

CLOSE TO HOME

THE FIELD REGINA NORTHROP NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP NEWSLETTER

September/October 2016

Be part of the fun

Looking Forward to the 8th-Annual Night on 48th

By Stearline Rucker, Program Director, and Sue Filbin, Communications Committee
When did you last attend an event that combined the familiarity of a block party with the cheer of a wedding reception and the anticipation of a family reunion? If you're thinking about the food, music, camaraderie, and rewards of last-year's Night on 48th celebration, you've taken the first step toward a memorable evening of fun – "fun" as in Night on 48th, our neighborhood's primary fundraiser. It's an event during which neighbors celebrate all that makes Field Regina Northrop an appealing area in which to live, do business, and have *fun*.



The funds that are raised through ticket sales, support from generous sponsors, and items and services donated to the silent auction all contribute to the many activities and improvements that occur in our neighborhood.

The celebration takes place at Turtle Bread Company on Saturday, November 5, from 7–10 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door and include the buffet of food from Turtle Bread Company and Pizza Biga, live music, and a wine raffle ticket. Staff from Turtle Bread serves soft drinks, wine, and beer at the cash bar. Space in Turtle Bread is limited; tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Purchase your ticket today by visiting our webpage at: www.frnng.org/no48th or by calling the office at (612) 721-5424.

Music provided by AKOUO will again establish a laid-back ambiance for socializing and shopping. They describe their sound as "a collage of musical genres" including jazz, R&B, funk, gospel, country western, and rock, all of which was embraced with enthusiasm last year by guests.

Items donated to the silent auction provide the opportunity for guests to shop locally, support our neighborhood, and score attractive products and services from nearby businesses and individuals. The silent auction is also an opportunity for an individual or business to donate an item that puts your name in front of more than 100 people. To learn more, contact program manager Stearline Rucker in the neighborhood office (see page 2).

Continued on page 2

Save the Date

Community Gathering October 11

Stop by this informal
neighborhood gathering

Tuesday, October 11, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Hiawatha Academy gym, 1611 E. 46th St.

Meet with FRNNG board members and share ideas. Help develop a vision for our neighborhood. Hear from board members and others on safety, our environment, and other community topics.

Coffee and dessert will be available. Follow FRN on Facebook and Twitter for the most up-to-date information.

Night on 48th, continued from page 1

In addition to those who donate to the silent auction, the neighborhood greatly appreciates the sponsors of Night on 48th who have already made this year's celebration a big success, even before the first guest has entered the door! Please read the list of these generous businesses here and on our website and on Facebook, and thank our sponsors when you patronize their businesses.

Our volunteer board members purchase the wine that is given away during the raffle. They also set up the event, provide hospitality during the event, and clean up afterward. If you would like to get involved to help host Night on 48th, please contact Stearline in the FRNNG office. (612) 721-5424; frnng@frnng.org

We're eager to see you on Saturday, November 5. Invite a neighborhood friend and join us to have fun and raise money to keep our community safe, connected, and beautiful. ❖

Photos: Sue Filbin



We say "Thank You" to some of the generous sponsors of Night on 48th

Cork Dork ★ Dick's Metro Flooring ★ Family Dental Clinic ★ ie: Italian Eatery
Ken & Norm's Liquor ★ Minnehaha Animal Hospital ★ Ray N. Welter Heating Co.
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Turtle Bread Company ★ Wells Fargo ★ Wings Financial Credit Union

Musician, Akouo – A Biographical Sketch

Akouo is an audient visionary who interprets past, present, and future events through a collage of musical genres.

He has performed for audiences locally, nationally, and internationally, and has released: two singles, "Help Is On The Way" (2002) and "Signz N Timez" (2010); a full-length, award-winning album, "Grace Journey" (2013); and is currently in production on a 15-song album entitled, "Churchman," scheduled for release in January 2018.

