

CLOSE TO HOME

THE FIELD REGINA NORTHROP NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP NEWSLETTER

March/April 2015

Announcing the 2015 Nokomis Farmers Market

by Alexandra Cortes, Executive Director of Neighborhood Roots MN

If you need yet another reason to look forward to summer, look no further! This June will mark the debut of a weekly Wednesday evening Nokomis Farmers Market, to take place just south of the Field Regina Northrop neighborhoods. After piloting a market at 52nd and Chicago three times during summer 2014, the Neighborhood Roots organization is pleased to be expanding the market to a 16-week season in 2015. The location will remain the same—the parking lot of

Continued on page 2

Annual Meeting April 30

*You are invited to attend
the 2015*

Field Regina Northrop Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar
for Thursday
April 30—7:00 p.m.
at McRae Park
906 East 47th Street

All residents are encouraged to attend the annual meeting to connect with your local elected representatives, meet your current FRN board members, and to determine how your skills might help the neighborhood grow and thrive.

In addition to a financial report, the following speakers are scheduled to speak:

- City Council members Elizabeth Glidden and John Quincy
- Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Commissioner Steffanie Musich
- FRNNG President Willie Bridges

Continued on page 2

President's Letter

Hello Neighbors,

I want to thank you for all your contributions to our Dollar Campaign. The money we raise helps with special events that we have for FRN.

One such event is our neighborhood's Fiftieth Anniversary as FRN, which we are planning for later this spring. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact the FRN office at 612-721-5424. If you have any stories that you can share and write about FRN, from its beginning in 1965 to now, please send them to our communications committee at: communications@frnng.org We are planning this celebration for the end of May.

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Photo courtesy Neighborhood Roots

Photos provided

Nokomis Farmers Market looks forward to a 16-week season at 52nd and Chicago Avenue in 2015.

Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group

1620 East 46th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55407 • 612-721-5424 • frnng.org

Continued from page 1

Annual meeting, continued from page 1

Get involved

Several important positions in the Field Regina Northop Neighborhood Group are open this year. These positions are: Treasurer, Secretary, Second Vice President, Education Committee chair, and Programs Committee chair. If you or someone you know is interested in getting involved in the neighborhood, now is the time! Positions have two-year terms and are limited to six years. Meetings occur on the third Wednesday of every month at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church at 1620 East 46th Street.

If you would like more information about the April 30 annual meeting or the open positions that are listed here, please call the FRNNG office at 612-721-5424 or email frnng@frnng.org

Open positions on the board of directors

Second Vice President

The second vice president sits on the executive committee and will fill in for the first vice president and president in case of absence.

Treasurer

The treasurer is in charge of the financial operations of the group, and ensures that all records and accounts are kept up to date. The treasurer also makes financial records available for examination by the board by creating financial reports for review.

Secretary

The secretary collects minutes for all meetings and ensures that standard

operating procedures are followed. The secretary also makes all reports required by the board and by law, and is in charge of organizing minutes and records.

Education

The chair of the education committee is responsible for enhancing the learning environment of area schools by fostering and encouraging greater neighborhood involvement.

Programs

The chair of the programs committee helps organize large annual events including the annual neighborhood celebration held in late May, Night on 48th Street that occurs in autumn, and a candidates' forum in an election year. ❖

Nokomis Farmers Market, continued from page 1

First Evangelical Free Church at 5150 Chicago Avenue South. The market will take place on Wednesdays from June 17th to September 30. Hours will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in June–August, with a 7 p.m. close during the month of September.

Whether you're on your way home from work or on your way to sports practice, the market will serve as a community venue to grab ingredients for dinner, stock up on locally grown produce for the week, or even enjoy a meal there. Vendors will be a mix of farms and businesses from Neighborhood Roots' Fulton and Kingfield Farmers Markets along with new and emerging vendors with produce, canned and baked goods, prepared foods, crafts, and more. The market will accept SNAP EBT, and have music and activities on a weekly basis.

