

CLOSE TO HOME

THE FIELD REGINA NORTHROP NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP NEWSLETTER

July/August 2016

Popular South Minneapolis Bicycle Race Grows to Three-Day Festival July 22-24

Southside Sprint Attracts Champions and Fans to Neighborhood

By Jason Lardy

The 2016 Southside Sprint celebrates a major expansion as it becomes the spotlight of a new three-day festival of bike racing – the Big Waters Classic – July 22-24. The new festival, including the Minnesota state championship, races around the North Loop, Northeast and South neighborhoods of Minneapolis. The expansion also brings the festival into the popular Minneapolis Aquatennial for the first time.

The Big Waters Classic adds new events in the popular Minneapolis North Loop neighborhood on Friday, July 22 – part of the Minneapolis Aquatennial – and in the bike-crazy “Northeast” neighborhood on Saturday, July 23. “The Southside Sprint is the most popular sanctioned amateur road race in Minnesota,” notes Big Waters Classic co-founder, Jason Lardy. “With the addition of the Fulton Downtown Drag Race and Northeast Grind, we hope to draw even more riders and fans from all over the Midwest to the vibrant neighborhoods in Minneapolis.”

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

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Bike racers of all abilities, from defending national champions to race-day beginners, revel in the challenges of the course that starts at 48th and Chicago and blazes through our neighborhood.

46th Street Reconfiguration

By Chris Schommer

At the May 18th Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group board meeting, Hennepin County requested a vote of recommendation for the proposed 46th Street layout and reconfiguration. The proposed layout under consideration was identical to the one presented at our annual neighborhood meeting in April,

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President's Letter

Hello FRN:

I would like to thank you for electing me FRNNG president again for this next term. I'm looking forward to working with and for our common community.

I also would like to welcome our newly elected officers and our new board members: Matt Steele, 1st vice president and chairperson of the finance committee; Shelley Nystrom, 2nd vice president;

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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.

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 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 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 U.S. National Champions. Defending men’s Elite Champion, Brandon Krawczyk, has won numerous races around the Midwest,



Photos: Sue Filbin

Volunteers Maria Gillece and Cindy Lorah guide young athletes in artistic pursuits as part of the Family Fun Zone activities that comprise the Southside Sprint Bike Festival.

including multiple Minnesota State Championships. 2014 Women’s Champion, Kelly Catlin, is a reigning World Champion and will represent the U.S. in the Olympics this summer.



Family Fun

Outside the fences, the Southside Sprint offers entertainment for everyone. The 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.

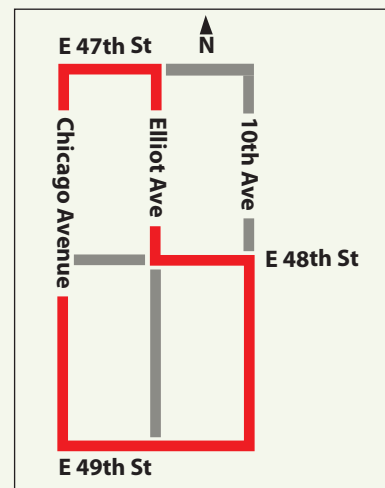
All of these activities bring new visitors to the neighborhood each year. Many racers live in the Twin Cities suburbs, greater Minnesota and neighboring states. For some, it’s their first visit to the Field Regina Northrop neighborhood. St. Paul racer Loren Willis noted, “I came back in the evening for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

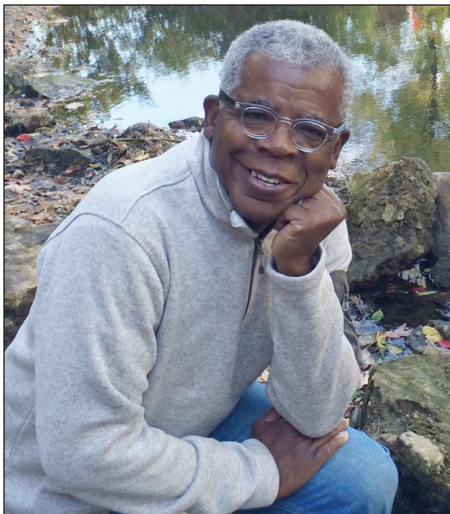
Racing begins July 24 at 8 a.m. and concludes with the final State Championship awards ceremony at 4 p.m. The Family Fun Zone runs during all race events at the corner of 48th and Chicago. Racers will toe the line just south of the 48th and Chicago intersection. Full race details can be found at bigwatersclassic.com

