

# CLOSE TO HOME

THE FIELD REGINA NORTHROP NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP NEWSLETTER

November/December 2014

## A Night on 48th Street Returns

Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group is hosting its 6th annual Night on 48th celebration, **Saturday, November 8th at Turtle Bread from 7pm-9pm**. This annual event celebrates our neighborhood and serves as a fundraiser with proceeds to benefit FRNNG and the many activities the organization supports throughout the neighborhood. The event features a silent auction, wine raffle and the great jazz music of Court's in Session. Turtle Bread & Pizza Biga will be providing appetizers, pizza, desserts with a beer & wine cash bar.



A Night on 48th tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. To purchase tickets online or for more information, go to [www.frnng.org](http://www.frnng.org) or call FRNNG at 612.721.5424.

If you would like to further support this event, you can support the Wine Raffle by donating 2 or more bottles of wine. To purchase, go to Cork Dork Wine Shop at 4726 Cedar and receive a 20% discount on your donation. Or consider contributing to the Silent Auction with a donation of a new item valued at least \$75.00

### Thank you to our Night on 48th sponsors:

- *Cork Dork Wine Company*
- *Turtle Bread Company*
- *Jones Financial Group*
- *Southside Chiropractic*
- *Southside Dental Clinic*
- *Minnehaha Animal Hospital*
- *SCABA*
- *Wings Financial*



## President's Letter

Hello Field/Regina/Northrup Neighbors:

Your FRNN Board & Committees, and especially all of our crucial volunteers from the neighborhood, have been busy over the last few months: we've had our block parties with "National- Night-Out"; the Twin Cities Marathon coming through our neighborhood and the annual "Southside Sprint" bike race. We had "clean sweep" in some of FRN neighborhoods; we had antique cars on display; a parade celebrating FRNN; an acknowledgement of the Lee home on Columbus Ave., which made the National Historic Register. We had people cleaning Minnehaha Creek, and we had people coaching our kids in various activities at McRae Park. I want to applaud every person who has volunteered their time to these events. These are some of the things that make our neighborhood such a great place to live.

Now we find ourselves again, with another seasonal change. Before long, it will start to get cold, and you know that snow will follow soon enough. It's a good idea, when it gets cold and nasty, to kindly check on your elderly neighbors on your block, to make sure they are doing alright, and maybe even volunteer to shovel their sidewalks for them. One day, those "elderly folks" are going to be us! Especially during this season, remember that we have great stores and restaurants right here in our own FRN neighborhoods that would appreciate our patronage and support by "buying local."

Lastly, I've noticed while walking in our neighborhoods sometimes, that there are quite a few fellow walkers, who are so busy staring down at the ground that they forget to observe the rest of their environment around them. Remember when out and about, that it's important to not only to watch your feet for safety, but also to be aware of your surroundings and the people around you, for your own safety and security.

Happy Holidays FRNN,

*Willie Bridges*  
FRNNG President

# From the Neighborhood

## Implementation of 35W Gateway Project Enters Final Phases



The 62 Crosstown Gateway Project is entering its final phases of plan implementation with the Department of Transportation, City of Minneapolis and neighborhood groups considering the “greening” of the sound barrier walls and plots of land adjacent to the walls. This includes the “gateway” thoroughfares through neighborhoods bordering 35W South. The sound-barrier walls were constructed as part of the crosstown redesign with the plan targeting reconfiguration of Interstate 35W & Highway 62 Crosstown intersections, installation of sound-barrier walls, replanting of trees/plants, redesign of bridges spanning 35W, 62 Crosstown, Lyndale and Nicollet Avenues and additional efforts taken to reflect and integrate with neighborhood and community planning.

The implementation of the final phases includes the design and installation of city and neighborhood signage welcoming neighbors and directing others into our communities. Recently, community members may have observed the building of stone-faced pillars at several key intersections within these neighborhoods that will include names

of the neighborhoods abutting or near these intersections. Neighborhood groups are pleased also to report that pillars and signage will be installed at bridges at 50th Street, Stevens and 2nd Avenues as well as 42nd Street, Stevens and 2nd Avenues; neighbors advocated for this type of integration within the broader community. Contractors are currently completing the building of these concrete stone-faced “pillars” with specific signage installation to come in October 2014. This has been an extensive and ambitious planning effort led by Todd Carroll, Department of Transportation Landscape Architect and has involved many residents of our neighboring communities and neighborhood groups including Field Regina Northrop, Kingfield, Tangletown, Hale, Page, Diamond Lake and the city of Richfield. City of Minneapolis Council representatives Elizabeth Glidden and John Quincy have been actively involved in providing support and guidance to assure that state planning kept pace with neighborhood group expectations for input and state responsiveness.