Aligned with a large number of loosely configured artists who, at will, write, arrange, record, and/or perform with him, Akouo's primary emphasis is on musical conceptualizations, which reveal unique introspections about life, nature, relationships, and Spirit. www.akouomusic.com

Education Committee Carries on – With New Ideas

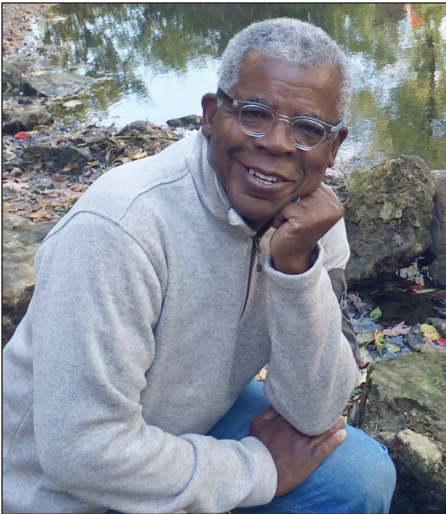
By Terry Mazig, Chair, Education Committee
My name is Terry Mazig and I accepted the Education Committee Chair from Gerry Sell, a pillar of our Field Regina Northrop neighborhood. Gerry served our community on the Field Foundation for many years and served us on the Education Committee until June 2016. I admire all she has done for our community. Gerry and the late George Sell raised their children in our south Minneapolis Hale-Field Community School. Thank you, Gerry!

As for me, I retired from Field Community School (5th-8th Grade) in June 2015 after eighteen years in the Minneapolis Public Schools system. I loved my job in middle school and if I helped one student in a day, it was a good day. The students

called me Ms. Mazig. I worked in the media center, had 5th-grade advisory (I loved that), lunchroom duty, and was a parent and volunteer liaison. As volunteer liaison, I saw the importance of volunteer tutors who help students stay connected and help them know success. One by one, we can help students achieve their potential and feel confident to do the work assigned by the classroom teacher.

My Hopes for the Education Committee

The goal of the Education Committee is to enhance the learning environment of the area public schools and encourage involvement with charters and private schools in our three neighborhoods. I ask myself and my committee: How



Provided photo

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



President's Letter

Hello FRN,

I would like to invite you to our fall community gathering October 11, 2016, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. We will meet in the gym at Hiawatha Academy which is located at 1611 East 46th St. This will give you an opportunity to meet your FRNNG board members. We would like to hear from you! We want to hear your vision for our neighborhood. We want your input.

You will have the opportunity to talk and share your suggestions with the chairs of the different committees. We will also have speakers to let you know what is happening in our community. I encourage you to bring your ideas to the fall gathering. Dessert is on us! I hope to see you October 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Fall is close by and school has started. Please talk with your kids about being safe

when walking to school, and to look both ways when they are crossing the street. And, remember to watch out for our kids when you are driving. Please don't speed through our neighborhood. Sometimes our kids are texting when they should be paying attention when they are crossing the street. Parents, remind your kids not to text when they are walking to school. They need to pay attention to their surroundings. We want our kids to have a safe and great school year.

Please save the date of November 5th for our annual "*Night on 48th*" from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Turtle Bread Company, 4762 Chicago Avenue. 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 us host this fun event.

—Willie Bridges, President, FRNNG

can Hale School and Field Community School in south Minneapolis work together (with us) to provide a connecting, thriving, equitable education for every child? How do schools play into this? Former Minneapolis mayor, R.T. Rybak, wrote in the *Minneapolis St. Paul Magazine* this July:

"If you look at the data about academic outcomes...there are huge gaps...that separate the majority culture from people of color. But if you bring character skills in, it shuffles the deck. When you take a measure like commitment to learning, white students are about in the middle, and above them are African-American, Hmong, Asian, and Somali students. Yet for all those groups except Somalis, the measure of self confidence plunges. That tells us the kids of color in the classroom bring more commitment to learning, but we have to work with them on personal identity. These kids don't need a lecture on buckling down...they need support

to understand that they can succeed. Work on the self confidence, not the commitment to learning."