Southside Sprint – Sunday, July 24

Beginning Racers’ Clinic	7:00 a.m.	Family Dental Clinic Dash	2:30 p.m.
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	
Category 5/Citizens			
Jones Financial Group Masters’ Race	9:20 a.m.		
Men Category 4/5			
Junior Jam	10:10 a.m.		
Juniors 9-14, 15-18			
Rue48 Salon Womens’ 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 Cup	1:30 p.m.		
Women Category 1/2/3			

Race Route





Provided photo

Willie Bridges, President, Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG)

Patricia Jones, business committee; Marty Koessel, community and safety committee; Terry Mazig, education committee; Maria Gillece, parks committee; and Kate Nyquist, North Northrop Neighborhood Representative.

I am also appreciative of our returning officers and board members: Shannon Guernsey, treasurer; Emily Poskie-Wilson, secretary; Chris Schommer, communications; Tim Price and Lindsey Feiner, greening committee co-chairs; Ian Campbell and Nate Lansing, housing committee co-chairs; Barbara Harris, Field Neighborhood representative; and Mike Lyon, South Northrop Neighborhood representative.

The work that has been and is being done in our community has been done by volunteers like you. Please consider volunteering for one of these committees.

I would like to remind you that the baseball field in McRae Park will be closed for renovations and improvements for one year after July 2016. The field will be redone with new amenities. It will reopen in August 2017. McRae Park field house will remain open during this time for all of our regular activities that are held there.

Please save the date of November 5th for our annual "Night on 48th" from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Would you please consider being a new or returning sponsor for this event? We also need volunteers to assist in its planning and execution. Please call the office at 612-721-5424 if you are interested in helping to plan for this fun event.

FYI, there will not be a board meeting on July 20. The office will still be open that day, however.

As always, Be Safe FRN Neighbors! Don't forget to lock your back door if you are in the front yard, and to lock your front door if you are in the back yard or garage, and always lock your car. You'd be surprised at how brazen some daytime burglars are. Be aware of your surroundings as you come and go.

Have a great summer everyone!

—Willie, President, FRN

Nokomis Farmers Market Open Wednesdays

By Rebecca Lee, Market Manager

It's prime farmers market season and the Nokomis Farmers Market is in full swing. Every Wednesday from 4-8 p.m., head on down to 52nd and Chicago to shop for delicious fruits and veggies, stock up on locally made foods, and enjoy a tasty meal al fresco!

Summer 2016 marks the second season for a weekly Nokomis Market. Many of your favorite vendors from past years have returned. New vendors include Clover Bee Farm and Sogn Valley Farm, with piles of beautiful, certified organic veggies. Neng Vang has flowers and market favorites like fresh green beans and new potatoes. MyTerra Farms is your new source for cultivated mushrooms and microgreens. Buy all of your meat locally from Johnson Family Pastures! Early in the season they had eggs and microgreens and soon they

will be bringing you chicken, pork, lamb, and beef. Other highlights at the market this year include doughnut holes, cold-pressed juice, fresh bread, wild-caught Alaskan salmon, and gelato. This lineup of vendors is not to be missed!

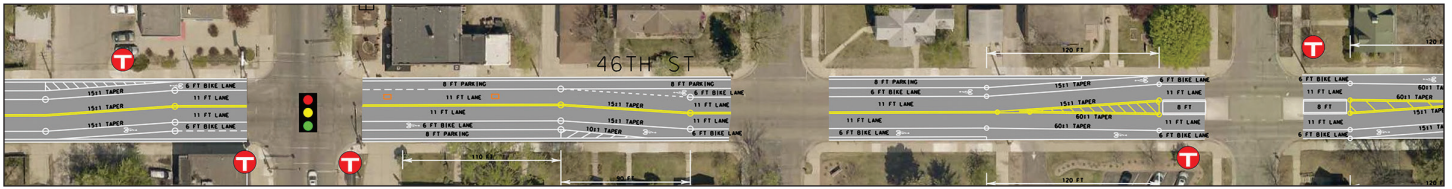
Enjoy live music each week at the market from 5-7 p.m. including the Roe Family

