

CLOSE TO HOME

THE FIELD REGINA NORTHROP NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP NEWSLETTER

January/February 2017

4700 Cedar Avenue Development Update

By Chris Schommer, Chair, Communications Committee

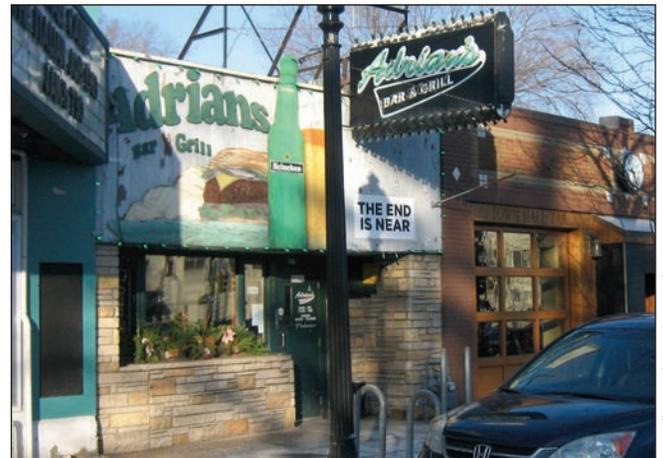
After the City Planning Commission reviewed in December the proposal for redeveloping the property at 4700 Cedar Avenue, the developer was asked to re-design the plan. The current proposal anticipates renovating the current "strip mall" and expanding it to the south with a new business that would include a drive through.

The 15,000-square-foot lot and current structures were purchased in November 2015 by a California-based private real estate investment firm that since 1992 has acquired, developed, re-developed, and managed retail properties in 35 states. ❖

Adrian's Tavern Owner Retires After 53-year Run

The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG), along with Mayor Betsy Hodges and the Minneapolis City Council, proclaimed Saturday, January 7, as Jim Pratt Day.

Jim and his late wife Karen became the owners/operators of Adrian's Tavern in 1963. To celebrate the special occasion of Jim's retirement, Jim and his staff and family served food and beverages from Adrian's first menu – with prices from 54 years ago! – from 11 a.m. to midnight. After wiping the counters



Sue Filbin and Stearline Rucker

and locking the doors for the last time on January 10, Jim plans to pack his RV and head off to visit grandchildren and great grandchildren. ❖

Our Neighborhood is Field, Regina and Northrop

By Willie Bridges, President

Someone said to me that the board cared more about one neighborhood than the other. I thought about this for a moment. I look at last year's meetings and the things that we have done for our community. We have had meetings to hear about our concerns; we have invited representatives from the police department to hear about our needs in the communities; we have had speakers talk about 911 and 311; we have had communities gathering to talk about concerns and needs in the

community; we have had a meeting about the empty houses in the neighborhoods and people who were using garages for illegal things and how to resolve the problems; and we have had meetings about the restriping of 46th Street.

Neighbors have called the office about these concerns and we have sent out notices about all these meetings through our newsletter and our web page.

The staff person in the office has tried to

address these concerns by connecting the residents with someone who could help them. We have had a city council member at all of our board meetings. They have been there to inform us about what is going on in the city and also to answer questions that we may have.

I realize that we cannot meet everyone's needs. The board is doing the best we can to address the concerns of the community.

Continued on page 2

Education Conversations and Community Engagement

By Terry Mazig, Chair, Education Committee
Your neighbors make up the education committee. Field Regina Northrop neighbors are ready to have conversations about education that support the schools in our neighborhood. We want the best education for the children who live and learn here.

This fall we talked about how best we could support schools, especially about the value of volunteers and the impact of budget shortfalls. We have had some difficult discussions about school budgets. Budget shortages do not provide what is needed so that our students thrive. Class sizes that are too large mean that each child does not get the attention needed to succeed. Budget shortfalls to our schools leave you wondering who is making up the formula for these budgets. We need budgets that are fair and equitable no matter where you live. Children should have an equitable education that takes into consideration the whole child. We have invited the board of education director, District 5, Nelson Inz, who lives in Regina neighborhood, to help us

understand how budgets and class sizes are determined.