In order to make the market a success for both the community and the vendors

that will be participating, we'll need your help! Spread the word about the market; tell your neighbors, make plans to meet up with them there, and stay tuned for more updates at [Facebook.com/NokomisMarket](https://www.facebook.com/NokomisMarket) or on Twitter at [@NokomisMarket](https://twitter.com/NokomisMarket).

Or, better yet, lend a hand! Email us at

volunteers@neighborhoodrootsmn.org to find out more about how you can help with market set up or tear down, special activities, and more! And if you're a nearby business owner who's interested in supporting the market, email: sponsor@neighborhoodrootsmn.org to find out more about business sponsorships and promotional opportunities. ❖



Photo courtesy Neighborhood Roots

From the president—and more

President's letter, continued from page 1

If you were involved with helping FRN to get started in its early years, please let us know what was your role. We would like to acknowledge you at our event.

Also, as the weather begins to get warmer, you will begin to see more bikers out and about so please remember to share the roads and watch out for the bikers when crossing main thoroughfares.

I would suggest that we as a community have the last week in June as “Clean the Alley Week,” pulling weeds, cleaning debris, etc. You can buy flower seeds and plant them where we can in the alley, for a nice look. If you have a block club, maybe your block club can do this as an activity.

We are always looking for volunteers for the various committees that we have in FRN. Please consider getting involved with one that interests you. ❖

The Nurse Is In

Nokomis Healthy Seniors invites you to “The Nurse Is In” to get your blood pressure checked, consult with a nurse, or schedule a pedicure. You can also just stop in to chat over a cup of coffee and baked goods. The clinic is free, but there is a \$30 charge for a pedicure.

You're welcome to stop in every Thursday morning from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4120-17th Avenue South. ❖

Spring Retreat Focuses on Gratitude

St. Joan of Arc Church is offering a Spring Retreat: *Developing the Virtue of Gratitude*. The retreat will be held on Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. in Hospitality Hall which is in the lower level of the church. The fee is \$10.

Please call the Parish Center to register: 612-823-8205. St. Joan of Arc Church is located at 4537-3rd Avenue South. ❖

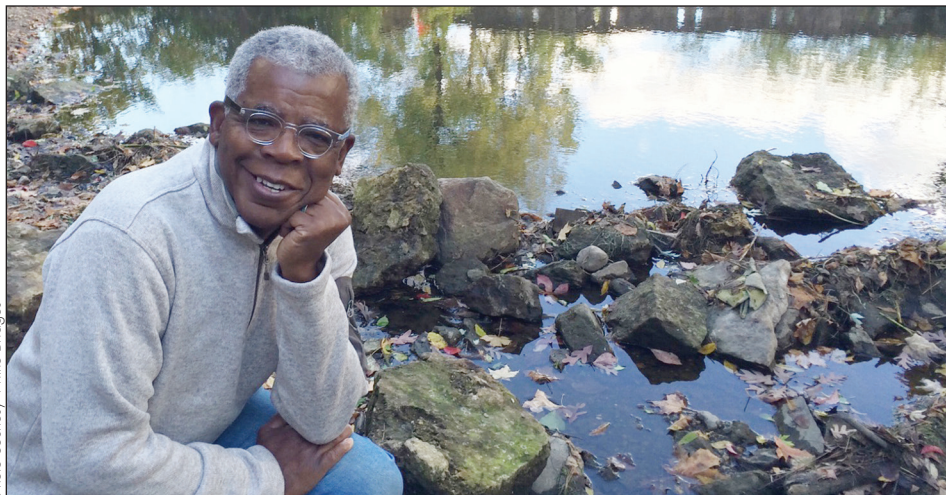


Photo courtesy Willie Bridges

Willie Bridges, president of the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group.

From the Board: Housing Committee

As the new co-chairs of the FRNNG Housing Committee, Ian Campbell and Nate Lansing would like to focus on creating affordable housing opportunities, offering assistance for homeowners looking to make improvements to their homes, and allowing residents to stay in the neighborhood as they age.