Singers on the second Wednesday of each month! And keep an eye out for kid's activities, cooking demos, and veggie samples. The Nokomis Market is a great place to do your weekly shopping, connect with neighbors, and enjoy summer in Minnesota! Visit our website: neighborhoodrootsmn.org ❖

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A bird's-eye view of proposed reconfigured traffic flow for East 46th Street, from Bloomington Avenue (semaphore) to 17th Avenue South.

and that was detailed in the last issue of *Close to Home*. That layout was the result of many hundreds of pieces of community feedback gathered by FRNNG and Hennepin County, as well as traffic-volume data and crash data for the corridor.

Present at the meeting were several businesses from around the 46th and Bloomington intersection who were concerned about the planned removal of parking on the south side of 46th Street. The primary concern was that after many years of underdevelopment, the corner was just becoming stable, and the lack of convenient parking for customers would put that success in jeopardy. At the same time, the owners of Sister Sludge Coffee Café were also concerned about the dangerous driving conditions at the intersection. In light of these concerns, the FRNNG board voted 12-0 with one abstention to amend the resolution of recommendation to request that Hennepin County re-examine the area between Bloomington and 16th Avenues to see if south-side parking could be preserved. Following this amendment, the full resolution of recommendation was passed unanimously.

In response to the board's May 18th request, Hennepin County produced several designs that would retain parking spots on the south side of 46th Street between Bloomington and 16th Avenues. The recommendation of county staff was not to implement any of these options and instead continue with the original design. However, after meeting with community members, Hennepin County engineer, Bob Byers, agreed that this option "4B" pictured above (a single eastbound bike lane, and "sharrows"* west bound) could be acceptable as long as it was monitored for performance for a year and then

followed by a re-evaluation of the configuration. The FRNNG board did not take any action on this design.

In response to the new design, the county has proposed shrinking the width of the concrete 17th Avenue pedestrian/cyclist island by several feet to allow for continuous bike lanes through that area, where "sharrows" had been proposed previously. This will retain the crossing island, and will shorten the amount of time cyclists will be expected to mix with traffic overall.

Hennepin County expects this project to begin this September and last about two weeks.

**A sharrow is a shared-lane street marking placed in the travel lane to indicate where people should preferably cycle.* ❖

More information and a full map is available by visiting www.hennepin.us and searching for "46th Street."



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Block Leaders Needed

FRNNG (Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group), in partnership with the Minneapolis 3rd Precinct Police Department, is requesting more block leaders for unorganized blocks. Signing up and learning to be a block leader is a great way to meet your neighbors, welcome new neighbors, organize block events, contact neighbors with special crime alerts and crime prevention news, and much more!

One of the MPD's top goals is to increase the number of organized blocks. Neighborhoods and block clubs work with FRNNG's Community and Safety committee, in conjunction with Crime Prevention Specialists (CPSs) from the police department, to prevent and reduce crime. Get your block organized today!

Block leader training includes:

- Introduction to crime prevention
- How to organize a block/apartment club
- Services of community crime prevention
- Responsibilities of crime-prevention block leaders
- How and when to use 911
- How to solve problems effectively
- Meet your Crime Prevention Specialist – CPS

Please RSVP with CPS Shun Tillman if you are planning on attending or if you have questions or concerns: (612) 673-2846. ❖

To learn whether your block is in need of a block leader or how to get in touch with your current block leader, please contact:
communityandsafety@frnng.org

Otherwise, please attend one of the following block leader training sessions. We hope to see you!

Upcoming block leader training

Choose one:

Wednesday, July 13: 6:30-8 p.m.

Thursday, September 15: 6:30-8 p.m.

**3rd Precinct – Minneapolis Police Department
3000 Minnehaha Avenue**

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.

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Smiling Dog Design

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Articles, photos, and announcements are welcome. Please email:

communications@frnng.org

or call 612-721-5424

frnng.org

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Athletics and Academics at McRae Park

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee
If a cheerleading squad spelled out one word to describe Coach Kedrick Williams, it would be P A S S I O N A T E. Coach Kedrick is passionate about putting kids in college.