As an educator for 18 years, this really rings true. We must educate each child. One by one, we meet their needs to achieve their God-given potential. This is where volunteers are "connecting coaches" in our schools, helping our students connect with classroom teachers and with our schools. It is my hope to have volunteers trained to help students in our local schools by conference time in October. We will support principals and volunteer liaisons in each building as needed.

Look for more education plans in the November-December issue of *Close to Home* on how we are helping one child at a time. Thank you! ❖

Peace,
Terry Mazig, education@frnng.org



Greening Committee Cultivates Results

By Tim Price and Lindsey Feiner, Co-chairs, Greening Committee

The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG) Greening Committee continues implementation of its 2015-2016 work plan by providing notice to residents of a number of events and activities to keep in their sights in the coming months. As reported in the last issue of *Close to Home*, FRNNG has entered into a partnership with the MN Department of Transportation and the City of Minneapolis Public Works Department to maintain lands adjacent to 35W sound barrier walls from East 42nd Street along 2nd Avenue South up to East 51st Street.

First-year accomplishments

- ✦ **Regular mowing of grass** along the lands since June 2015.
- ✦ **Installation of 3 wraps of utility boxes** within FRN. Three more utility wraps will be installed this fall using artwork created by local artists.
- ✦ **Call for donations of plants** by neighbors within FRN and surrounding neighborhoods fall 2015 and spring 2016. There was and continues to be great participation by neighbors in this effort, resulting in the planting of numerous perennial plants.
- ✦ **Preparing for street sweeping** in spring 2016 (raking of leaves to street for collection).
- ✦ **Reimagining how plantings are done** along the thoroughfare to achieve the longer-term goal of reducing the amount of land to be mowed. When you drive along 2nd Avenue, please note the creation of mini-garden plantings of perennials.
- ✦ **Weeding and raking** in the pocket park at 49th Street and 2nd Avenue South.

✦ **Award of a \$10,000 grant** from the DOT to plant perennials at 50th Street and 2nd Avenue (SE corner) and 46th Street and 2nd Avenue South (SE and NE corners). Anticipated fall/spring plantings. Minneapolis Public Works is the local managing agent for the FRNNG grant and the related procurement process.

Goals for the next few months

- ✦ **September 15 - October 20:** Call for donations of perennial plants and flowers for planting along the 2nd Avenue thoroughfare. Neighbors, as you work to split plants or redesign yards and gardens, please keep in mind that FRNNG is actively working to obtain perennial plants and flowers to improve the appearance of the 2nd Avenue gateway thoroughfares.
- ✦ **October 8** at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers will meet on this Saturday morning to rake, weed and plant new donated plants at selected sites along the thoroughfare.

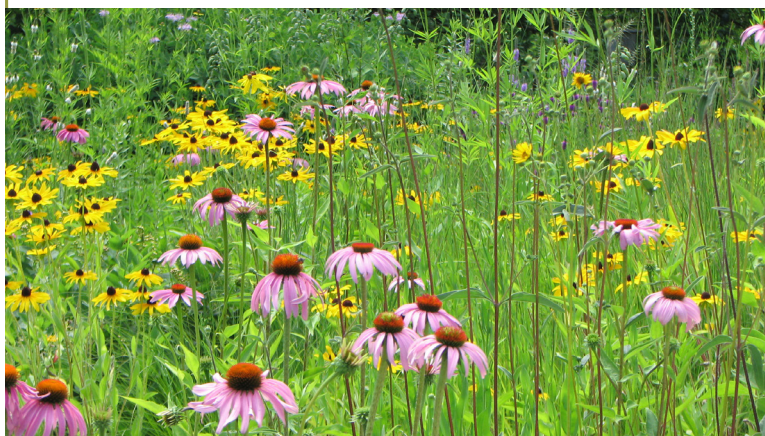
✦ **October 22 – 23:** Volunteers rake piles of leaves off the lands to the street for collection in preparation for neighborhood street cleaning. This past year, FRNNG was notified two days before the April 2016 street cleaning which required flexibility in getting volunteers to come with rakes to assure readying lands for spring 2016 maintenance efforts. There is an online look-up for the schedule for street cleaning in fall and spring, found at: www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping

FRNNG would like to thank the many volunteers, and our council representatives Elizabeth Glidden and John Quincy, for the hours spent reviewing plans and providing feedback and support in these efforts. Volunteers, ideas, suggestions and feedback are welcome and should be sent to: thegreeningcommittee@gmail.com ✦

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46th Street Resurfacing and Redesign Move Forward

By Chris Schommer, Chair, Communications Committee

The two-year process for the resurfacing and redesign of East 46th Street will move from the planning stages into real asphalt and paint this September.

By the time this issue of *Close to Home* has been delivered, neighbors will probably already see changes, including the conversion of the four-lane section to a three-lane layout, added bike lanes, and several pedestrian-crossing improvements. Hennepin County will be closely monitoring these changes to see if any future adjustments are necessary to the striping layout. Computer modeling predicts a very small change in overall vehicle traffic wait times, and other similar streets that have seen this conversion have seen crashes reduced

by 50% and the severity of those crashes lessened.

In addition to monitoring performance for all users of 46th Street, Hennepin County has applied for a federal grant to further update many of the crosswalks and pedestrian crossings along the corridor. If the grant is awarded, these improvements could replace corner curb cuts with new ADA-compliant versions, and replace the obsolete pedestrian crossing signal at Oakland Avenue among other improvements. Hennepin County expects to hear the result of the grant request in late 2016. To give feedback, and for more information about the history of this project, go to Hennepin County's web page at www.hennepin.us and search for "46th Street." ❖

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Calling all home-based businesses!

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Email the FRNNG business committee at: business@frnng.org



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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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and Carrie Shidla

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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

The deadline for the next issue:
Friday, October 7, 2016

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Ken & Norm's Liquor Adds Craft-beer Cooler

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee
The bustling intersection of 48th Street and Chicago Avenue was once the site of "...an oiling and filing station" that was constructed in 1925. In 1963, the building at 4801 Chicago Avenue became a "laundry receiving station." In 1969, the property was converted to the liquor store known ever since as Ken & Norm's Liquor.

Owner Arpad Nagy, a native of Budapest, purchased Ken & Norm's in 2009. While he made many welcome changes to the store, he retained the store's name to honor the founders, who were the first African-American sellers of wine, beer, and liquor in downtown Minneapolis, where the shop opened in 1965.



Nagy, whose experience includes managing liquor stores, updated the store's interior, expanded the wine selection, and created a walk-in cooler for beer. With the proliferation of local and national craft beers, demand from loyal customers made it apparent that an expansion of the beer cooler was needed to help neighbors shop locally.

Construction is now underway to add 343 square feet to the north side of the 1,385-square-foot shop. An emergency-exit door will face 48th Street. The process to approve the additional space involved collaboration between owner Nagy and his contractor, FRNNG (Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group), The Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development, and the City Planning Commission.

While the new addition absorbs several former parking spaces, the city requirements for four spaces will be surpassed with the availability of six parking spaces. Pedestrian safety was also an important consideration, particularly because the parking area adjoins sidewalks on both Chicago Avenue and 48th Street.

The Department of Community Planning and Economic Development found that "...the utilities, access roads and drainage are existing and adequate." Elsewhere from the link cited below, it was stated, "Adequate measures have been or will be taken to minimize traffic congestion in the public streets." And approximately 350 square feet of landscaping will enhance the property. ❖

4801 Chicago Avenue, 55417
kenandnorms.com/home/

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-176303.pdf

Welcome to Valentine Wood – Antique & Home

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee
Think "useable" rather than "collectible." The merchandise in Valentine Wood – Antique & Home, while "old," is to be selected, admired, and used – daily. When asked who her customers are, proprietor Carrie Valentine responded enthusiastically: "Anyone who eats!"