Ian Campbell

Ian Campbell has lived in the Northrop neighborhood since 2012 with his wife, Joanna, and 3-year-old daughter Kyla. Ian holds a degree in Urban Studies from the University of Minnesota, and has worked at the Dakota County Community Development Agency in areas of public housing, homeownership, and community development. He is currently pursuing a graduate degree in urban and regional planning.



Nate Lansing

Nate Lansing is husband to Jenni, and dad to Owen (5) and Helena (3). Nate and his family have lived on the 4800-block of 13th Ave since 2013.

Nate is a real estate agent who specializes in helping families with kids buy/sell their homes. Nate is from Colorado and has a degree in finance from the University of Colorado at Boulder. The winters here are growing on him.

About our environment

Planting for Pollinators

by Aleli Balagtas

In a world without bees, your next plate of food would have considerably less variety. By some estimates, one of every three bites of food we take depends on pollinators like bees.

Pollinators are the small creatures—among them bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds—that carry pollen from plant to plant as they forage, unknowingly performing an important step in the production of fruits and seeds.

In recent years, there have been alarming declines in various pollinator populations. According to the USDA, beekeepers lost an average of one-third of their colonies every winter from 2006 to 2011. In the last couple of decades, the monarch butterfly population has declined 90 percent in North America.

This is worrisome. Consider the following: more than 80 percent of plants depend on pollinators for survival. In this country alone, bees and other insect pollinators contribute more than \$24 billion a year to the economy.

This is a global problem, but you can do your part to help solve it. Here's what you can do to establish a pollinator-friendly environment in your own yard.



Common milkweed

Choose native plants. Pollinators and plants that evolved in the same areas generally benefit one another. For example, milkweed attracts monarch butterflies because it is the only plant their caterpillars eat.

Avoid chemicals. Weeds can be controlled with eco-friendly mulch

instead of herbicide, and compost will enrich your soil in place of fertilizer.

Plant a raingarden.

These shallow depressions are planted with native vegetation and provide habitat for pollinators while cleaning stormwater naturally as it soaks into the ground, diverting polluted runoff from our waterways.

These steps (noted above) will help provide food and resources pollinators need to survive, reduce chemicals that are potentially harmful to these populations and our watershed, and keep our Field Regina Northrop neighborhood beautiful.

Aleli Balagtas is a freelance writer interested in gardening ecologically.



Photo courtesy Aleli Balagtas

Do your part to help pollinators.

Choose native plants.

Avoid lawn & garden chemicals.

Plant a raingarden.

Learn More About Raingardens

Raingardens are not only beautiful, but smart. These bowl-shaped gardens capture runoff from roofs, driveways, and yards and allow the water to soak into the soil and be used by native plants rather than run into our local water bodies. Raingardens also function as habitats for bees, butterflies, and other insects and small animals that pollinate plants.

Want to learn more? Metro Blooms, a non-profit organization based in the Twin Cities, will be offering a raingarden workshop at Nokomis Community Center, 2401 East Minnehaha Parkway,

on Saturday, April 25, from 1-4 p.m.—“Raingardens and Beyond: Clean Water; Healthy Habitats.” Cost is \$15 and includes information on healthy gardening practices and yard care, native plants, and DIY raingarden design and installation. Workshop attendees also have an opportunity to talk one-on-one with a landscape designer and Hennepin County Master Gardener.

Learn more, including other dates, locations, and times at www.metroblooms.org Just click on “Raingarden Workshops.” ❖

About our environment

New opportunities to protect our water

Learn about water management for your yard Reduce water runoff and pollution, and protect our water

Sunday, March 8, 2 p.m., at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church
1620 East 46th Street, in the Gathering Room

by Carrie Shidla

Last spring, FRN resident, Lindsey Feiner, wanted to learn more about water management for her yard and reached out to landscape designer, Erika Spande, for help. As they talked about the many educational and financial resources available to homeowners, Lindsey realized this was a great opportunity—and wanted her neighbors to be able learn more, too.

