block off your

street if registering after July 29. It is free to participate in National Night Out. When you register your event, you will get free Mystery Point Passes for Nickelodeon Universe at the Mall of America. Registration also places you on the official list of NNO events that gets distributed to police and other departments. However, there's no guarantee police will be able to visit your event.

Preparation of the 2016 City Budget is underway. The Mayor is meeting with every City Department to discuss how resources are being utilized and hear the Departments present about any new budgetary requests. In mid-August, the Mayor will present her budget to the City Council and the Council will hold public presentations from each Department, giving Council Members the opportunity to ask questions and discuss budget items. Final adoption of the budget will not happen until early December.

I am always available to answer your questions at 673-2211. If you would like to receive the bi-weekly e-mail Ward 11 Community Connections Newsletter, please send me an e-mail at [John.Quincy@MinneapolisMN.gov](mailto:John.Quincy@MinneapolisMN.gov) or visit the Web site at [www.MinneapolisMN.gov/ward11](http://www.MinneapolisMN.gov/ward11) to sign up. ❖

## Go green in your lawn care this summer

By Carrie Shidla

We are lucky to live in a beautiful community with Minnehaha Creek and lakes to enjoy. *Close to Home* has recently focused on the ways residents can be good stewards of these resources while protecting pollinators, such as installing a rain-garden. But you may also want to consider what you can do to reduce chemical use in your lawn care.

Small changes accumulate to have a big impact in protecting our valuable natural resources, and keep our neighborhood safe and beautiful.

### **Here are some easy ways you can "go green" in your yard this summer.**

- Use native plants! Not only are they beautiful, but they have evolved to thrive in our climate and be resistant to pests that live in this region, reducing the need for chemical pesticides.
- Compost. Don't toss those kitchen scraps; turn them into nutrient-rich organic material! Amend your soil with compost instead of chemical fertilizers.
- Apply new mulch every year. A nice layer of mulch will discourage weeds in your beds.
- Maintain your yard. Pull weeds as they appear, and before they go to seed or crowd out plantings.
- Install a rain barrel. This is an inexpensive way to recycle what is falling from the sky and use chemical-free water in your yard. Harvesting water also reduces stormwater runoff, which protects our watershed.



# Businesses Beat

## Celebrating a Long, Warm History

By Sue Filbin

If you think the Ray N. Welter Heating Company has been located forever on the southwest corner of McRae Park, for most of us, this assumption is correct. The residential heating and cooling business moved to an existing building at 4637 Chicago Avenue in 1940. In 1960, the building burned down and was rebuilt. The distinctive mural of an outdoors scene that was created in 1981 and was refreshed in 2014 reflects the Welter family's enthusiasm for hunting ducks and pheasants. In fact, third-generation owner/operator Nick Welter reported that years ago his grandfather hunted ducks in the slough behind the shop that is the present-day McRae Park.

### The founding of the family business

In the early 1900s, 5th Street and 3rd Avenue South in downtown Minneapolis was the location of competing home heating companies. One installed and serviced radiators; the other gravity furnaces. Although the founders started off as rivals, their children married and the businesses later merged to become today's Welter Heating Company.

The founder of the current business was Michael Welter who was succeeded by his son Ray N. Welter. Ray's son, Nick Welter, the oldest of 12 children, grew up just across the freeway from our neighborhood (before there was a freeway) and guided the company from 1955 until 2008 when his son Rick took over management and operations.

### Celebrating more than 100 years

While a banner attached to the building proclaims a 100-year anniversary, it's become challenging for the Welter family to determine a precise date for the founding of the business. Just as the Welter family determined a date to celebrate, new information became available. Recently



Rick Welter (left), fourth-generation owner/operator of Ray N. Welter Heating Company, along with his father, Nick, who ran the family business for 53 of its 100-plus years.

a homeowner living on the 3600 block of 14th Avenue South called to report finding a receipt for services performed in 1904!

The services noted on that aged receipt are remarkably similar to those performed currently by Welter's 25 employees: installation and servicing of residential furnaces. The current lead installer is the son of an installer, and all installers have journeyman or masters licenses from the city of Minneapolis in gas fitting and sheet metal.