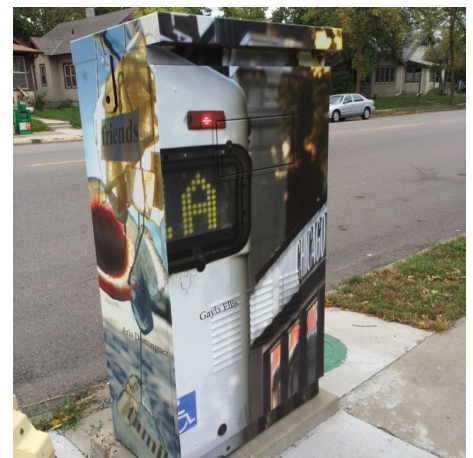
FRNNG extends its thanks to the many volunteers, neighborhood boards and our council representatives for the hours spent reviewing and providing feedback and guidance to the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation in this phase of planning. A remaining phase of the Gateway Project will be tree and plantings to occur on the interior sections of newly installed sound-barrier walls along 35W south. Information will be provided as it becomes available.

### Utility Box Wraps Project

The City of Minneapolis has worked with its neighborhood groups to sponsor an anti-graffiti initiative that promotes the integration of art within our neighborhoods and helps with the reduction of graffiti. The City of

Minneapolis permits citizen groups and non-profit organizations to paint or wrap City-owned utility boxes.

During the past two years several neighborhood groups have worked with the City of Minneapolis to sponsor an arts competition to support the installation of various art-wraps on these city utility boxes throughout the city. A number of local artists were selected to participate through their art schematics that are able to be “wrapped” around the utility boxes.

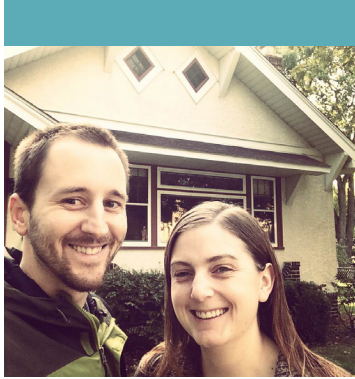


Field Regina Northrop is participating in this initiative and has identified 13 primary intersections where it proposes to install art wraps. Intersections include intersections at 42nd, 46th, 48th and 50th streets as they intersect with Chicago, Park, and Portland and 4th Avenues South. While the Greening Committee has identified 13 intersections for consideration by the City of Minneapolis, it is important to note that plans will need to reflect budget limitations, as necessary. So, prioritizing of placements remains an important consideration.

FRNNG Greening invites community input into this planning and prioritization process at:

[thegreeningcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:thegreeningcommittee@gmail.com)

# Our HOME ENERGY UPDATE



Each home is different and unique just as the inhabitants are. As a homeowner, the surprises never end. “The more you know about your house, the more empowered you can be about the decisions that you make about your

home,” said FRN resident and Home Energy Squad participant, Lindsey Feiner. Last April she and her partner Paul had a home energy consultation with the Squad. One thing Lindsey said about her experience with having her home energy visit was that after hearing from her neighbor that they had no insulation in their walls, “we thought, well we probably don’t have any insulation either, which is why it feels so cold all the time. It turned out that we did have insulation, so that was lucky.”

A recent report on housing stock in Minnesota released by Center for Energy and Environment and the Neighborhood Energy Connection states that states that “over 400,000 homes, or at least one-quarter of all Minnesota homes, lack wall insulation, adequate attic insulation, or both.”

Besides the welcomed news about having insulation in the walls, Lindsey said, “the single most valuable thing I learned was that our water heater and furnace were older than we thought they were when we purchased the home and that our water heater, specifically, is running on ‘borrowed time.’ The Home Energy Squad team gave us the symptoms of what to look for of when it starts to fail.”

According to the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Information Center, the average life expectancy for a water heater in Minnesota is 10-12 years. On most water heaters the manufactured date is on the label, however, many times the install date is not recorded. It’s a good idea to keep track of manuals and install details for mechanicals and appliances in your home.

Lindsey said “I would definitely recommend the program. There is always something you can learn about your home and these people are true experts.” From her partner Paul’s perspective the value is in the savings, “I’m cost conscious, and from that standpoint, the visit pays for itself in energy bill savings. In actual fact, it would have cost us more not to do this.”

If you would like to take advantage of the Home Energy Squad Enhanced program, call Beth Greeninger to schedule at 612-335-5874 or email her at: [bgreeninger@mncee.org](mailto:bgreeninger@mncee.org).