The value of volunteers

Last fall, at the neighborhood fall Community Gathering held at Hiawatha Leadership Academy – Northrop, on 46th and 17th Avenue, our committee asked for volunteer tutors for Hale Elementary School 4th-grade math and reading and for Field Community School in the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) 6th-, 7th- and 8th-grade morning classes.

Three volunteers signed up. Great! Then after the November/December newsletter was delivered, three more! Wonderful! The volunteers were connected with the volunteer liaison at Hale or Field for orientation, who then placed these wonderful tutors in classrooms to work with students one-to-one.

Now, we have six wonderful volunteers – “Connecting Coaches” – in Hale and Field schools, helping our students, “connecting” with classroom teachers

and with our schools. One-by-one we are helping students to achieve their full potential. You will be pleased to know how the students look forward to volunteers who provide positive support and feedback, building students’ confidence and letting them know they can succeed! Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering one hour per week at either Hale or Field schools by contacting the education committee at education@frnng.org

At Hiawatha Leadership Academy – Northrop, a range of volunteer opportunities is available. Volunteers can choose to work with scholars from grades K–4 and 9–12 as a tutor or extracurricular club adviser, by having conversations during “lunch and learn” sessions with high school scholars about your career, through “passion-based” volunteering, and other opportunities. See more information at the Hiawatha Academies website: hiawathaacademies.org/contribute/volunteer-opportunities/ or contact volunteer coordinator Shannon Gavin at sgavin@hiawathaacademies.org ❖

Our Neighborhood is Field, Regina and Northrop, continued from page 1

I want you to know that we have representatives for Field and Regina neighborhoods, and one representative each for the north and south portions of Northrop neighborhood. Your neighborhood representative is your voice. They will bring your concerns back to the board and we try to figure out a way to address the problem.

Your representative’s name is listed on page 5 of this *Close to Home* newsletter along with the names of the chairperson of each of our committees. If you have any concerns, please let me or your neighborhood representative know.

All of our meetings are open to FRN

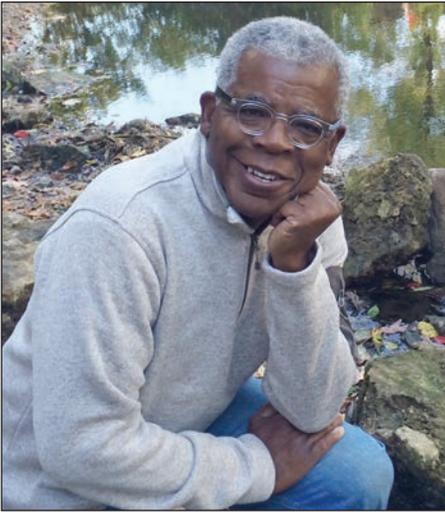
residents. The date, time and place of our board and committee meetings are listed on page 11 in the newsletter and on our web

page. All of our neighborhoods are important to me and to our volunteer board of directors. Thank you for your support! ❖



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

President's Letter

Happy New Year, FRN,

We are beginning a New Year and I think about some things that we want to accomplish. I realize there is so much that we need to do in our community, but I also know that we need your help. I hope that you will consider volunteering for one of these committees or volunteer to help with events planned for 2017.

FRN are planning an event with Hale-Page-Diamond Lake neighborhood. We, along with them, are planning a debate in late February related to the upcoming election for City Council. We will invite those that will run for this office to explain their position and what they would do for our community and Minneapolis. You will receive more

Mailing List Ruminations

By Chris Schommer, Chair, Communications Committee

Since I began chairing the communications committee over two years ago, the one stubborn problem the committee continues to address (pun not intended) is getting an accurate mailing list for the Field Regina Northrop neighborhood.

information about the upcoming date, time and the place where the event will be held.

Housing Committee will be having discussions about what is our role when it comes to housing in our communities. The Housing Committee will want your input. They desperately need volunteers to help with the rules for the loan program. They will begin discussing the fix-up project of homeowners. How do we help the elderly resident who wants to stay in their homes?

The Education Committee is working on ways we could support the schools in our communities.

The Business Committee is working with various businesses in FRN.