Kedrick is a volunteer coach and mentor who spends 20 hours per week or more at McRae Park. His association with McRae began when he became the football coach in 2001, soon after the death of revered coach Ed Solomon. As Kedrick drove home from his job at U.S. Bank in St. Paul, he passed by St. Joseph's Home for Children and the park. He recalls that "something spoke to me" that afternoon. He was "inspired to get involved with youth" while being reminded of the days he spent at St. Joe's after running away from home when he was in his mid teens.

In addition to coaching football during that first year at McRae Park, Kedrick and his "right-hand man" and soccer coach Dave Weingartner began reinstating MARC – McRae Area Recreational Council – establishing it as a 501(c)3 entity that makes it eligible for state and federal non-profit status. Kedrick credits the volunteer/parent council with the goal of providing affordable, high-quality youth athletic experiences and after-school programming at McRae, including financial support for attaining that goal. The group raises money for uniforms and scholarships, hosts activities such as the Easter Brunch and Santa Brunch, and is

very involved with the annual neighborhood celebration which Kedrick refers to as "Summer Fun Day." He added that McRae and Pearl Parks are "powerhouses" in the city due to the commitment of their councils.

Kids First

Kids come first at McRae. Kedrick noted that the "greatest attribute of park director Heather Susag and the staff is that they're dedicated to the kids." He went on to say that the commitment from the all-volunteer coaches is due to "their love of the kids." As Kedrick and the other adults at McRae get to know them, they learn what the kids need. If it's a pair of shoes, shoes are procured. If a kid is hungry, there's food in the refrigerator or cupboards. As for uniforms, McRae's athletes "have the nicest-looking uniforms on the field" Kedrick said with pride. Coaches figure that when kids feel that they look good, they will play well. Around the time when MARC was being re-established, generous donations for uniforms came from nearby businesses, "especially from Minnehaha Animal Hospital, Pepitos, Southside Medical Clinic, and the former City & County Credit Union." Neighborhood businesses continue to support McRae. For example, Pepitos offers their theater space for the ballet class recital and for football squads to watch movies.

When the coaches, staff, and parents recognized that kids were struggling in school, the practice schedule was changed.



Coach Kedrick Williams, volunteer coach and mentor at McRae Park for the past 15 years.

Athletic practice is now designated for three days a week, with homework occupying the other two weekdays. Most homework is done in the computer lab that was redone in 2002, including the donation of nine computers by Twin Cities Federal (TCF) Bank.

Athletic Programming – and More

Football and soccer are the most popular sports at McRae, and their popularity continues to increase. In fact, participation in athletics has increased by 20% per year for the past 10 years. During those years, Jason Walker has been an assistant coach of football, basketball, and baseball. Jason's wife Heather teaches at Field Middle School. Jason Haugland is a longtime assistant coach for soccer and baseball. Kedrick stated, "Hale and Field schools are the best schools in the city."

Since 2006, McRae has won multiple citywide and state championships in football, basketball, and baseball. McRae athletes were the 2014 sixth-grade football champs, the 2015 sixth-grade baseball champs, and the 2015-2016 champions in basketball for grades six and seven. Kedrick stated "We've been blessed and humbled by our success," going on to proclaim a big "Thank You" to the volunteer coaches, the many parents who are "very



involved,” and to Coach Russ at First Evangelical Free Church on 52nd and Chicago Avenue. Kedrick also is grateful to Field School, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, and the First Evangelical Free Church for the use of their gyms for practice.

Kedrick’s inherent glow intensified when he described with pride that during the past 10 years, 21 McRae kids have gone on to attend college. Because he’s been volunteering for the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board since 1996, Kedrick joked that the kids he worked with 20 years ago now bring their kids to see him. And he’s delighted to see them. Toddlers at age three are learning soccer and T-ball.

Kedrick’s main reason for “giving back” is to “save a life” and “give back to kids,” something he realized when his daughter was just three weeks old. Kedrick also knows that for every 10 good stories, there is often one kid who isn’t reached. He and the other adults realize that some kids just don’t “get the message,” or “we didn’t hear the kid say ‘Help me,’ or the kid didn’t know how to ask.”

Kedrick discovered when his son went to college that more money is available to students who have good grades than to those with exceptional athletic ability.