## Open Forum

### Hiawatha Academies Proposes New Building and Temporary Variance to Include High School Grades 9, 10, 11

**November 19, 6:30-8 pm**

**Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church**

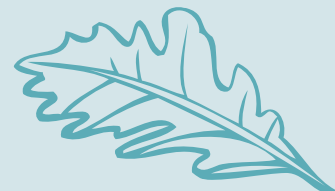
The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group is sponsoring an informational and discussion meeting for the residents of the Northrop Neighborhood about the proposed construction of a new building by Hiawatha Academies. The new building proposed is to be constructed on the site of the newly-opened Charter School at 17th Ave. & 46th Street S. Construction would start in spring 2015 and would be open for the fall 2015.

Hiawatha Academies’ immediate intention for the new building would be for temporary use as a high school for grades 9, 10, and 11. A variance is the current requirement for this school zone in order for Hiawatha Academies to now include high school grades 9, 10 & 11. That variance request has been submitted to the City of Minneapolis by Hiawatha Academies to be effective for a period of five (5) years.

When considering approval/rejection of a variance, The City of Minneapolis is interested in the opinions and response of the surrounding residents in the Northrop Neighborhood (only). This meeting may be the most effective opportunity for you to hear from and ask questions to Hiawatha Academies, and to voice your opinion about the exception Hiawatha Academies is requesting.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, questions or comments can be e-mailed to Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group and they will be relayed at the meeting to the City of Minneapolis.

**Email: [frnng@frnng.org](mailto:frnng@frnng.org)**



# From the Neighborhood

## Volunteers Needed for Maintaining Lands Adjacent to Sound Barrier Walls

Previously, the Minnesota Department of Transportation entered into agreements with the City of Minneapolis for the maintenance of lands adjacent to and abutting 35W South sound barrier walls along 2nd Avenue. Since the installation of new sound-barrier walls in 2008-2012 (including plantings of trees, plants, flowers) the Minnesota Department of Transportation has retained its authority to maintain these lands as part of the revitalization of its thoroughfare “gateways” at 42nd, 46th, 50th and 60th streets that are or near several neighborhoods in the City of Minneapolis. As part of the DOT’s effort to support different types of partnerships with community and business groups to achieve mutual goals of preserving the vitality of neighborhoods and reduce the appearance of blight along public thoroughfares, FRNNG believes this to be a time when partnering with DOT and the City of Minneapolis may work well.

Neighbors may have observed that DOT is not able to cut grass growing on these lands on a regular basis – for this past summer, this resulted in grass and weeds growing to 3-4 feet heights. As part of the Gateway planning project, the FRNNG Greening committee discussed with DOT representatives, city of Minneapolis Public Works and City Councilwoman Elizabeth Glidden about the prospect of entering into a partnership where FRNNG and its community volunteers could respond more quickly to neighborhood needs in maintaining these lands. In this way, the neighborhood avoids the appearance of blight and neglect. It also provides opportunities for additional planting of flowers and plants supported by FRNNG.

FRNNG Greening volunteer activities could include individual and team-

volunteer tasks such as: moderate weeding on lands that abut sound barrier walls; watering (utilizing city-authorized water access points); mowing; raking; trash pick-up; planting of annual/perennial flowers plants and trees; and other land maintenance tasks. FRNNG and the Greening Committee will not be maintaining the neighborhood and city monuments as part of the I-35W & Hwy 62 Gateway Project (see page 2). FRNNG’s Greening Committees’ efforts may serve as a model for other Minneapolis neighborhoods that wish to fight blight and improve the appearance of their communities.

The permissions and partnership agreement with the DOT and the City of

Minneapolis was approved for signature by FRNNG Board President Willie Bridges at its August Board meeting. Added signatures by the City of Minneapolis Public Works Department and DOT will come soon so that the Greening Volunteer Work Plan can begin late fall 2014 and early spring, 2015 for certain. To date, several residents have volunteered and the FRNNG Greening Committee is looking for more volunteers so that the Greening Committee is able to cover the several blocks from 42nd to 54th St.

Are you interested in helping this effort? Volunteers, ideas and suggestions are welcome and should be sent to: [thegreeningcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:thegreeningcommittee@gmail.com)

## Close to Home Changes

When Communications Chair Chris Schommer took up the position six months ago he set about taking a look at all of FRNNG’s publishing platforms. Our webpage, Facebook and Twitter feeds, and of course Close to Home are all being updated to help improve our public outreach across all platforms. Our neighborhood is a diverse place and we want to be able to connect all of our neighbors using a variety of means.

FRNNG hired Minneapolis based designer Jen Nagorski ([jmnagorski@gmail.com](mailto:jmnagorski@gmail.com)) to take a new look at a Close to Home and this is the result. We hope you like it. We have a new printer too, who is able to give us these color pages for a minimal cost. We plan on taking this design online as we shift our webpage to the WordPress platform in the coming months to allow for more digital publishing options in addition to our Facebook and Twitter feeds which are active already.