The Community and Safety Committee is looking at ways to work with block club leaders. This committee also needs volunteers. The Community and Safety would like to hear your concerns. They would like to hear from you on what project you would like to see happening in our community. They also need volunteers for this committee as well.

Communications Committee is looking for volunteers who would like to write articles for the newsletter and be on their committee.

The Greening Committee is looking for volunteers to help plant flowers and help maintain the gardens along the sound-barrier wall on Second Avenue.

The Parks Committee needs volunteers to help plan activities for our young people. The Parks Committee works with Heather, who is the director of McRae Park.

We have been in discussions with St. Joseph's Home for Children about having a community garden. If we get St. Joe's to do this, we need volunteers to help maintain it and be in charge of it. That person would set the rules for those who want to have a garden there.

FRN neighbors, your board of directors has worked very hard this past year.

FRN neighbors have always been a welcoming community and have made things happen in our community for the good of everyone.

We want your input and we want some of your time! I hope that you will consider volunteering for one of these committees or volunteering for an event.

Events for 2017:

Debate for City Council Candidates
Community Celebration
Community Gathering
Night on 48th

If you are interested in volunteering for a committee or willing to volunteer for an event, please call Stearline Rucker, our program director, in the office at 612-721-5424. ❖

FRN, WE NEED YOU!

accurate mailing list. I apologize to any neighbor who was cut off from receiving newsletters, postcards, and other neighborhood correspondence due to this error. Please contact me about inconsistent delivery of materials from our neighborhood. Thank you. communications@frnng.org ❖

Dancing Classrooms

By Terry Mazig, Chair, Education Committee
Our fifth-graders at Field Community School are dancing! We had our first Dancing Classrooms recital in November. Thanks to your donations and a community of sponsors that helped make Dancing Classrooms possible!

Thanks to the supportive community we live in, our children are able to have dance lessons and related curriculum integrated within a wide range of standard educational subjects for fifth-grade students. The results are enhanced academic achievement and improved physical fitness while enriching young lives through social-emotional learning (SEL) and inspiring personal growth and self-confidence.

Field teachers are saying, "Students have a greater respect for each other in all subjects – science, math, language arts, social studies and music.

Together we are able to provide students with what they need to be successful, through self-confidence, respect and team-building experiences.

Program Sponsors

AL (Assistance League), Mpls./St. Paul

Hale-Field Foundation

Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG)

Donations from FRNNG neighbors

Thank You All! VaNita Miller, Principal

More information about Heart of Dance, a Minnesota nonprofit, may be found at www.HeartOfDanceMN.org ❖

8th-Ward's Glidden Not Seeking a Fourth Term

This information was released by 8th-Ward City Council Member Elizabeth Glidden on December 12, 2016.

My thanks to the people of the Eighth Ward of Minneapolis for giving me the honor to represent you for three terms on the City Council. Thank you for your love and support through twelve exciting years full of changes, including welcoming two beautiful daughters, now eight and four years old, to my family.

After much consideration, I have decided it is time for someone new to have the opportunity of representing the Eighth Ward on the Minneapolis City Council; I will not be seeking election to a fourth term. I have always felt that local politics is dynamic, a place where creative change is possible. I know that there will be healthy competition for the 8th Ward seat and am confident that we will see candidates commit to continue and expand on the progressive policy work I've been

fortunate to help lead at City Hall for more than a decade.

In the coming year, I'm devoting myself to important work in progress, including voting on a city minimum wage, defending Minneapolis as a sanctuary city, expanding civil rights protections to Section 8 renters, and organizing city leaders in Minneapolis and across the US around progressive policy issues.

When I first ran for city council, after working over a decade as a civil rights and workers rights lawyer, I took a leap of faith knowing that no matter the result I would remain committed to building capacity for progressive policy change. Today, I'm taking a similar leap – I'm ready for a new challenge and believe me, I have a lot more to give!

A blessed New Year to you and yours. I will keep you informed of my next adventures. ❖

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Beating the bushes for newsletter content

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee

This issue of *Close to Home* marks the third year of the updated neighborhood newsletter that is produced “for neighbors by neighbors.” The publication grew from 8 to 12 pages and is now printed in full color on glossy paper stock, changes initiated by communications committee chair Chris Schommer. Space became available for fully developed articles and photos are welcome as important supplements to the articles. Advertisements produce much-needed funding.