This realization influenced the focus on academics as well as athletics at McRae. In fact, Kedrick believes kids grow in many ways through their participation in athletics, including socially. When Kedrick advised a team to “tell mom and dad” about something, one athlete said, “I have two moms.” “Well then,” Kedrick responded, “tell both your moms.” Another time, when Kedrick mentioned “your dad” to an athlete, the child commented that although he had a dad, his father traveled a lot and often wasn’t present. Kedrick learned to alter his perspective from that of a parent existing to a parent being present.

A Personal Note

Kedrick’s own father wasn’t present in his life. Kedrick and his brother, Dr. Corey J. Scruggs, who is now a cardiologist in Houston, Texas, grew up in Gary, Indiana, with a single mother who moved her teen-aged sons to Minneapolis so she could establish a Christian ministry. Kedrick attended Henry High School where

he played football and basketball. After spending part of his career in the banking industry, Kedrick is now a paraprofessional behavior specialist for special-needs students ages 12-19 in School District 287. In addition to the time he donates to McRae as a mentor and football coach, Kedrick has been coaching both boys varsity football and girls basketball at Bloomington Kennedy High School. He previously coached boys basketball at Field Middle School for several years, winning a middle school championship with players Sam Jones (who just graduated from DeLaSalle High School and will be attending Northwestern University in the fall) and Jericho Sims who attends Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Minneapolis.

Renovations at McRae Park

Groundbreaking for a “much-needed” renovation to McRae Park will take place on July 7. In addition to making the park safer, the park will be more welcoming to a “new generation of kids, parents, and neighbors.” A walking path around the perimeter will appeal to neighborhood fitness enthusiasts, and rainwater that now pools on the playing fields will be drained toward rain gardens. Funding for the \$450,000 renovation is the result of a partnership among the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG), and City of Minneapolis sports grants. Kedrick credited FRNNG president Willie Bridges with being committed and dedicated to making the renovation a reality.

Football Camp

The renovation groundbreaking coincides with the starting date of McRae’s

Continued on page 9



Photos: 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. One of the largest policy decisions of the year so far has led Minneapolis to be the first city in the state to allow most workers in Minneapolis paid sick time.

The City Council unanimously adopted a new ordinance that allows paid sick and safe time for most workers within the city limits. Phased enforcement begins July 1, 2017. Currently, four out of 10 Minneapolis workers lack access to paid sick time.

With some exceptions, the new ordinance governs employers with six or more employees and employees who work at least 80 hours a year in Minneapolis. Requirements include:

Workers may use sick and safe time for their own health and certain family members' health.

Victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking may use sick and safe time to receive medical treatment and other necessary services.

Workers must be compensated at the same rate they would have been paid if they worked the missed shift.

Workers will accrue one hour of sick and safe time for every 30 hours worked and can carry over accrued but unused sick time to the next year.

Workers may use sick time to stay home with a child if school is canceled because of a health emergency or weather conditions.

With this ordinance, the City takes a critical step in preserving and protecting safety, health and general welfare. The City Council found that paid leave is a key contributor to healthy individuals, families and communities, which are the foundation of well-functioning societies. Paid leave creates the opportunity for family members to both earn a living and to provide care for their loved ones.

Curbside Organics Recycling in Full Swing

The City is now providing curbside organics recycling and the requested carts

have been delivered! Organics recycling includes collecting fruits, vegetables, bones, meat, breads, eggshells, non-recyclable and food-soiled paper, and more for composting. The new organics recycling program is an easy way for residents to reduce waste. If you have not done so already but want to participate and have a cart delivered to your home, all you have to do is complete the online request form at: minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/organics/WCMSP-171641, e-mail SWRcustomer@minneapolismn.gov, or by contacting Solid Waste and Recycling at 612-673-2917 Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m..

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

Tenth-annual Minnehaha Creek Cleanup July 24

The tenth-annual Minnehaha Creek Cleanup is scheduled for Sunday, July 24, in Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, and Minnetonka. The goal is to collect four tons of trash from around Minnehaha Creek and area lakes.

Volunteers receive free T-shirts and water bottles, free food and beer (limit two beers per person with valid ID), and prizes for all ages. There also will be educational activities, music, and fun!