Photo: Sue Filbin

Carrie Valentine, owner of Valentine Wood – Antique & Home

Carrie stocks her new shop with "useful, functional" items that "present food beautifully," so that a meal becomes an remembered event for family and friends. Imagine fresh, local foods selected and prepared with intention and affection, then served on a table that's laid with the same level of care. With the sets of dishes, glassware, flatware, and serving pieces that Carrie discovers and presents, her customers will create a way of life for themselves, family, and friends. Perhaps some pieces will become family heirlooms – certainly family favorites.

The back story

From having lived near 54th and Chicago, Carrie is familiar with our neighborhood. She and silent, supportive business partner and longtime friend Jessica Wood found the site of the former High-Class Comics and Parkway Shoe Repair on 48th Street just west of Chicago Avenue by "brainstorming, looking, and driving around."

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With passion and sweat equity, Carrie has removed mountains old carpeting, painted walls with dark green or white paint, installed light-weight ceiling tiles, sourced a crystal chandelier, and suggested to the landlord that the discolored Plexiglas front window panes be replaced with glass windows—a huge improvement. She also designed the shop’s logo and signage.

Carrie’s own collecting began when she accompanied her mother to auctions and estate sales. Selecting distinctive objects is also related to Carrie’s experience as a certified sommelier. Customers were delighted when she matched the ideal wine with what she learned about their menu selections and palate. Now, with her “eye” and sources, Carrie will present to customers beautiful, affordable items that will enhance hospitality and create memorable meals.

Perhaps Carrie’s perspective represents the ultimate recycling by extending the life of the objects she selects and drawing attention to their “distinctive beauty.” And perhaps Valentine Wood is the “anti” antique store in that the merchandise it carries is intended to be used and admired, not displayed and dusted.

Valentine Wood carries items Carrie would like to have at home, along with everyday objects that get overlooked – plus some new things. Hours are 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and noon until 4 p.m. on Sunday; closed Monday. ❖

733 East 48th Street, 55417

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/valentinewoodantiqueandhome>

Instagram: valentinewoodantiqueandhome

St. Mary’s Cemetery News

Security personnel are randomly patrolling the property and are locking the gates at sunset. They are also addressing complaints about dogs. Dog owners are reminded to walk *leashed* dogs on paved areas only and to pick up their dog’s “business” and dispose of it at home.

Korean BBQ Sizzles on a Sidestreet



Photo: Chris Schommer

By Chris Schommer, Chair, Communications Committee

When Sum Dem Korean BBQ opens this September, it will be a homecoming for co-founders Mike Brant and Josh Crew. Mike and Josh grew up as neighbors and life-long friends in south Minneapolis and both attended Washburn High School. So when the opportunity arose to rent a space at 48th and Chicago for their new restaurant, they jumped at the chance. Formerly the home of Star Moon Chinese Restaurant, Sum Dem will focus on a mix of Korean-style barbecue and creative foods like a bulgogi burger and Korean tacos with pulled pork. There will also be plenty of traditional Korean dishes and sides all for takeout and delivery. Sum Dem will also offer catering for small to large events.

Mike and Josh are serious about food. Mike was born in Korea and was adopted at a young age. He first started cooking Korean food at the age of nine, after his mother brought home a cookbook of traditional Korean recipes. By fourteen,

Mike was cooking annual traditional Korean dinners for family and friends, and kept cooking throughout his life by spending many years cooking authentic Korean dishes for Korean culture camps in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Josh has been eating Mike’s cooking for about as long as Mike has been cooking it, and brings with him his own experience from working in the natural foods industry. Wanting to get back into business ownership, Josh had been working with Mike to open some sort of business that offered his food. Getting back into the food business is a great chance to combine their mutual interests of local and organic ingredients, and creative as well as traditional Korean cooking, into a new restaurant for the neighborhood.

The entire restaurant is being renovated in preparation for launch, with new equipment being brought in, old equipment being cleaned and refurbished, and plans for more remodeling. ❖

735 East 48th Street, 55417

8th-Ward Update

Council Member Elizabeth Glidden



Council Member Elizabeth Glidden

Dear Neighbors:

Thank you for the opportunity to update you on city issues.