At the December 2016 communications committee meeting, the questions of what types of news our readers are expecting from their neighborhood newsletter and what types of information are useful to our readers were raised. We agreed that readers seek news about people, property, and policy. We’ve received appreciative comments about articles that announce new businesses. Readers seem equally interested in learning about entities that are familiar but about which few details are known. The articles about Crisis Nursery, Pepito’s, and St. Joseph’s Home for Children come to mind. And then there’s the acclaim for Adam Webster’s “4 Questions” column that raises surprising questions and elicits candid responses from established businesses and organizations.

Consider contributing to this newsletter

So, what would *you* like to read about in our neighborhood newsletter? Better yet, what would you like to write about? You have expertise and experience. You may also have a storefront, office, or home-based business located in the neighborhood. Why not share your knowledge with others? We welcome articles related to people and property: homes, lawns, gardens, recreation, transit, the environment, health and fitness, finance, personal care, and more.

An article must be informative but not promotional or sales oriented. We’re looking for articles that are from 300 to 500 words in length. Providing a high-resolution image accompanied by a photo credit always enhances an article.

The editors of the newsletter reserve the right to edit submitted articles or not publish them due to space or content concerns. The deadline for submissions is always noted on page 5 of the newsletter and is usually the first Friday of every-other month starting with February.

Why contribute content to the newsletter?

We admit it: you gain a feeling of pride and enjoyment when you share ideas that may inform or entertain someone. It’s also pleasant to see your name in print and to have a neighbor stop you while you’re walking your dog to say, “Hey, nice article.” If you’re building your online presence, having your byline on an article or credit for one of your photos will place your name on one more internet search destination. And you’ll be doing something that really helps your neighborhood by adding to the interest in and appeal of the newsletter. The communications committee, especially its chair Chris Schommer, will need to beat the bushes a little less vigorously if you provide an article for *Close to Home*.

To submit an image or article, as a Word or RTF document, please email it to: communications@frnng.org

Send your comments or questions to the same email address. If you are interested in attending a meeting of the communications committee, we meet on the second Monday of most months from 6:30-8 p.m. at Sovereign Grounds on the corner of 48th Street and Chicago Avenue. We welcome you and your input. ❖

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

Sue Filbin, Chris Schommer, and Carrie Shidla

Layout

Smiling Dog Design

Contributors

Council member Elizabeth Glidden, Willie Bridges, Sue Filbin, Terry Mazig, Carrie Shidla, Chris Schommer, Adam Webster

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, February 3, 2017

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Northrop Neighborhood Group, Inc.

Established in 1965

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Greening: Lindsey Feiner & Tim Price

Housing & Community Development:

Ian Campbell & Nate Lansing

Parks: Maria Gilleece

Night on 48th Succeeds for Eighth Year

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee

The 8th-annual Night on 48th event is promoted as a fundraiser. It succeeded once again in that capacity, but it's also a sensory experience. As you approach Turtle Bread Company, you *see* glowing lights, colorful centerpieces, and people mingling. When you get inside, you *feel* the warmth of animated people and *smell* the inviting aromas of bread, pasta, and pizza. You *hear* melodies played and sung by the acclaimed and appreciated musicians of AKOUO. And as soon as you check in and receive your raffle ticket for participation in the wine and beer raffle, you will be ready to *taste* the beverages and dinner buffet.

Your sixth sense will detect that people are having a really good time. They're happy to socialize with friends and neighbors who are dedicated to our community and who enjoy having fun close to home. And guests remarked they were pleased to have the opportunity for candid conversations in a social setting with elected officials and neighborhood leaders including Hennepin County commissioner Peter McLaughlin, 8th ward council member Elizabeth Glidden, director of St. Joseph's Home for Children Jon Stumbras, chief operating officer of Hiawatha Leadership Academies Sean Elder, attorney with the Hennepin County attorney's office (and former chair of the education committee), Tom Arneson, an assistant superintendent with the Minneapolis Public Schools, and volunteer board members. Board president Willie Bridges is a senior planning analyst with the Hennepin County attorney's office.