This year's Cleanup will take place at Lake Hiawatha in Minneapolis, and

staging and registration will be located at the Knollwood Super Target store parking lot in St. Louis Park, and at Ice Arena B in Minnetonka. The event is sponsored by Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company in partnership with Metro Blooms, the Freshwater Society, and Target.

To RSVP and register for this free event, or for more information, go to www.minnehahacreek.org/CleanUp. ❖

much-anticipated, very popular annual Green Machine Football Camp. The camp began in 2006 when professional football player Derreck Robinson wanted to give back to his childhood neighborhood. Robinson grew up on 43rd and Elliot and played football at McRae under coach Ed Solomon. After graduating from DeLaSalle High School, Robinson was an Academic All American when he played defensive tackle at the University of Iowa. Now retired from playing defensive end for the San Diego Chargers, Robinson is a “mentor to the kids,” Kedrick said, and has made “a huge impact on the kids.” Kedrick marveled that Robinson “even gives out his phone number” to the kids.

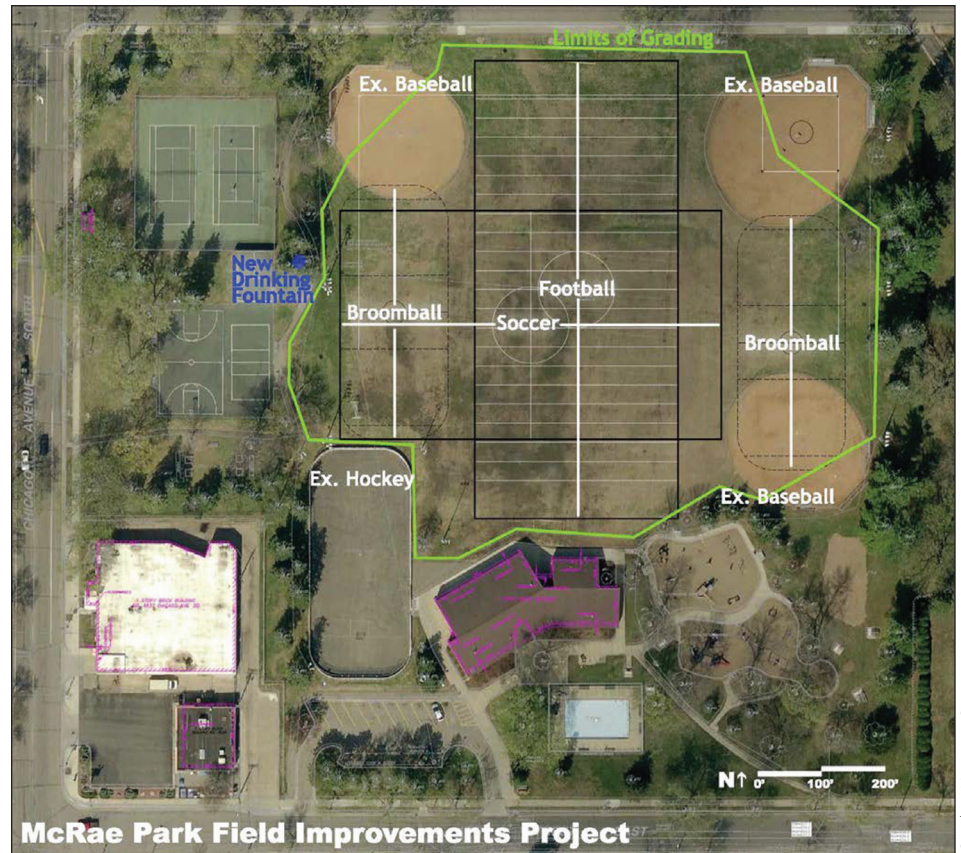
Robinson “brings in a few of his NFL buddies” each year. Jonathan Babineaux, defensive tackle with the Atlanta Falcons, is often at camp. And neighborhood star Ra’Shede Hageman, an alumna of Washburn and the University of Minnesota who now plays defensive end with the Atlanta Falcons, spoke at the camp two years ago.

Many people from the community volunteer to help put on the football camp that is supported financially by the NFL Players Association, Coldwell Banker, the Crimson & Cream Foundation, and SIMFA, Inc. (Success Is Mental Football Academy) among others.