City Council receives mayor's proposed 2017 budget

Mayor Betsy Hodges presented her 2017 recommended budget to the City Council Aug. 10. Council members will consider the budget from now through early December, with final approval of the 2017 budget scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 7.

Tax Policy

The Mayor and City Council already anticipated a property-tax increase of 4.9 percent in 2017 when they passed a landmark, 20-year agreement to fund the infrastructure and operations of neighborhood parks and City streets earlier this year.

The Mayor's budget proposes a 5.5 percent increase in the levy for 2017. Most of the difference between the anticipated 4.9 percent increase and the proposed 5.5 percent increase could be made up by an additional \$1.7 million in Local Government Aid that was anticipated but did not materialize when the State's tax bill was not enacted into law earlier this year.

The mayor's proposed budget includes:

- ▶ \$1,305,000 for 15 new sworn police officers, which includes 12 for community

policing and three for a police/mental health co-responder pilot program.

- ▶ Nearly \$1 million for community-based strategies to improve public safety, including \$500,000 for community-driven public safety strategies in two locations with high levels of youth violence.

- ▶ More than \$1 million annually for a new, ongoing community-service officer class to build more capacity for a proven, effective pathway into the police department for people of color.

- ▶ \$400,000 for five additional full-time sworn firefighters, which will allow the Minneapolis Fire Department to better serve residents and reduce overtime dollars.

- ▶ A total of \$14.5 million in affordable housing development, including a naturally occurring affordable housing strategy, the Family Housing Initiative, and additions to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Two public comments hearings

The City of Minneapolis has tentatively scheduled two public comment hearings on the proposed 2017 property tax levy and budget:

- ▶ **Public Hearing: Nov. 30 at 6:05 p.m., Room 317 of City Hall**

- ▶ **Public Hearing and Final Budget Adoption: Dec. 7 at 6:05 p.m., Room 317 of City Hall**

You can watch the mayor's budget address and upcoming budget hearings on Minneapolis 79 (Comcast channel 79, Century Link channel 14), or on a smartphone, tablet or computer by visiting the City of Minneapolis website at www.minneapolismn.gov/tv/79.

Safe and Sick Leave Ordinance and a Workplace Advisory Committee

Earlier in 2016, the Minneapolis City Council passed a Safe and Sick Time ordinance which will take effect July 1, 2017. Employers with six or more employees will be required to provide up to 48 hours of paid sick and safe time annually to workers.

You can find more information on the Safe and Sick Time ordinance at www.minneapolismn.gov/sicktimeinfo

To provide advice on implementation of the Safe and Sick ordinance, as well as addressing other workplace challenges, the City Council approved a resolution creating a new Workplace Advisory Committee charged with advising city policymakers on workplace-related issues.

The 16-member committee will include a cross-section of business and worker stakeholders. It will advise city leaders on workplace initiatives, provide recommendations on community outreach, monitor implementation of workplace policies, and offer suggestions on ways to improve policies to better serve businesses and workers.

Committee members will be selected through an open-appointment process for two-year terms. Watch for more information on open positions for this important group.

Election judges needed

Election judges are needed for the general election Nov. 8 to serve voters in local polling places. Judges who are fluent in a second language are especially needed to provide additional language support in the polling place, including Spanish, Somali, Hmong, Oromo, Lao, Vietnamese, Russian and American Sign Language.

Election judges are paid \$13.30 per hour for their service, which includes training.

Continued on page 9

Southside Sprint Celebrates Another Banner Year in the Neighborhood

By Jason Lardy

A record field of bicycle racers again turned Chicago Avenue into a drag strip for the 6th consecutive year on July 24 as the Southside Sprint expanded to the three-day Big Waters Classic. The warm Sunday saw 311 elite racers roll to the line, joining over 150 “Fun Racer” kids. More than 600 spectators lined the streets and filled the front yards of neighborhood homes, cheering the riders to top speed.