What *has* changed during the years since the early 1900s are the furnaces. The best one has a variable-speed motor that is 92% to 96% efficient compared to the approximately 50% efficiency of the old gravity furnaces. The Welter family and employees discuss with homeowners who are considering replacing their furnace three points: function, safety, and options. Those qualities – plus pride in their workmanship and heritage – form the foundation that will keep this neighborhood business going for the next 100 years. ❖

## Two Neighborhood Businesses Top Local Poll

Every year, *Minnesota Women's Press* invites readers to rank their favorite local businesses in the May issue that's devoted to "what women want." Two of our businesses ranked at the top of the survey for 2014. Bikes and Pieces, owned by Field neighbor, Mike Kmiecik, is the "favorite women-friendly bike shop."

Minnehaha Animal Hospital, owned by Northrop neighbor, Joyce Tesarek, was selected as "favorite animal hospital or veterinarian."

Congratulations to these accomplished business owners! For more information, go to: [tinyurl.com/nhl8sn6](http://tinyurl.com/nhl8sn6) ❖

# Business Beat

4 Questions—with Barb Zapzalka, owner

## Pumphouse Creamery

By Adam Webster

**Starting a niche ice cream shop had to seem risky back in 2003. What encouraged you to do it?**

In 2002, I was at a point in my job as a systems analyst where I was not sure where I wanted to go with my career. I certainly never dreamed of taking the risk of opening an ice cream shop, but I knew I wanted to get back into the food industry. I started to research the ice cream-making world and I was hooked.

**A glance at the menu and ingredients suggests that Pumphouse Creamery has a mission. How would you describe it?**

I am thoughtful about the ingredients that I use for ice cream. I always take the approach, “Would I feed this to my family?” That question informs my mission to use the great dairy farms that we have in the area, as well as the vast array of berries that are abundant in summer.

**What is the trademark of a truly superlative scoop of ice cream?**

A great scoop of ice cream is one that people will remember and want again. Delivering that flavor and texture consistently is one of the most challenging parts of my job. I work with many local producers, and it’s difficult to ensure consistency all the way from the dairy farm to the cone!

**You can’t eat ice cream all the time — right? What are your favorite haunts when you’re not at work?**

I enjoy cooking at home, but there are some places that I like when I do dine out. In my neighborhood, a favorite would be Town Hall Lanes (5019 34th Ave S.). I also really enjoy Broder’s Pasta Bar (5000 Penn Ave. S.) and Colossal Café (1839 E. 42nd St.), to name a few. ❖

4754 Chicago Avenue  
[www.pumphouse-creamery.com](http://www.pumphouse-creamery.com)



Photo: Sue Filbin

Pumphouse Creamery’s award-winning ice cream, non-dairy ice cream, and sorbet are handcrafted from natural and organic ingredients sourced from local farmers.

## A Legacy Enterprise

By Sue Filbin

When Ashley Lauren launched Diva Rags and Suavé Clothing in 1999, her goal was to express her passion for fashion and to honor her grandfather’s legacy of promoting social responsibility. By selling garments, jewelry, books, artwork, and more, Ashley is able to donate funds to developing opportunities for underrepresented and underserved youth in the Twin Cities.

Ashley creates one-of-a-kind embellished, hand-painted scarves that are for sale in her shop at 1530 E. 46th St., near Sisters’ Sludge. She helps cancer patients

through one-on-one consultations related to scarves and aromatherapy. Diva Rags is also a licensee for Zion Rootswear, a company that creates and sells T-shirts depicting Jimi Hendrix, Martin Luther King Jr., and Bob Marley.