Life Lessons

During a conversation at McRae Park with Kedrick, he was called to settle a dispute initiated by adult park guests. When he returned, he talked about having realistic expectations. When a kid wonders what his future might hold when his dad, uncle, and brother are in jail, Kedrick tells the child to “cut the rope.” In other words, be your own person and make your own choices.

Kedrick recalled some of the adults who have influenced his life. From his teachers and coaches at Henry High School, Kedrick changed his mindset about success. An example he cited was dressing




Graphic: Hennepin County

up on Fridays and carrying a pen that had black ink so as to be ready to apply for an opportunity. He learned he needed to “adapt myself to get an internship.” This experience influenced Kedrick to prepare the young people he encounters as a coach and mentor to prepare for success. He truly believes each person wants to be successful; they just have to be shown

how. Kedrick states: “Success is prepared for.” Young people are learning to prepare for success – in athletics, academics, and life – through Kedrick Williams and the programming and personnel at McRae Park. ❖

www.marcsports.org

projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/411899126 ❖



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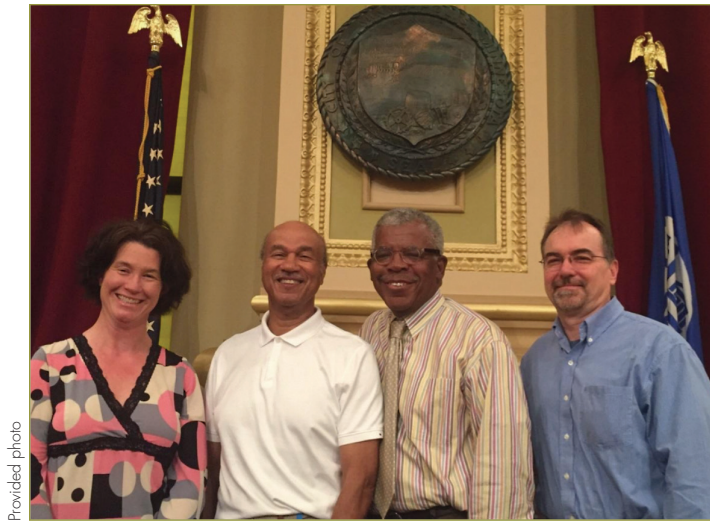
Funds Will Support Greening Committee Activities Along 2nd Avenue & 35W Sound-barrier Wall

By Tim Price, Co-chair, Greening Committee, and Stearline Rucker, Program Director The Minnesota Department of Transportation, as part of its Community Partnership Grant Program, has awarded a grant to the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG). The amount of the grant will be up to \$10,000 during a period of two years to support ongoing planting of new plants, flowers, bushes and trees at key gateway intersections where East 46th and 51st Streets adjoin 2nd Avenue South.

The Minneapolis City Council passed a unanimous resolution on June 17, 2016, authorizing the Minneapolis Public Works Department to act as the sponsoring unit of government for these grants. This authorization enables funds to be transferred from the MnDOT Community Roadside Landscaping Partnership Program to the city on behalf of the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group for landscaping improvements along the east side of the I-35W sound-barrier wall.

The MnDOT Community Roadside Program was developed to work in partnership with communities and their volunteers, to help make the communities more aesthetically pleasing. Through partnerships, MnDOT has fostered more than 350 projects worth more than \$7 million of roadside landscaping improvements in communities while spending less than one third of that amount in state highway funds. Additionally, MnDOT benefits from an annual cost-savings/avoidance of nearly \$1.75 million for ongoing work necessary to maintain the landscape plantings. In the past few years, the MnDOT landscape partnership program and projects have received more than 60 national and state awards. This is the first award for a community in Minneapolis.

The 62 Crosstown Gateway Project enters a new phase of planning as part of this



Provided photo

L to R: Elizabeth Glidden; 8th Ward Councilmember/Council Vice President; Tim Price, Co-chair, Greening Committee; Willie Bridges, FRNNG President; Robert Thompson, Neighborhood Support Manager, Neighborhood & Community Relations (NCR), City of Minneapolis

ongoing partnership with the Department of Transportation (DOT), City of Minneapolis Public Works and FRNNG. Since the construction of the new neighborhood signage last summer, the FRNNG Greening Committee, led by co-chairs Tim Price and Lindsey Feiner, has mowed the grass along the 35W sound-barrier wall from 42nd to 51st Street. The FRNNG Greening

Committee also accepted donations of perennial plants last fall and this spring. These plantings reduced the amount of land to be mowed while adding attractive plants and flowers along the thoroughfare. This goal is in keeping with the MnDOT grant award to FRNNG.