The Big Waters Classic added 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 was once again the most popular sanctioned amateur road race in Minnesota,” noted Big Waters Classic co-founder, Jason Lardy. “With the addition of the Fulton Downtown Drag Race and Northeast Grind, we drew riders and fans from all over the Midwest to the vibrant neighborhoods in Minneapolis.”

Sunday’s Southside Sprint showcased top Midwest talent, including locally-based

8th-Ward update, con’t. from page 8

Serving as an election judge provides an opportunity to learn about the election process and is an important service to our community.

Selection and placement of judges is based on qualifications of applicants and party balance within the precinct. Preference will be given to those willing to serve a full day in a precinct with a vacancy.

For information about registering and voting in Minneapolis or to serve as an election judge, residents can visit vote.minneapolismn.gov or call 311 or 612-673-3000. ❖

elite amateurs, World Masters and US National Champions. Junior National Champion Alijah Beatty dominated the women’s elite racers in the Wells Fargo Cup. Local elite powerhouse Chris Anderson won the Pepitos Grand Prix by just

a tenth of a second to claim the elite men’s State Championship.



Also popular were the opportunities for new racers to try bicycle racing for the first time. The event’s unique beginner clinic again drew nearly 30 first-timers and the separate men’s beginner and women’s beginner races were among the largest fields of the day. Event organizers plan to continue each in 2017. Race details, including full results, can be found at www.bigwatersclassic.com ❖

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Fun and Finesse at Minnesota Sword Club

By Adam Webster

1. The Minnesota Sword Club (MSC) seems like it's been part of the neighborhood for a long, long time. When did you set up shop? What inspired you to establish this enterprise in this location?

By 1980, I had been teaching fencing around the Twin Cities for many years and believed a permanent site was needed. I looked to find the right venue to set something up and looked for several months. Out of frustration, I finally took a look at a former bowling alley and realized it was a hidden gem if I could just convert the floor. Two things I never expected: how difficult that change would be and how much help I would receive from people whom I had turned into fencers over the years. The landlord gave us six months free rent to renovate the space and in October of 1982 we finally opened the Sword Club in this location. What I didn't realize, as MSC began to bring people to the area, is that it would emerge as an anchor store for the community. People who come to MSC also frequent local restaurants and stores.

2. The Sword Club is a deceptively large establishment, and well frequented. Who are your patrons? What brings people together to fence?

People fence because they think of it as a developmental activity; a unique sport from the middle ages or a way to get in shape. Often there's a combination of these ideas when joining. We have members as young as six and as old as 81, though most are between eight and 50. The kids learn Olympic fencing with about a third ultimately becoming competitive fencers. Adults learn either Olympic fencing or medieval combat, with a small number becoming competitive. I find that most adults are at the Minnesota Sword Club for both fun and fitness. Yes, it's possible to fence in your own backyard, but people come to us for instruction, and to find a community with similar interests.



Photo: Sue Filbin

Fencing students learn from coaches in a friendly, collegial atmosphere while studying this ancient martial art that combines fitness and strategy.

3. Wouldn't we all like to know how to wield a sword? I'd like to think so. How do beginners get started? What's the learning curve?

Few people join the Minnesota Sword Club with previous fencing experience. We regularly offer beginner classes designed to take a new fencer from rookie to experienced. How rapidly a person develops depends on how often that person attends classes; the greater the participation, the deeper the learning and fitness. We provide maximum flexibility to our members by providing unlimited free classes, plus free use of fencing equipment for three months. Every month, we take in new members during a week-long orientation. The schedule is on our website.

4. Speaking of your website (www.mnsword.com), it's wonderfully sprawling and seems unusually focused on community support. What are your favorite moments in your work? What do you look forward to in the years ahead?

