

The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group Newsletter

November-January 2004-05

Northrop School to Close?

or parents, children, and many community members, it was most unwelcome news that it has been recommended to close Northrop Urban Environmental Learning Center School, Minneapolis Public Schools had hired KKE Architects, Inc., to hold community meetings, collect information, and come up with recommendations about

schools, and this group presented 3 options concerning Northrop School to the School Board on October 12th. All options included the recommendation that Northrop move to Ericsson

School and that the Northrop building at 1611 E. 46th St. become an Early Childhood Center. The recommendation is based on enrollment, which has declined in the district.

Northrop parents and leaders have been active in the whole process, making certain there was representation in 90% of the myriad of community meetings held recently about the reconfiguration and closing of schools. And the

Northrop PTA and leaders have proposed what they believe is an excellent alternative: to keep Northop open as a K through 3rd grade school, as one-half of an upper and lower campus; another school would have 4th through 8th graders.

"We would like Northrop to continue to be a great asset to children, parents, and the community," said Vicki

> Jones, parent of children at the school. "We appreciate the School Board's willingness to be open to our communication (with them)." Vicki Jones said that neighbors are encouraged to attend one of two

MPS public hearings: November 17th, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, at North High School, 1500 James Avenue North, Minneapolis, or November 18th, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Washburn High School, 201 W. 49th Street, Minneapolis. Since Northrop is hosting a dinner on the 18th, that is the night other community people are most needed at the hearings. Anyone who wishes to speak is given up to 2 minutes.

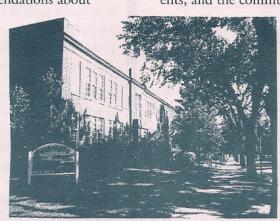
Northrop UELC Offering Tours

Northrop Urban Environmental Learning Center, located at 1611 E. 46th St., is currently offering "tours" of their program to prospective parents or interested community persons. Upcoming dates are: December 7th and 15th; January 7th, 10th, 20th and 26th; February 1st, 7th, 17th and 25th. You are encouraged to come to Northrop on these dates at 11 am when a school representative and parent(s) are available to answer questions and show you around the building. You are then welcome to visit in classrooms until 12:15 pm. Northrop U.E.L.C. is a Minneapolis Public School. MPS "School Request Cards" must be postmarked on or before February 28, 2005.

From the President...

I would like to thank all the people who put forth the considerable energy and time to make the recent celebration of our neighborhoods a success. The planning group enlisted the fire department to come so that children were able to climb on the fire truck, and they arranged for games and the face painting. They also were able to get members of the Gophers women's basketball team to partici-

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Calendar November to January

November

- 16 Mpls. Police/SAFE Program:Block Leader Training5760 Portland Ave. So., evening
- 17 FRNNG Board Meeting McRae Park, 6:30 pm
- 17-24 Northrop School Scholastic Book Fair Northrop School Media Center
- 18 Northrop School Fall Dinner Northrop School gym, 6:30 pm
- 22 3rd Precinct Advisory Council (3PAC) 3000 Minnehaha Ave., 6:30 pm

December

- 6 FRNNG Housing Committee Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 6:30 pm
- 8 SCABA Pepito's, 12 noon
- 14 FRNNG Business Committee
 Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 7 pm
 FRNNG Community/Safety Committee
 McRae Park, 7 pm
- 15 FRNNG Board Meeting McRae Park, 6:30 pm

January

- 3 FRNNG Housing Committee Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 6:30 pm
- 11 FRNNG Business Committee Meeting Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 7 pm FRNNG Community/Safety Committee McRae Park, 7 pm
- 12 SCABA Pepito's, 12 noon
- 19 FRNNG Board Meeting McRae Park, 6:30 pm
- 23 3rd Precinct Advisory Council (3PAC)3000 Minnehaha Ave., 6:30 pm
- 26 FRN Block Leaders' Group McRae Park, 6:30 pm

Ward 11 Update

by Council Member Scott Benson

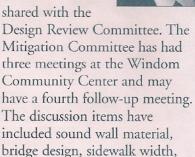
To my friends and neighbors with FRNNG—Thank you for the opportunity to update you about the happenings at City Hall. I will try to keep my column short but informative. If you have any questions or want to learn about something more in depth, please feel free to email me scott.benson@ci.min-neapolis.mn.us or call my office at 673-2211.