A rough calculation determined that about half of the capacity crowd of 125 won something. Ken and Norm's Liquors donated 30 bottles of wine to the raffle and sold the balance of the bottles at a discount to the board members who make possible the raffle. Guests were excited about the gifts donated to the silent

auction by businesses and individuals. The most coveted item was a one-night stay at Pier B in Duluth that was donated by Hattie Thorn-Black, D.D.S., a friend of neighborhood program director Stearline Rucker.

Guests enjoyed the ambiance at Turtle Bread Company and the excellent service by some of their select staff. The band, AKOUO, added a female vocalist this year that enhanced their repertoire of standards and favorites. www.akouomusic.com

How does the event come together?

Planning for Night on 48th begins in June with brainstorming by the board of directors and program director Stearline Rucker. They build on the successes of previous years while always aiming to improve the event. In 2009 or so, when the City of Minneapolis advised neighborhoods that they needed to become more self sufficient and raise their own funds, the first Night on 48th was held at the Parkway Theater. The location was moved to Turtle Bread Company the following year to accommodate easier socializing.

Following the brainstorming meeting, Stearline confirms the date with Turtle Bread Company, then mobilizes her force of one – herself – to putting in place the band, sponsors, silent-auction donations, wine raffle, centerpieces, tablecloths, volunteers, registration, and paperwork

and payment for everything. Treasurer Shannon Guernsey orders and brings bouquets of helium balloons. Second Vice President Shelley Nystrom and Field neighborhood representative Barbara Harris confirmed reservations and welcomed guests. Parks chair Maria Gilleece set up the silent auction display while Shannon Guernsey established pricing and bidding increases for each item.

Stearline makes an effort not to ask the same donors year after year for contributions, but many merchants and individuals insist on participating. In fact, they report that new people patronize their business after learning about their contribution to Night on 48th. And guests say they attend the event after businesspeople mention their participation in it. Stearline reports noticing that “people love to socialize and they love to win something.”

Stearline assesses that about half the guests are eager returnees and half are attending Night on 48th for the first time. Many people are already looking forward to the ninth celebration of Night on 48th sometime in autumn 2017.

Next time

If you're disappointed that you missed the fun and the chance to contribute to our community, volunteers are always needed and welcome – for this event and others. Contact the office for information: frnng@frnng.org or (612) 721-5424. ❖

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Contributors to Night on 48th

Thank you to the businesses and individuals who donated valuable items to the silent auction. Thank you to our board members, individuals, volunteers, and program director Stearline Rucker. And thank you to these generous businesses that sponsored Night on 48th:

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Turtle Bread Company
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Wings Financial Credit Union

How some funds are used

Center for Energy & Environment home audits
Close to Home newsletter
Community forum meetings
Decorative planters for commercial intersections
35W sound-wall landscape maintenance
Field School Dancing Classroom project
Grants for security lighting
Great Streets Facade Improvement Grants
Lee Family Memorial at 46th and Columbus
Night on 48th Street event
Ongoing home-loan program
Southside Sprint Bike Festival
Tilsen Historical Homes Project
Utility box wraps
"We Love Our Neighborhood" lawn signs

New Crime Prevention Specialist Thrives on Communicating

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee
The portion of her title as Crime Prevention Specialist (CPS) that Jennifer Neale really takes to heart is being proactive about preventing crime. As the liaison between the 3rd Precinct and block club leaders, residents, and business owners in our area, Jennifer is dedicated to making meaningful connections and communicating clearly. She wants us to maintain and establish safety-related habits that don't allow criminals to take advantage of people or property.

Jennifer began her role as CPS on October 24. She is responsible for Sector 3, which is the vast chunk of the 3rd Precinct that for more than 25 years was the responsibility of Sue Roethele, who retired last spring. Twelve neighborhoods are included within the boundaries of Sector 3. Those boundaries reach from 42nd Street to 62nd Street, and from Interstate 35W to Hiawatha Avenue.

Although the geography may be somewhat new to Jennifer, she has served in the 2nd and 5th precincts. Jennifer's experience as a mentor and coach, and her dedication to building strong communities and making connections, led to her career as a CPS before – and now after – spending ten years at home with her young children.