FRNNG extends thanks to the many neighbors both within FRNNG and adjacent neighborhoods for giving of their time

and effort in donating plants. Thanks as well to the FRNNG volunteers who do the heavy lifting by mowing, planting, weeding and picking up litter which helps the neighborhood remain vital. Those interested in volunteering and providing comments, ideas, plants and suggestions are welcome to contact us at: greening@frnng.org ❖

Neighborhood Restaurant Participates in Great Streets Façade Grant Program

By Stearline Rucker, Program Director
The neighborhood association awarded ie – Italian Eatery – a check for \$10,000 for the improvement of the front of their building. The Façade-Improvement Matching-Grant Program works to revitalize and sustain the economic vitality of the city's commercial districts through public/private investments in façade projects for commercial properties.

Façade improvements make an aesthetic impact, improving the appearance of individual buildings and consequently entire commercial districts. Façade improvements enhance the sense of place and make commercial areas more inviting and more interesting for walking and shopping. The city's façade program helps guide façade projects toward architecturally

Continued on page 11

Great Street Façade Grant Program, continued from page 10 and historically sensitive improvements that are attractive and functional, helping create a coordinated streetscape.

Highly visible investments in commercial properties not only improve residents' and visitors' perceptions of an area, they also spur improvements by nearby businesses and attract new businesses. Façade-improvement matching grants leverage private investment in commercial properties and in many instances are a business recruitment tool. As a resource to new businesses, façade grants can be an incentive for choosing a specific building because of an investment made by the property owner that helps a prospective business see the potential in a vacant space or to help pay for tenant improvements.

Since the Great Streets Façade Program began in 2008, the city has provided funds for 339 façade improvements totaling, to date, \$4 million. ❖

ie: 4824 Cedar Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55407
612-223-8504 • www.italianeatery.com/



Provided photo

L to R: Patricia Jones, new FRNNG Business Committee Chair; Eric and Vanessa Carrara, owners of ie – Italian Eatery; Willie Bridges, FRNNG President; Karen Young, outgoing Business Committee Chair.

Who can apply for a Façade-Improvement Matching Grant?

Building owners and commercial tenants – with property owner's approval – if:

1. The façade improvements are for a commercial business or commercial building, meaning it has a retail or office use
2. They are located within an eligible business district
www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/ba/cped_great_streets_home

For more information, contact FRNNG program director, Stearline Rucker, at www.frnng@frnng.org or 612-721-5424.

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

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

Community and Safety Committee | communityandsafety@frnng.org

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

Housing Committee | housing@frnng.org

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

Education Committee | education@frnng.org

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

Parks Committee | parks@frnng.org

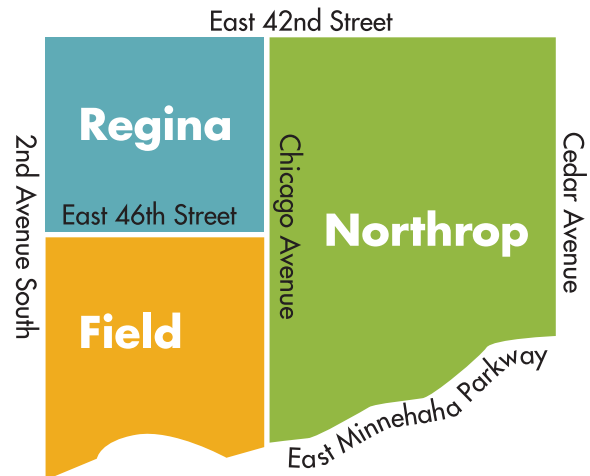
1st Monday of each month at 7 p.m., McRae Park Rec. Center

Greening Committee | greening@frnng.org

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

Communications Committee | communications@frnng.org

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



We thank our partner in producing this newsletter – Greenhaven Printing, (651) 639-9822, greenhavenprinting.com