Citizen Mitigation Committee

Even as the city negotiates with MnDOT about the eventual layout of the 35W/Crosstown project, I am continuing to gather input from residents about improvements that can be made to the plan. That input is being gathered through two different resident committees.

The Citizen Mitigation Committee is made up of 2-3 citizen representatives from each neighborhood affected by the I-35W/Crosstown Redesign Project. I feel it is important to ensure that the mitigation proposed as part of the 2001 plan is compatible with the current needs and desires of the neighborhoods along the corridor. The mitigation committee members represent their respective neighborhoods in committee discussion with other neighborhood representatives, City Council Members, and

MnDOT. The Mitigation Committee comments will also be shared with the



and landscaping design.

The Design Review Committee (DRC) evaluates the compatibility of the 2001 Aesthetic Design Guide to the current proposed layout. The DRC is comprised of engineers and architects from the City of Minneapolis, MnDOT, and citizens who were involved in crafting the Aesthetic Design Guide in 2001 that spells out the mitigation plan for the 35W/Crosstown project area. The DRC examines the technical aspects of mitigation issues such as bridge type and design, sound wall material, pedestrian walkways, vegetation maintenance, and lighting.

Electronic Newsletter—I publish an electronic newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening at City Hall. If you would like to receive this update, please e-mail me at scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us and put the words "E-mail Update" in the subject line.

Upgrading your MAC?

If you are replacing your Macintosh computer with a new one, and your present one is not very old, consider giving it to FRNNG. The MAC at the FRNNG office is old and needs to be replaced. We would be happy to pick it up. It would be very much appreciated! Call the office at 721-5424.

Volunteer Opportunities Call FRNNG at 721-5424

All Committees Open to New Volunteers

Interested in helping your community on issues of Housing, Business, Communications, Parks, Schools and Safety? *Commitment:* Once a month if possible.

Tutor a Child

Volunteers are needed willing to tutor one or more elementary children in reading, math, or both. Daytime and evening sites available in the neighborhood.

Commitment: Two hours per week for minimum of 10 weeks.

More Block Leaders Needed!

Our neighborhood has over 64 percent of the block organized into active block clubs. If you don't have a block club call the FRNNG office and we can help you get organized.

Commitment: Training from Third Precinct CCP/SAFE, one meeting per year on your block and National Night Out in August.

Close to Home newsletter

Layout editors (familiar with Quark XPress) and copy editors are needed so we can spread the work of publishing the newsletter over more volunteers.

Commitment: Minimum of one CTH issue per year

Neighborhood Web Site

We need people with or without web site experience to help us maintain the FRNNG web site.

Commitment: Adjust to your schedule.

Your Parks Need You!

Are you interested in preserving open space or improving park programming? If so, join the FRNNG Parks Committee! Call committee chair, Jon Steadland, for more information at 722-9661.

Write an Article for Close to Home!

If you are a writer (or a wannabe writer), Close to Home needs your help!

You don't have to be a professional—we'll help with editing. Call Cathy Lue at FRNNG, **721-5424** to talk about your idea for a story—or to get an "assignment"

FRNNG Housing Committee and PPL Join Forces for Project

The FRNNG Housing Committee is excited to see the house being built that members had envisioned for a long time. The Committee had identified an empty lot at 4515 5th Ave. some time ago, and decided to find a partner to build a house on the lot. They wanted it to be a single family house with a mother-

in-law apartment connected to it. They found Project for Pride in Living (PPL), an outstanding non-profit organization that operates various kinds of housing pro-

grams, to be that partner. PPL had the funds to build

the house, and has now laid the foundation and is framing the house. It will be a 3-bedroom house. The mother-in-law apartment will be connected, yet will have its own entry and privacy. It is expected to be finished by early spring, 2005, and will be sold at market value. The Housing Committee and PPL will hold an Open House for the neighborhood at that time.