Of course as things change there will be some learning experiences for us along the way. You probably noticed your copy of Close to Home arrived in an envelope last month. This was due to another printer printing the address form upside down, causing the open edge to be at the bottom and thus making it incompatible with post office sorting. Live and learn!

If you are interested in supporting this effort online or in print, you can attend one of our monthly Communications meetings at Sovereign Grounds Coffee Shop on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm, or send an email to: [communications@frnng.org](mailto:communications@frnng.org) with your ideas on how you can help. You can find us on Facebook or Twitter too.

Close to Home is written by neighbors for neighbors, and we need your support. Thanks to everyone who made this issue a full four pages longer than normal. The deadline for the Jan/Feb issue by December 3rd.

## Neighborhood Planters

Have you noticed a touch of class has been added to the FRNNG neighborhood? There are eight beautiful planter containers full of fresh seasonal arrangements displayed throughout the neighborhood. TangleTown Gardens skillful designers worked with the Business committee to create seasonal planters to accent a few of the businesses.

First round of planters were placed around the neighborhood in the spring of 2014. They are currently located outside of four different businesses: Eddie's Barber Shop (43rd St. & 4th Ave.), Southside Dental Administration (43rd St. & 4th Ave.), The Braid Factory (46th St. & Chicago Ave.), and between Hallmark Cleaners & Nokomis Cycle (46th St. & Bloomington Ave). Look for additional planter containers



*Photo courtesy of Robbyn Overall*

coming soon. The Business committee is currently working on placing more planters in the neighborhood to continue the beautification project. The season is quickly changing, so keep your eye out for new arrangements in the planters.

## Home Energy Squad Enhanced in FRN

FRN Neighborhood Group is buying down the cost of Home Energy Squad Enhanced visits to help residents save money and energy

Home Energy Squad Enhanced visits are available at a discounted rate for a limited time! The first 100 FRN residents who schedule a visit only have to pay \$30 (instead of \$70) thanks to a partnership with the FRN Neighborhood Group and the Center for Energy and Environment.

During the Home Energy Squad Enhanced visit a team of two trained professionals will help you identify opportunities to make your home more comfortable while lowering your energy costs. In two hours or less, they will look at your insulation levels, check your home for air leaks, test the heating system and water heater and install lots of energy saving products like door weather stripping, a programmable thermostat and you get a full report at the end. For more information on the program or to sign up contact Beth Greeninger at 612-335-5874 or [bgreeninger@mncee.org](mailto:bgreeninger@mncee.org).

Home Energy Squad Enhanced is provided by CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy in partnership with the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), a local nonprofit that has been helping Minnesota residents reduce their energy use for 35 years.



## Close to Home

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

### Editor & Layout:

Chris Schommer

### Contributors:

Councilmember John Quincy, Willie Bridges, Tim Price, Shelley Nystrom, Shannon Guernsey, Trevor Born, Ben Elliott, Karen Young, Hannah Strong, Ryan Holweger, Nate Lansing, and Chris Schommer

Articles, photos, and announcements to the FRN Community are welcome. [emailcommunications@frnng.org](mailto:emailcommunications@frnng.org) or Call 721-5424

Copy deadline for the next issue: December 3rd, 2014

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*Established in 1965*

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### 2014-2015 FRNNG Board

*\*Executive Committee Officers*

*\*President: Willie Bridges*

*\*1st V.P.: Tom Powers*

*\*Treasurer: Shannon Guernsey*

*\*Secretary: Shelley Nystrom*

*\*Field Neighborhood Rep: Barbara Harris*

*\*Regina Neighborhood Rep:*

*Kori/Nate Stephens*

*\*Northrop N. Neighborhood Rep:*

*Matt Steele*

*\*Northrop S. Neighborhood Rep: Mike Lyon*

*Business: Karen Young*

*Communications: Chris Schommer*

*Community and Safety: Ben Elliott*

**Education: Open**

*Greening: Ted Moe*

*Housing: Ian Campbell & Nate Lansing-*

*Parks: Ryan Holweger*

**Programs: Open**

# From the Neighborhood

## Tour the Crisis Nursery

The Crisis Nursery has settled into its new home and would like to get to know its neighbors better. Please consider coming in for a tour Nov. 11 or Dec. 11 at 5:30 p.m. RSVP to Abbie Hugunin at [ahugunin@crisisnursery.org](mailto:ahugunin@crisisnursery.org) or 612-767-8470. We can also use volunteers. Come cook a meal for the children in our care! Learn more by visiting [www.crisisnursery.org/volunteer](http://www.crisisnursery.org/volunteer).

Finally, with the holiday season nearly upon us we know many families are looking to give back to their community. Consider supporting families by giving to our Holiday Helper program. New, unwrapped toys for children newborn to age 6 will be accepted Mon-Fri. Nov. 24-Dec. 22, 9 am-5 pm at 4544 4th Ave. So.