Valuable communications

"The importance of neighbors being connected, and being willing to share information with each other and with the police department, really makes a difference in the safety of our communities," Jennifer stated. She continued, "Our crime-prevention unit is based on community policing. It's what we do. We partner with the community in our efforts to prevent crimes and to apprehend the perpetrators of crimes."

As the CPS for our area, Jennifer works with the community (block club leaders,



Photo: Sue Filbin

Jennifer Neale, Crime Prevention Specialist

citizens, neighborhood associations, and committees), investigators, other police units, the court system, and council members to ensure that collaboration occurs and that all parties are fairly represented and served.

The value of block clubs

Jennifer knows that an active block club enhances communication among neighbors and with the CPS. Neighbors on organized blocks look out for each other and call 911 to report suspicious occurrences. Police officers also rely on the CPS's connection to organized blocks when they need to understand what's typical for a block, or to confirm information that's been reported.

When Jennifer is not at work or in a meeting, she enjoys staying fit with her family—yoga is her favorite activity. She also enjoys travel, Filipino cooking, and reading. She's in three book clubs! Jennifer invites you to contact her to become a block club leader or get information. 612-673-2839. Jennifer.neale@minneapolispolice.gov ❖

8th-Ward Update

Council Member Elizabeth Glidden



Council Member Elizabeth Glidden

Dear Neighbors,

Thank you for this opportunity to update you on City and neighborhood issues.

City Council and Mayor Adopt 2017 Budget

The Mayor and City Council have approved a 2017 budget for the City. The \$1.3 billion budget includes a 5.5 percent increase in the property tax levy. 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.

Budget Highlights: Participatory Budgeting

One of the items I'm very excited about is \$50,000 dedicated to working with community to design a process for using participatory budgeting (PB) for some part of the city budget. PB is used all around the world, and involves direct participation of the public – often through voting – to decide how to direct use of city funds. You can learn more about participatory budgeting at the Participatory Budgeting Project More to come soon!

Divestment

The Council unanimously approved a motion asking staff to report back to the council with options for divesting from financial institutions that invest in fossil fuels. The motion stated: “explore scenarios to divest and stop doing business with financial institutions that invest in the fossil fuel industry and projects such as the Dakota Access Pipeline, and report recommendations to the Ways & Means Committee no later than end of second quarter 2017; the report shall explore the possibility of establishing a municipal bank or participating in a publicly-owned banking operation

Small Business Office

After months of engagement with small business owners, the city increased its commitment to a small business navigator office with additional staff and resources. A large number of council members worked on this important initiative, with Council Member Andrew Johnson taking special leadership.

Community Policing Initiatives and Public Safety

More than \$1 million was dedicated to community-based strategies to improve public safety, including a mental health co-responder model, group based violence initiative, and more. Council Member Glidden co-authored a motion to increase investment in domestic abuse prevention funding as part of these strategies.

\$1.3 million for 15 new sworn police officers, which includes 12 for community policing and three for a police/mental health co-responder pilot program.

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

Affordable Housing

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.

Civil Rights - Response to Hate

A position was added to the civil rights department to help respond to increased complaints of discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes. The Civil Rights department will also lead coordination efforts with the State of Minnesota and other jurisdictions around these issues.

Clean Energy and Environment

Renewing the Green Business Cost Sharing program, continuing funding for the successful Clean Energy Partnership, and implementing the commercial building efficiency component of the city's Climate Action Plan.

Trans* Equity

Supporting the annual Trans* Equity Summit and working to provide access to gender-neutral bathrooms in public buildings.

Please contact me with any questions about the budget at elizabeth.glidden@minneapolismn.gov.

How to reach me

I look forward to engaging with you as we work to develop these important policies. I invite you to contact me at (612) 673-2208 or elizabeth.glidden@minneapolismn.gov. As well, I host community office hours every Monday, 9-11 a.m., at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E 38th Street, at a table in the first floor hall closest to the parking lot. Please just drop by or call our office for a time certain appointment. ❖

Interior design studio settles into neighborhood

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee
Was it from TV shows, or maybe comic books, where we got the idea that an interior designer is an aloof person who sweeps into our home and exclaims, “Oh, Darling, that simply won’t work!” – and out the door goes our favorite chair?