Upcoming project

The FRNNG Housing Committee is planning a new project, called the "Block Appeal Program." One entire block will be selected in each of the three neighborhoods: Regina, Field, and Northrop, for outside remodeling and landscaping. We will have more details in a later issue.

From the President from page 1

pate in our event. Through their work we received generous donations for our business community, whom we also would like to acknowledge. Their donations made our raffles possible. I would also like to acknowledge the social service providers who hosted information tables. Thanks also to our businesses and individuals who donated the food for our event. All these gifts of time and substance both for our event and throughout the year help to make Field, Regina and Northrop great neighborhoods in which to live!

So, thank you to all these people and also to all those who made a point to attend.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy and safe holiday season!

Willie Bridges, FRNNG President

New FRN Block Leaders

The Block Leaders' Group, made up of block leaders from Northrop, Regina, and Field neighborhoods, elected new leaders at its October 27th meeting. The new co-chairs are Sean Conley and Amie Rankin, both of whom are active leaders on their blocks and in the community. The group meets bi-monthly to exchange information and ideas, and hear about crime problems and prevention from Sue Roethele, MPD SAFE Program Crime Prevention Specialist. It has been meeting regularly for 6 years, on a bimonthly basis on the 4th Wednesday. The next meeting is January 26th, 6:30 pm, at McRae Park. If you are a new block leader and not yet connected to this group, you are encouraged to participate—call the FRNNG office at 721-5424 to be put on the mailing list and roster.

If your block doesn't have a block club yet and you'd like to start one, contact Sue Roethele, at **673-2839**.

Prospective block leaders are expected to attend a training session. The next one is being held November 16th, at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, 5760 Portland Ave. Please RSVP to Sue Roethele if you plan to attend.

If you're not considering starting a block club, you may be willing to play a role on the block that takes very little time but is still important: Block Contact Person. You'd be a communication link with your neighbors and would be reached if/when there is something very important or urgent for you to share with them. Call FRNNG if you're interested.

Karen Pritz in Memoriam

Karen Pritz passed away on October 15th. Karen had been very active in the Hale Page Diamond Lake Neighborhood Association for many years. She was instrumental in helping Field Regina Northrop design the neighborhood survey for the Phase 1 NRP Action Plan. She was a champion of women and children and tireless in her efforts to make her community a better place to live. In 1992 Karen was elected to the Board of Directors of PPL (Project for Pride in Living), a non-profit social service company that builds affordable housing, trains hard to employ people and supports children and families to achieve self-sufficiency. For the last 5 years she served on the Executive Committee as the Secretary of that organization. Her warmth, caring and steadfast commitment to the work of serving the poor and underprivileged was an example to us all and she is greatly missed.

Thanksgiving Celebration

Join us for a Community Celebration of Thanksgiving Wednesday, November 24 at El Milagro/The Miracle Church (3751 17th Ave.)

At 7 pm Pastor Dale Hanson from Ebenezer Lutheran Brethren Church will be speaking. There will be great singing, fellowship and pie!



Asbury News

t's Veteran's Sunday on November 14th at Asbury United Methodist Church (4501 Bloomington Ave.)

At the 11 am service, we will recognize and extend our appreciation to the members of the Armed Forces. Please come for a special program if you are a veteran, currently serve in the military, or appreciate the work and sacrifices that military personnel have made.

Advent Festival is Sunday, November 28th at 10 am for children, families, unattached grown-ups and guests. Meet downstairs in the dining room to create ornaments and keepsakes to celebrate the season of Advent.