The Crisis Nursery encourages toys that promote cultural diversity and asks that donated toys do not require batteries or promote violence (such as toy guns, war action figures, etc.) The Crisis Nursery is also grateful for donations of holiday wrapping paper, tape, and bows and gift items for parents such as bath and kitchen items and winter accessories. For more information, please visit [www.crisisnursery.org](http://www.crisisnursery.org).

## Navigating Medicare for 2015

Wednesday, November 5, 1 - 3 pm.

The Sages Ministry of St. Joan of Arc Church, 4537 Third Ave. So. is sponsoring a workshop for anyone new to Medicare or those wondering about changes to the plan for the upcoming year. Learn about statewide programs that may help with Medicare costs for lower income enrollees, updates on Rx plans, information on health care plans that can supplement Medicare, and how you can change plans. Open enrollment ends December 7. The workshop speaker is Bob Grams, Medicare counselor with the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging and the Senior Link-

## Letters from the Board: Vice President Tom Powers



As Vice President, I am responsible for trying to fill Willie's shoes when he is not available. I also chair the

Finance Committee and take care of the some of the administrative duties in the office. I served as FRNNG Treasurer for several years in the late 1980's, then scaled my involvement back as our kids reached school age. Now that I have retired from careers at Control Data and Minneapolis Public Schools, I have the time and few excuses for not being involved.

My wife, Carol Kennedy, and I have lived in our house in the Regina

Neighborhood since 1981. Carol preceded me by five years. She told me if she was going to marry me I had to move in from the burbs. It was an easy transition. It has been a joy watching our neighborhood change. In 1981 there were a lot of young families with kids on our block. Gradually, those kids including our two grew up and we became a block of mostly empty nesters. Now as some of the old neighbors downsize and move out, we are seeing a lot more kids again. I expect we will be making that move in the next few years. Unfortunately, that means we will probably have to leave the neighborhood we love because we have very few senior housing options. But until that time we will continue to enjoy all the great amenities and neighbors in FRN.

Age Line. The workshop will be held in Hospitality Hall and is free and open to all. Please call the Parish Center to register: 612-523-8205.

## SCABA Needs Storage Space

Attention neighbors. The South Chicago Avenue Business Alliance is looking for a storage space located as close to the corner as possible. Our current space is to be remodeled and will no longer be available to us as of the end of December 2014. We are in need of a space of about 1/2 a garage stall for the 48th and Chicago holiday decorations, event chairs and tables, and a couple odds and ends for events on the corner. If you have a space available or a contact person for a space please contact Mike Kmiecik at Bikes and Pieces (612)203-6077. Thank you.

## Join the SCABA Annual Meeting

Attention Business Owners near the 48th and Chicago Business Alliance. Always wanted to become a member of the 48th and Chicago Business Alliance? If your business is located in our area of service we'd love to meet you at our annual membership sign up lunch and general meeting. Membership is \$125/year and the meeting happens on Wednesday, November 12th 2014 at Noon. Please contact Mike Kmiecik at Bikes and Pieces for more information: (612)203-6077.



## A low-salt diet for our lakes and streams

A little salt goes a long way for managing snow and ice. But too much salt – which may be less than you think – can cause irreversible damage to nearby lakes and streams.

The danger of ice and snow on roads and sidewalks is a fact of life in Minnesota, and salt and sand can help reduce ice and add traction. When that snow inevitably melts, however, most of that salt and sand wash directly into nearby waters. Currently, salt use is not regulated, but it poses a real threat to clean water. The chloride contained in one teaspoon of road salt can permanently pollute five gallons of water. Chloride upsets aquatic environments and can kill birds and some plants.

Many people use more salt than they need. But using more salt does not melt more ice, or melt it faster. In reality, salt only works when there is enough snow or ice for it to react with and excess crystals will eventually become a pollutant. It's best to use less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet. One pound of salt fills up a 12-ounce coffee mug.

### Here are some easy ways you can help reduce salt pollution:

- Apply salt or other de-icers before snow storms, so you will need less later.
- Shovel regularly to minimize ice buildup.
- Break up ice with an ice scraper before deciding if sand or a de-icer is necessary for traction – you may find that it's not.
- Use sand instead of salt in below 15 degree temperatures
- Sweep up any salt that's visible on dry pavement and use it elsewhere or throw it away.

By using salt wisely, you can save money, time and the environment without sacrificing safety. Learn more at [www.minnehahacreek.org/salt](http://www.minnehahacreek.org/salt)

## Operation Clean Sweep Pilot a Success



*Operation Clean Sweep in action*

Did you experience the benefits of 'CleanSweep'? On Saturday, September 20th, volunteers spent over three hours helping 11 blocks clear out and clean-up! In coordination with Minneapolis' solid waste department, we removed large quantities of unwanted debris, mitigated graffiti and picked up litter along our streets!