Well, Julie Madge, interior designer at her eponymous business Julie Madge Interiors, takes the opposite approach. Julie’s philosophy is that a home is an attractive, comfortable refuge for a family as well as for welcoming the family’s guests and friends. Julie believes that interior design “...is for real people with real lives, including kids and pets.”

Some background

After working with clients from a nearby home office for the past three years, Julie was looking for a space from which she could meet and interact with more people. She’s a self-described “people person.” While shopping at 48th and Chicago, she noticed the “For Lease” sign in the



window at 815 East 48th Street. When Julie saw the intimate space, she quickly became a tenant of Hakan and Christine Sezer, owners of the popular next-door coffee shop and restaurant Sovereign Grounds. (Previous tenants were Tiny Feet Boutique, Minneapolis Chandlery, and Bikes and Pieces before Mike Kmiecik moved his business around the corner next to Minnehaha Animal Hospital.)

Showroom and design office

Starting in mid February, the north-facing

space with the terrazzo floor and high ceiling will become an ever-changing showroom of selected items available to purchase: lamps, picture and mirror frames, rugs, chairs that can be ordered – after guests have a chance to sit in them – and much more. In the display windows will be a revolving inventory of items selected by Julie, and vintage furniture and home-décor items supplied by Anne Kerling of Longfellow Design. With her degree in interior design from the University of Minnesota, and certification as an allied member of ASID – the American Society of Interior Designers – Julie has the credentials, creativity, and enthusiasm to work with families to improve and enhance their home. She makes “house calls” for a no-obligation, no-charge one-hour consultation. Before beginning the full-service design process, Julie asks, “What do you have that you love and that’s working?”

Julie analyzes and provides solutions for space planning including floor plans with furniture fit, selection of furniture, lighting, color, window treatments, floor coverings, wallpaper, artwork, and custom framing. She’s also sensitive to clients’ requests for reusing current possessions, shopping locally, purchasing products made in the USA, and making sure no child labor was involved with production. Julie knows that working with an interior designer can be helpful in terms



Photo: Julia Auerbach

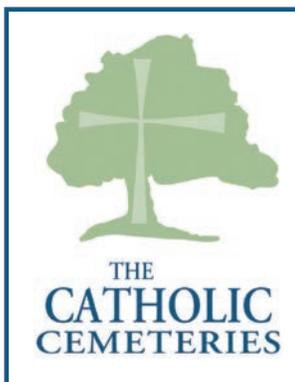
Interior designer Julie Madge opens her studio on 48th Street in February.

of selection, and her clients acknowledge they saved money and time by following Julie’s suggestions as to where to make an investment and where to get by with other options.

Julie’s goal as a residential interior designer is to be approachable and to make the design process accessible. “It’s really an honor to be invited into somebody’s home,” she said. ❖

[Jmadgeinteriors.com](http://jmadgeinteriors.com)

Also on Facebook and Instagram
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815 W 48th Street, 55417



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Ensemble Music Studio for Young Students

By Adam Webster, Communications Committee

1. Ensemble Music has a surprisingly big reach, though most of us would not know it from the studio on 46th and Bloomington. When did you set up shop? What inspired you to open up the studio?

Ensemble Music has been around since 2000. It started with a couple of classes near our house in Bancroft neighborhood—just something to keep Jessica connected to people and music while she was taking a break from her music therapy studies. It didn't take long to realize that the classes were about much more than just "learning music." It became clear parents were connecting with not only their children, but also the other adults in the class. We began to see the value in community music making and how music can connect us, and decided Ensemble Music needed to be more than "just a few classes."

While we expanded our offerings to more locations, we remained in the neighborhood, near our home, holding classes in various karate studios and churches. In 2004, the space at 46th and Bloomington became available and we became a more visible part of the neighborhood. In 2006, Jessica's husband Tom, tired of working in a cubicle farm, left his job as a project manager and did training to become a Suzuki piano teacher.

2. The range of offerings (at the studio and elsewhere) is quite extensive. Who are you reaching out to? What brings people together at the studio?