Holiday Refuge

n need of some quiet time amid the bustle of the holiday season? Holiday blues putting a damper on celebration this year? Quiet music and the glow of candlelight offer space for silent meditation on Wednesday evenings in December. Back by popular demand, Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (1620 E. 46th St.) will be open from 6 - 7:30 pm on December 1, 8, 15 and 22 to accommodate refugees from the holiday frenzy. Meditation time will close with an ecumenical "Blue Christmas" at 7 pm on December 22nd. The service is designed especially for people who are grieving, hurting, in pain, lonely, or simply not connected with the pubic joy of the Advent and Christmas seasons. Readings from Jewish and Christian scriptures, simple prayers, music and lighting candles combine to offer healing and respite in a time that can be emotionally intense. For more information call 721-4463.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Senior Helpline

Nokomis Healthy Seniors

Health Programs are monthly meetings designed to promote your health. Meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month at Faith Lutheran Church, located at 3430 E. 51st St. These programs are free and open to the public. If you need a ride to any of these activities, please call Margo at 729-5499.

November 24, 1:30 pm "Stretching Your Prescription Dollars" Dr.Craig Christianson, UCare Minnesota

December- There is no program this month. We wish you all a joyful holiday season.

January 26, 2005, 1:30 pm Health Awareness Pharmacy Students, University of MN School of Pharmacy

Nokomis Healthy Seniors is celebrating ten years of serving seniors in the greater Nokomis community. In 1994 we started out as a Medicare Demonstration Project that lasted until 2000 when we became the Nokomis Healthy Seniors Program. We encourage you to attend any of our programs and to participate in the groups that we sponsor.

Neighborhood Celebration a Big Success

The FRNNG 18th Annual Neighborhood Celebration was a great event! Held Saturday, October 2nd at McRae Park, it celebrated the three neighborhoods and welcomed new neighbors. Between 350-400 people attended on the sunny afternoon, and enjoyed good entertainment, food, activities, games, and being together. Performers included the Jim Ouska and Jane Alecson Band, the McRae Jazz Band, and the Fuego Latino Dancers, who shared Colombian dances and music. There were exciting demonstrations by members of the U. of Minnesota Women's Basketball Team, Rick Faye's Martial Arts group, and Brian Kelley's children on skateboard and bicycle. Chess Master Ed Conway challenged players all afternoon. Children romped and played in the moonwalk and caterpillar ride, and other kids' activities. The raffle was popular, with 45 different prizes awarded, including 2 new bicycles and a telescope. Different organizations had information tables. The food was great—Adrian's provided free hot dogs, Pepito's supplied complimentary Mexican fare, and neighbors brought all kinds of great food for the potluck lunch. All-in-all, it was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

FRNNG is very grateful for the outstanding work done by the ad hoc Committee of neighbors who had only 6 weeks to plan and prepare for the Celebration. Many of them worked countless hours in the weeks leading up to October 2nd. They

are: Beth Minehart-Chair, Jolene Brown, Jim Bush, Virginia Clark, Sean Conley, Sully Gilbert, Jody Kurpierz, Frani Lowe, Inez Melton, Barbara



Nolan, Karen Pratt, Gerry Sell, Sandra Smith, and Marjorie Tendle.

In addition to the Committee, many neighbors helped on the day of the Celebration—space doesn't permit listing them here, but to all of you who worked that day, we are very appreciative. The event could not have taken place without you.

We wish to thank the many local businesses which generously contributed raffle and door prizes, food, or cash to the event: Adrian's, Anna's Kids & Alterations, Amazon Books, Bergen's SuperValu, Chicago Deli, Chicago Floral, Cub foods, Dick's Metropolitan Carpet, Ebu Design, Ed's Barber Shop, Jaane Dear Hair, Johnson Barber & Beauty, Ken & Norm's Liquor, McRae Park,



Minnehaha
Animal
Hospital,
Nokomis
Cycle,
Parkway
Hardware,
Pepito's
Restaurant,
Pizza Hut,
Scuba Dive
& Travel, Shop in the