The event was more rewarding than even anticipated, as it directly helped to improve the quality of life in our homes. Not only that, but it was a good way to meet neighbors and make a tangible impact. While the September 20th efforts were only a pilot program, FRNNG hopes to expand 'CleanSweep' in 2015.

Interested in making 'CleanSweep' efforts a greater priority in FRN? With enough volunteers, we could collect hazardous materials, increase the number of blocks serviced and create a team of volunteers to regularly pick up litter and mitigate graffiti. Let the committee know you are interested: [communityandsafety@frnng.org](mailto:communityandsafety@frnng.org)

## More "We Love Our Neighborhood" Lawn Signs Available

Strong support for the FRNNG lawn sign initiative has empowered the board to further invest in this community building effort! Request a sign today at: [www.frnng.org/lawnsigns](http://www.frnng.org/lawnsigns)

We plan to deliver FRNNG lawn signs until Thanksgiving. Please note that we will continue to collect sign requests all winter long in preparation for spring delivery!

In the meantime, consider how you could best support this initiative: volunteer to deliver signs, display the FRNNG sign in your own lawn and perhaps make a financial donation. Any financial donation you choose to provide FRNNG allows our neighborhood to have flexible funds to react more quickly to neighborhood priorities - such as graffiti prevention and other beautification initiatives. Thanks for making our neighborhood the vibrant place it is!



# 11th Ward Update

Council Member John Quincy



## Dear Neighbors:

Thank you for the opportunity to keep you updated on what is happening at City Hall. Budget season is upon us yet again, and because of forethought and several long range financial plans that are now paying off.

The Mayor and the City Council have worked hard to get the City's financial house in order over the past 12 years. This year's recommended budget calls for a 2.4% levy increase. More than half of this proposed increase is simply to account for inflation. Even with this modest increase, half of Minneapolis' residential properties will see no increase – or will even see a decrease – in the City portion of their property taxes.

I am privileged to serve as the Chair of the Ways & Means/Budget Committee. The City Council is in the process of debating the proposed City budget with final approval of the 2015 budget scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, 2014. Providing vital city services, investing in our infrastructure and ensuring our public safety are the cornerstones of our program-based budget process and reflect the vision and values for our city. Minneapolis is a growing and vibrant world-class city with a flourishing economy and a pristine environment, where all people are safe, healthy and have equitable opportunities for success and happiness.

Of the City's total proposed \$1.2 billion operating and capital budget for 2015 only about 20 percent is funded through property taxes. Your property taxes fund basic City services such as

- Police and fire
- Emergency response through 911
- Criminal prosecutions
- Traffic control
- Snow removal and street sweeping

## Highlights from the mayor's 2015 proposed budget include:

- Funding to support 10 more police officers, increasing the total to 860 sworn officers.
- An additional \$1 million in affordable housing, focused on family housing.
- \$3.5 million to fully fund the investment in the redesign of Nicollet Mall.
- Planning dollars for the redevelopment of the Upper Harbor Terminal, to ensure north Minneapolis has its own valuable riverfront amenities.
- Two new positions in the City Coordinator's Office to focus exclusively on the City's equity work, ensuring the best possible equity outcomes in every department and every division.
- \$1.14 million to fund body cameras for the Police Department.



You can get the details of the proposed budget and schedule of hearings for each department online at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/Mpls2015BudgetProcess>

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

*John Quincy*  
Minneapolis City Council Member, Ward 11

## HELP SHAPE OUR CITY

### Apply for openings on Minneapolis boards and commissions

Applications are now being accepted for a number of open boards and commissions positions that the City Council and Mayor will appoint this fall. Board and commission members in the City of Minneapolis provide valuable insights, help shape key policy decisions and provide community-based input into administration of services. To see the opportunities available, please click here:

<http://tinyurl.com/MplsVolunteerBoardOpenings>



## McRae Park FIELD UPDATES

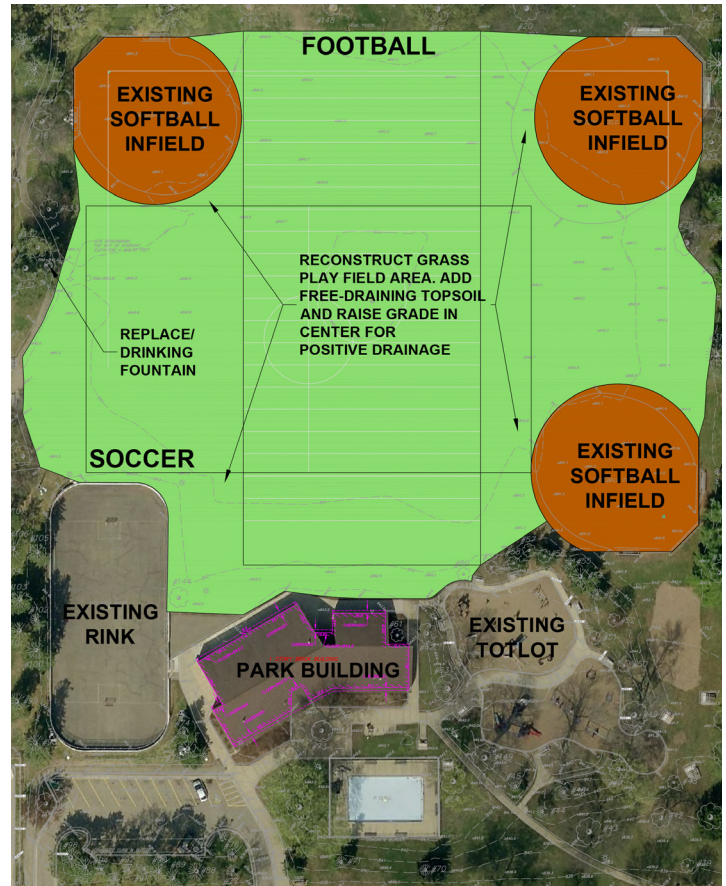
Earlier this summer, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) started the process for completing improvements

to the athletic fields at McRae Park. The improvements will be focused on the football field and the adjacent ball diamonds on the north half of the park. The goal for the park board is to improve the quality and safety of the playing fields at McRae, and to connect people through parks and recreation. The fields get a lot of use in the warm months, as well as a busy broomball season in the winter.

The third and final public meeting for the field improvements at McRae Park was held on Tuesday, September 30th, and it was a great success. Over the course of three public meetings, a strong concept was developed that will guide the construction a new field next summer. Elements of the concept are the field itself, irrigation, drinking fountains, a pitcher's mound on ball field one, drainage, and a rain garden. In order to preserve the new field, the broomball rinks will be moved apart, with one on each side of the football field.

Once the preferred concept is approved by the park board planning committee, it will be voted on by the MPRB. Construction is tentatively planned to begin in July 2015, with the fields ready for action the following summer.

Stay up to date on the project by visiting [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org) and clicking on the current projects link.



## Old Northrop School Building Open after Nine Year Vacancy

Hiawatha Academies opened its doors to 150 kindergartners and first graders in August of this year at the old Northrop School on 1611 E. 46th St. The new school, Hiawatha Leadership Academy-Northrop, was sold by the Minneapolis Public School board last year after being vacant since 2005. Minneapolis Public Schools board member Alberto Monserrate and former Hiawatha Academies board member recently stated, "I'm thrilled that after nine years of being vacant, the Northrop school building will be filled with students again. Hiawatha Leadership Academy-Northrop

will be a great asset to our community, and is a great win for Minneapolis kids."

The newly remodeled building opened to the public on October 1 through an Open House where neighbors, parents, and community partners joined in celebration. Neighbors and Northrop alumni saw all of the work the kindergartners and 1st graders have done since the beginning of the school year.

### The \$4.9 Million renovations include:

- New addition - 22 K-4 classrooms, computer lab, music/art room, gym
- Refurbished playground and playfield
- Renewed landscaping on full site including additional trees, shrubs, and sod
- Interior renovations of entire building-windows, carpet, ceilings, roof, and paint
- New energy efficient boilers for heating

In the words of Principal, Ms. Daniela Vasan, "This is an opportunity to welcome neighbors, parents, and partners into our beautiful new building. We have an incredible staff that has led

*Continued on page 11*





*Tips for*

# SELLING YOUR HOME WITH KIDS

*By Nate Lansing*

Prepping and maintaining your home for sale, especially when you have kids, can be an extremely stressful and nearly impossible task. Every day is a battle to keep the house tidy and days with scheduled showings are the most difficult. As a home owner who recently sold my house with two kids (3 and 1), I can attest to the difficulty of prepping for showings while kids run around dumping toys and spilling juice on the freshly mopped floor.

If you decide to brave the road of selling your home when you have kids, here are some tips to reduce the insanity.

**Declutter** – Prior to putting your home on the market, spend time going through each room and deciding what needs to go. Now is the time to get rid of older toys and outgrown clothes. It might take ten trips to Goodwill but use this as an opportunity to purge. My son tends to gather random items (rocks, rope, feathers, craft projects, etc.) in his room. Unfortunately (for him), this stuff has to go.

**Store the bigger stuff** - Now that you are down to the toys that your kids actually play with and that you won't mind hauling to your new home, it's time to whittle it down further. Decide what toys will get used most often and store the larger items (push toys, lego tables, pop up tents, etc.). This stuff is more difficult to deal with when you have a showing scheduled in less than an hour.