We're reaching out to anyone who wants to make music, especially while they're young. We've encountered many people who think music making is reserved for an elite few who play in clubs and concert halls. Before the advent of recording, the vast majority of music that people heard was created by amateurs in their own neighborhoods and homes. We're trying to bring that community music-making back. The name of the studio, Ensemble Music, was chosen very carefully, as most music is made in a group – together.



Photo: Sue Filbin

3. Ensemble Music seems an admirably mission-driven organization. How did you evolve your sense of purpose? What's changed over the years?

Singing is as much a birthright as walking and talking. We are all born with enough musical aptitude to be able to sing in tune and play an instrument in a community band or orchestra. It is how that aptitude is nurtured in early childhood that impacts its realization. Years ago, people sang together at home and it wasn't ever in question that you wouldn't grow up being able to do this. Now our society is so focused on passive music consumption that people aren't singing together anymore. It is our mission to bring music back into the home and get parents to "do music" with their children rather than just consume it.

Families at our studio learn how to play with music and support their children in their musical growth. They also learn how to see their children differently. Parenting is tough, but coming together once a week to sing, dance and play together with our children makes it a little easier. Parents learn to recognize that their infant is cooing in tune with the song we are singing or that their toddler is moving to the beat of the music. As a community, we celebrate our children's musical milestones just like society celebrates their first word or step. Music is in all of us and it is at the heart of Ensemble Music to bring it out.

4. How do beginners get started – kid and adult? Where do they go from there?

For both the Music Together program and the Suzuki piano lessons, students get started where they're at. Music Together, for the birth-to-kindergarten population, is the perfect curriculum to provide an introduction to amateur music making. The focus is on developing basic music competence, which is defined as singing in tune and keeping a beat. This is often the first exposure for many of the young students' parents to community music making as well. The parents clearly get as much out of the program as do the kids.

As for the Suzuki piano program, it's very much an extension of the philosophy of hands-on music making. Individual piano instruction starts for students as young as three years old, and every step of the music-development process is celebrated, such that beginning students may play as little as a phrase at their first recital. Shinichi Suzuki, the founder of the program, was clear in stating that his goal was not to produce professional musicians but fine citizens and human beings. Music instruction is an excellent vehicle for developing the best in oneself. ❖

Ensemble Music Studio
1520 East 46th Street, Minneapolis, MN
ensemblemusic.yourvirtuoso.com

Electric bikes shop opens doors at 48th & Chicago

Pedego Twin Cities

By Carrie Shidla, Communications Committee

A new bike shop recently opened in the 48th and Chicago business district, and its creating a lot of buzz. Pedego Twin Cities debuted late November with an innovative product: electric bikes.

Proprietor Ann Paulson has owned a successful bike shop in Owatonna for 12 years, Straight River Sports & Fitness. She and her staff began selling Pedego electric bikes, and have had great success with the brand. Their customers have had great success, as well. "We love seeing the changes that it's brought to people's lives. People who haven't been riding in years are now able to join the cycling community and experience the joy and freedom bike riding brings," said Ann.

As word got out, about 40% their customers were driving down to Owatonna from the Twin Cities metro area. Pedego asked the Paulsons to open a store in the metro, and they happily agreed. The neighborhood was a natural fit. "We like the idea of the mix of residential and commercial that the Chicago and 48th area offered. The proximity of the Minnehaha Trail and park area will offer our customers a safe and scenic ride that will connect them to miles of trail throughout the Minneapolis area," Ann said.

Ann noted the common thread in her customers is that they are adding fun into their lives. "Many of our customers are recovering from illness or injury and are anxious to get back into a more active lifestyle. Others are at a point in their lives where they can now fit longer rides into their schedules and an electric bike will allow them to do enjoy those rides." And, she noted, many will be looking for a daily rental to take in all the great trails Minneapolis has to offer, which she anticipates to be a significant part of her business.

In addition to bike sales (prices range from \$2,295 to \$3,795), Pedego will also be offering rentals and, in the spring when store hours expand to full time, tours for team-building events and accessories for cyclists. ❖

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Provided photo

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 11:30 a.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.

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., McRae Park Arts & Crafts Room

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



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