City, Sister Sludge, Southside Clinic, Sovereign Grounds, Star Moon Chinese Restaurant, TA's Auto, Terry's Auto Body, Toby's Styling, Tom's Popcorn, Turtle Bread Company, Twiggs, Twin City Tennis Supply, Vikings Football League, Walgreen's, and Wells Fargo Bank. Individual neighbors and others also made donations of cash or raffle prizes, and we thank them for their generosity: Pat Aylward, Willie Bridges, Jolene Brown, Jim Bush, Hazel Butler, Virginia Clark, Sean Conley, James Craig, Betty Jo Dixon, Sully Gilbert, Scott Gutenhager, Joe Horan, Debra Jones, Jody Kurpierz, Frani Lowe, Inez Melton, Taylor Moore, Dayle Murphy, Karen Pratt, and Hunley Surratt.

McRae Park Schedule 906 East 47th Street

This is a sample of fall programs offered at McRae. Winter program information (classes starting in January) was not available at press time. Program schedule is available at McRae Park or online at

www.minneapolisparks.org 612.370.4909 (voice) 612.824.4170 (fax)

Pre-School

Indoor Playground!

Ages 5 & under w/Parent/Guardian Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays Oct. 18 - Dec. 17 (not held on MPS Release Days) 10 am- 12 pm FREE!

Classical Ballet & Jazz

Ages 3 - 5 Tuesdays Nov. 16 - Dec. 14 4:30 - 5:30 pm \$45

Hibernation

Ages 3 - 5 Fridays, Nov. 5 - Dec. 3 10:30 - 11:30 am \$5

Youth

The Zone! After School Club

Ages 5 - 12 Monday - Friday 2 - 7 pm \$15/week or \$50/month full-time \$30/month second child in family

Winter Wonderful (Arts & Crafts)

Ages 6 - 12 Mondays, Nov. 29 - Dec. 20 3:30 - 5 pm \$10

Computer Corner

Ages 6 - 12 Tuesdays, Sept. 7 - Dec. 20 Session 1: 3- 3:45 pm Session 2: 4:15 - 5 pm FREE!

More Ballet & Jazz

Ages 5 - 7 Tuesdays Nov. 16 - Dec. 14 6 - 7 pm \$45/session

Kids Night Out

Ages 6 - 12 Fridays, Nov. 5 & 19, Dec. 3 & 17 6- 9 pm \$5/time

Teen Programs

Homework Help

Ages 11 - 17 Mondays 6 - 7:30 pm FREE!

Writer's Club

Ages 11 - 17 Wednesdays, Nov. 10 - Dec. 15 7:30 - 8:30 pm FREE!

Typing Teens

Ages 11 - 17 Thursdays 6 - 7 pm FREE!

Teen Scene

Ages 12 - 17 Fridays, Nov. 12 & Dec. 10 6 - 9 pm FREE!

Adult Programs

Adult Open Roller Hockey

Ages 18+ Wednesdays, Sept. 8 - Oct. 27 (weather permitting) 6:15 - 8:15 pm FREE!

Introduction to the Internet

Ages 55+ Thursdays, Nov. 4 - Dec. 2 10 am - 12 pm \$5

Family Special Events

Holiday Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, December 18
10 am - 1 pm
\$4 per person in advance, \$5 at the door

Sports Registration

Basketball & Wrestling Fundamentals for kids in Kindergarten -

3rd grade
Basketball for kids 9 - 15
Registration begins Monday, Nov. 8 and continues as space permits. Contact the park for more information.

Volunteer Coaches and Parent Council Members wanted! Call the park for more information!

Job Opportunities:

Warming Room Attendants Needed! Various parks in South Minneapolis are looking for responsible individuals to supervise Warming Rooms and Skating Rinks on evenings, weekends, and school release days. Training is provided. Pay starts at \$8.10/hr. Call McRae Park, 370-4909 for more information or to obtain an application.

Thanks to our Sponsors!