When Ashley learned about the space near 46th Street and Bloomington Avenue, she quickly moved because, she explained, “it feels right; it’s close to home. I grew up on 46th and Chicago.” The shop is open Tuesday–Saturday. Learn more about Diva Rags at the website: [www.divarags.com](http://www.divarags.com) or on Facebook: [facebook.com/DivaRags](https://facebook.com/DivaRags)



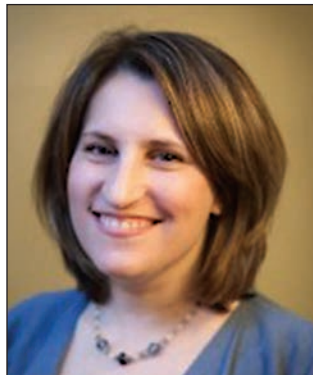
Photo: Sue Filbin

# Notable Neighbor

*Ann Kaner-Roth appointed Deputy Secretary of State*

By Carrie Shidla

Northrop resident Ann Kaner-Roth was recently appointed to the position of Deputy Secretary of State for Minnesota, working under Secretary of State Steve Simon. *Close to Home* recently talked with the Duluth native about her new role, her passion for serving people in Minnesota, and her commitment to community.



Northrop resident, Ann Kaner-Roth, newly appointed Deputy Secretary of State.

## Tell us about your new role, and how you serve Minnesota.

I am a senior advisor on Secretary of State Steve Simon's staff – his arms and legs; an extra set of eyes. My specific purview is to oversee the legislative program, which is my specialty. The Safe at Home program, which is a data confidentiality program for victims of stalking or domestic abuse, is also under my direction. The Secretary of State is also the chief election officer in Minnesota, and our office oversees business services.

## You've had an impressive career leading up to this role, notably the Executive Director of Project 515, a non-profit organization working for equal rights for same-sex families in Minnesota.

My career was purposefully structured to do LGBT rights work, specifically with marriage equality, and to work myself out of a job – which, as the director of Project 515, I did. I wanted to do something that had an end-game. I thought I could add a unique voice to this movement as a straight person; at the time I began, there weren't a lot of straight people doing that work.

## What do you enjoy about living here?

I have been in the neighborhood for about 13 years. We love our neighborhood – and we love our block! As the kids grow up, it's been so important to us to have houses in our neighborhood that our kids can go to play. We stay in the neighborhood because of these relationships. Having traveled around the country so much, I have come to appreciate our neighborhood and know that we made a good choice, and would choose it again.

FIELD  
REGINA  
NORTHROP



## FRNNG Meeting Information

### Full Board

3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (LNPC) 17th Avenue and East 46th St. The full board does not meet in July or December.

### Business Committee | [business@frnng.org](mailto:business@frnng.org)

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

### Community and Safety Committee | [communityandsafety@frnng.org](mailto:communityandsafety@frnng.org)

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

### Housing Committee | [housing@frnng.org](mailto:housing@frnng.org)

1st Monday of each month at 7 p.m., Town Hall Tap, 48th & Chicago

### Education Committee | [education@frnng.org](mailto:education@frnng.org)

1st Thursday of each month beginning in October, at 6:30 p.m., LNPC

### Parks Committee | [parks@frnng.org](mailto:parks@frnng.org)

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

### Greening Committee | [greening@frnng.org](mailto:greening@frnng.org)

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

### Communications Committee | [communications@frnng.org](mailto:communications@frnng.org)

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

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## What advice can you give to neighbors about strengthening their communities?

One thing I think is very interesting about Minnesota, having worked in a couple of other states, is how much access people have to their legislators. The ability to reach out and contact your state representative or senator . . . they are happy to talk to people. They are so interested in being in their communities and hearing what is important to them, and it's an easy way to make your interests known! ❖

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## July presentation relates to older adults

Iris Freeman, Director of the Minnesota Elder Justice Center, will be speaking on Sunday, July 19, at 12:30 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church, 4537 3rd Ave. S. Ms. Freeman is an adjunct Professor at William Mitchell College of Law and a specialist in the area of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of elders and vulnerable adults. There is no charge and everyone is welcome to this talk in Hospitality Hall in the lower level of the church. ❖



July/August 2015

Photo: Chris Schommer



Program director, Stearline Rucker, entered our neighborhood newsletter, *Close to Home*, in the competition at the national Neighborhoods USA conference for best printed newsletter. Although we weren't selected for one of the top three places, we made it to the final round of judging and plan on going for gold in 2016!

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*Close to Home* is written for neighbors by neighbors.  
The next deadline is Friday, August 7.

We welcome your comments, articles, and photos.  
Please contact us by email: [communications@frnng.org](mailto:communications@frnng.org)

Find out what's happening at:

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