All fencing coaches – including me – find pleasure in helping people learn to fence, from simply mastering basic skills to helping advanced

fencers bring their sharpened abilities to an even higher level. For some of our members, fencing remains an outlet for personal fitness that involves particular cognitive and motor skills. For others, fencing involves a multiyear commitment that ultimately involves competitions at both the local and national level. Whatever the definition of success, the greatest enjoyment for a coach is to work with people new to the sport over the course of years; to watch them develop into highly competent fencers. ❖

Rich Jacobson, Owner, Minnesota Sword Club
4744 Chicago Avenue South, 55407

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Businesses Move On

By Chris Schommer and Sue Filbin

During the past few months, there has been a lot of turnover for local businesses. Here are a few updates on some neighbors that we are sorry to see go.

Shop in the City: After 14 years at 48th and Chicago, Shop in the City closed their Minneapolis location in August and has moved to Edina at 3930 West 50th Street – 50th and France.

According to building owner Harvey McLain, the plan for the former Shop in the City store is to divide the space in half, perpendicular to Chicago Avenue (from west to east). Each space will then have about 2,000 square feet. Negotiations for one half of the space are already underway. In preparation for new tenants, the Shop in the City sign has been removed which exposed a “rather nice roofline – more in keeping with the two-story structure immediately south,” McLain said. The unpainted brick that was under that sign needs tuckpointing. McLain stated he “...would love to keep all the brick natural” but “the brick that is painted probably will not tolerate paint removal. This condition will necessitate the building being painted white, to be compatible with the adjacent building to the south.”

Café Levain closed after a successful 14-year run when owner Harvey McLain realized his preference for being a landlord rather than a restaurant owner. McLain is in the midst of considering a number of proposals for a restaurant to operate in the former Levain space. It is not clear at this time what type of restaurant will open within the area in the back of the Turtle Bread Company building, who will operate it, or when it will open.

Spruce: As of September 1, the 48th and Chicago location for Spruce will become a non-retail studio as the floral shop looks to expand their growing delivery, wedding, and event business. As a result, Spruce will be reducing their retail store count to one at the 50th and France location in Edina. The 48th and Chicago space will be vacated as soon as Spruce finds a suitable location for their expanded studio.

Minnesota Makers: The owners wrote in an email: “Thank you sincerely for your business this past year. We couldn’t have been successful without you. We are able to sell on behalf of so many artists from around the state and we love sending them checks each month!” Minnesota Makers moved to 4180 West Broadway in historic downtown Robbinsdale. They wrote: “We invite you to visit us in our new location. We will be adding some classes in the near future. Lots of exciting happenings!”

Tiny Feet Boutique: This space next to Sovereign Grounds at 815 East 48th Street is available. Tiny Feet Boutique is now an online shop. ❖

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

Communications Committee | communications@frnng.org

2nd Monday 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

Education Committee | education@frnng.org

1st Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Lake Nokomis P. Church

Greening Committee | greening@frnng.org

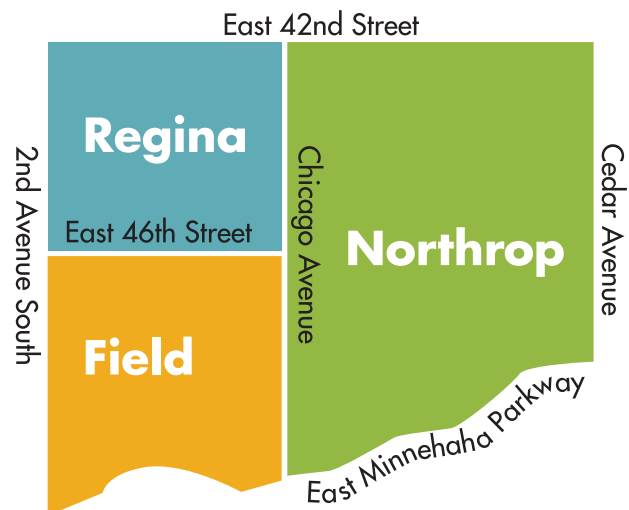
2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Turtle Bread Company, 48th and Chicago

Housing Committee | housing@frnng.org

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

Parks Committee | parks@frnng.org

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



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

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