Close to Home would like to thank the following local businesses and churches in our community for their generous financial contributions to the production and mailing of this newsletter. We appreciate their assistance in keeping communications strong in the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood. We also encourage residents to support these local businesses so that they can continue to be a strong and vital sector of our community.

Patron Level

Family Dental Clinic, 45th & Chicago Minnehaha Animal Hospital, 48th & Chicago Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, 47th & Chicago Pepito's Restaurant, 48th & Chicago South Chicago Avenue Business Alliance (SCABA) Southside Community Clinic, 43rd & 4th St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 45th & 3rd

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Adrian's Tavern, 48th & Chicago
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Chicago Deli, 48th & Chicago
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Dick's Metropolitan Carpet, 48th & Chicago
Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, 46th and 4th Ave.
Ken & Norm's Liquors, 48th & Chicago
Shop in the City, 48th & Chicago
Southside Chiropractic, P.A., 48th & Chicago

Partner Level

*new sponsors in 2004

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Help keep *Close to Home* coming to your door by sending in a voluntary subscription of \$15.00 or more, and you'll receive a colorful 2004 decal! Combined with the business and church sponsorships, your donations support a

significant portion of the newsletter printing and mailing costs. Please keep them coming!

CLOSE TO HOME VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTION DONATION

□ \$15	□ \$25	□ \$50	☐ Other	
Name _				
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Make your check payable to FRNNG, Inc. and mail this form and your check to:

FRNNG, Inc. 1620 East 46th St. Mpls, MN 55407

NOTE: In sending in your subscription payment, you automatically become a member of FRNNG with all applicable voting rights. If, however, you are interested in FRNNG membership without making a subscription contribution, please check the membership only box below, fill out this form and mail it to FRNNG. Thank you.

☐ FRNNG membership only

Close To Home is the official publication of the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group, Inc., and is published six times per year by the FRNNG Communications Committee.

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Contributors:

Patrick Aylward, Pastor Louise Bender, Council Member Scott Benson, Linda Bowers, Willie Bridges, Margo Casey, Jennifer Hayes, Cathy Lue

Articles, photos, and announcements of interest to the FRN Community are welcome.

Call 721-5424 or Fax 721-4539

E-mail: frnng@mtn.org

Copy deadline for the next issue is January 7

The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group, Inc. established in 1965

1620 East 46th Street Minneapolis, MN 55407 FRN Info Line 721-5424 Fax: 721-4539

E-mail: frnng@mtn.org Community Organizer Cathy Lue

2004-2005 FRNNG Board

- *Executive Committee Officers
 - *President Willie Bridges
 - *1st V.P. Kathleen Fluegel
 - *2nd V.P. Paulette Wilson
 - *Treasurer Patrick Aylward
 - *Secretary Sully Gilbert

*Field Neighborhood Rep. Rod Taylor *Regina Neighborhood Rep. Nancy Kaiser

*Northrop Neighborhood Rep. Karen Pratt Business: Meredith Fox/Mike Zabel • 721-5424

Communications: Gary Johnson • 827-4979 Community and Safety: Herb Gysler • 823-4264

Housing: Stearline Rucker • 721-5424 Parks: Jon Steadland • 722-9661

Other Committees/Projects

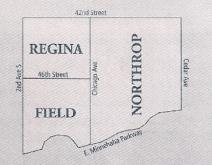
Education: Gerry Sell Fund Raising: Staff

Neighborhood Tutoring Project: Sandra Smith Teen Job/Opportunity Fair: Needs daytime volunteer

Useful Phone Numbers

8th Ward Council Robert Lilligren 673-2208
11th Ward Council Scott Benson 673-2211
Sue Roethele CCP/SAFE 673-2839
Byron Cross SAFE Officer 673-2958
Housing Inspector 673-5858
Senior HelpLine 729-5499
McRae Park Director Jennifer Hayes 370-4909

Airport Noise Complaints 726-9411



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1620 East 46th Street Minneapolis, MN 55407



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