**Stage kids' spaces for pictures** - If you have a great kids' play space or have worked hard to decorate bedrooms, show it off for the pictures. Potential families will enjoy seeing how you used the space. Do not try to keep the initial photo staging (like setting a tea party for the stuffed animals) perfect for each showing. You will go insane.

**Keep storage totes or bins on hand** - Before a showing, the bins can be loaded quickly with small toys and stuffed animals and stored in a closet, the garage, or the back of the car.

**Have a pre-showing checklist** - Have a checklist of all the areas of the house that need to be checked prior to leaving house (toilet lids down, floors vacuumed, diaper pail emptied, beds made, etc.) This reduces the chance that you will miss something

in those hectic moments before running out the door. I've learned that kids tend to forget to flush after using the bathroom; having a checklist eliminates any "surprises" for potential buyers.

**Keep the back of your car empty** - The back of your car is a great place to toss any last minute clutter when you've run out of time. When we sold our home, the back of our car contained anything from dirty laundry to the dog.

**Occupy the kids** – We all know how difficult it is when the kids are making a mess faster than you can clean! Set aside screen time for the hour before showings so you can clean without interruption. Purchase special toys, activity books, and games that are only brought out while you are getting the house ready for a showing. Bring them out in a limited space, such as the dining room table, and leave that space as the last area cleaned.

*“Do not try to keep the initial photo staging (like setting a tea party for the stuffed animals) perfect for each showing. You will go insane.”*

**Snacks and a plan** - Showings are commonly scheduled during mealtimes, so having snacks on hand to ward off hunger induced crabbiness, while you're stuck out of your house, is crucial. Don't bust your new home budget eating out during every showing! Have a plan of easy places to go with the kids.

**Have the kids help clean up!** -Take as long as you need to laugh at this.

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## **About the author**

Nate is a husband to Jenni and dad to Owen (5) and Helena (3) and lives with his family on the 4800 block of 13th Ave. Nate is a real estate agent who specializes in helping others with kids sell their homes. Nate can be contacted at [nate@sellingwithkids.com](mailto:nate@sellingwithkids.com) and on [www.sellingwithkids.com](http://www.sellingwithkids.com)

## Old Northrop School Building

*Open after Nine Year Vacancy*

*Continued from page 9*

us to a wonderful start this year. We are thankful for all of the community support which helps ensure every single child receives a quality education.”

Hiawatha Academies, founded in 2007, strives to empower all of its students with the knowledge, character, and leadership skills to graduate from college and serve the common good. Its flagship campus, Hiawatha Leadership Academy – Morris Park, serves 400 students in grades K through 4. Over the past four years, Hiawatha has opened two more schools: Hiawatha Leadership Academy – Northrop, serving 150 students in grades K and 1, and Hiawatha College Prep, which serves over 300 students in grade 5 through 8. In the fall of 2015 Hiawatha Collegiate High School will open its doors to 104 9th grade students. The schools are consistently recognized by the Star Tribune as Beating the Odds Schools, and the organization is considered a leader in working to ensure that all Minneapolis students receive an excellent education.

To learn more about Hiawatha Academies please contact Director of Community Engagement Ms. Ambar Hanson at ahanson@hiawathaacademies.org or visit their website at [www.hiawathaacademies.org](http://www.hiawathaacademies.org)

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## Wanted: Word Press Designer

FRNNG is seeking a designer to move our current webpage to a Wordpress platform. This paid position will involve template modification to reflect the design of Close to Home, and the transfer of data from our current CMS to Wordpress. Possible training opportunities as well. Please send your project proposal, your hourly rate, and your Wordpress experience to [communications@frnng.org](mailto:communications@frnng.org)



## FRNNG Meeting Information

### Full Board

3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm,  
Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church

17th Ave. and 46th St. The full board does not meet in July or December.

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

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

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

4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, McRae Park Rec Center

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

1st Monday of each month at 6 pm, Turtle Bread 48th & Chicago

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

1st Thursday of each month beginning in October, at 6:30 pm, LNPN

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

1st Monday of each month at 7 pm, McRae Park Rec Center

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

2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at Turtle Bread Restaurant,  
48th and Chicago

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

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

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Help keep FRNNG working for you by sending in a donation of \$15 or more. Combined with the business and church donations, your gift supports Close to Home and other activities of the organization. FRNNG is a 501.3c organization and all gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

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*Inside this Issue*

*A whole new Look for Close to Home*

For the first time your local neighborhood news letter is coming to you in full color! Thanks to the affordability of modern printing we will now be able to print color photographs and graphics to help highlight our stories. We have updated everything and hope you enjoy the new look as well as the great articles in this issue from your neighbors. More details about Close to Home are available on page 4.