Best Management Practices (BMP)

Together, Lindsey and Erika are working to organize a community project to protect our water and help FRN residents install runoff Best Management Practices (BMP) with assistance from grant funds that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) will have available to help offset homeowner costs.

A meeting will be held on Sunday, March 8, that will give the community an overview of the different BMPs and general maintenance practices that they can implement to reduce the amount of runoff and pollution that moves off of their property. Community residents will have an opportunity to learn more about how they can protect the creek, lakes, and rivers in our beautiful neighborhood.

Grant Funding Options

MCWD Cost Share Program Specialist, Brett Eidem, will be present to explain

grant funding options and requirements if residents choose to be a part of this project and install a BMP on their property. Landscape designer, Erika Spande, will be on hand to discuss the BMP options:

- **Raingardens and rain barrels**
- **Permeable pavers**
- **French drains**

General maintenance practices

FRN resident Lindsey Feiner will discuss the education and outreach portion of the project that will include a community event to share and celebrate the completion of the BMP projects that are installed throughout our neighborhood.

April 1 Deadline

The deadline for expressing your interest in being a part of this exciting neighborhood project is April 1. Consultations and designs will be conducted throughout March and April, and grant applications will be submitted to MCWD in early May.

This project is still in the planning stages and information about meetings, grant funding, and deadlines is developing. Stay tuned to the FRNNG Facebook and Twitter posts for more information! You can also email frnwatershed@gmail.com for more information. ❖

Close to Home

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

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and Carrie Shidla

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Smiling Dog Design

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Articles, photos, and announcements
are welcome. Please email:
communications@frnng.org

or call 612-721-5424

The deadline for the next issue:
Friday, April 3, 2015

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Northrop Neighborhood Group, Inc.

Established in 1965

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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: Gerry Sell

Greening: Ted Moe

Housing: Ian Campbell & Nate Lansing

Parks: Ryan Holweger

Programs: Open

Committees at work

In the works

New Communications Strategy

by Chris Schommer, Chair,
Communications Committee

My first communications meeting was in May 2014. At that gathering, we discussed all the ways the neighborhood shared information and what our strategy could be to better tie some of those disconnected conversations together. We knew that information printed in *Close to Home* was not on the website, while information on the website could not be shared easily via email or social media.

Our neighborhood is a diverse place and we need to be sure that everyone is connected regardless of whether you don't own a computer or never put down your smartphone. I hope the proposed improvements listed below will result in a more connected and informed Field Regina Northrop neighborhood—better able to advocate for neighborhood needs and respond to a neighborhood crisis.

Close to Home

Our previous template was built on old software and desperately needed updating to continue publishing. We hired designer Jennifer Nagorski to fully redesign *Close to Home*. During this process, we switched printers, allowing us to expand the newsletter from eight single-color pages to 12 full-color pages without increasing our budget.

Website

In order for our website to act as a hub for information, we hired web designer Sean Hayford O'Leary to convert our current website to the Wordpress platform. The URL will remain the same at www.frnng.org. Our website has been completely rebuilt and is able to share

information with *Close to Home*, list all of our events, and anyone can now link directly to stories and events through social media and email.

Social Media

We now have more than 500 followers on our Facebook Page and on Twitter, where we can publish and respond to information, news, and events as they happen. Find us today at [Facebook.com/FRNNG](https://www.facebook.com/FRNNG) or [Twitter.com/FRNNG](https://twitter.com/FRNNG). Also check out Nextdoor.com for a social network of neighbors sharing tips and conversation.

Google Apps

We left our old email system and transitioned to Google Apps which will allow for easier communication and gives us great new tools such as a shared calendar, shared online storage, and more.

Logo

An updated look is coming in 2015. We are developing an updated version of the Field Regina Northrop logo to celebrate our 50th anniversary, a logo that will better suit new uses in print materials and on the web. Among other public places, this updated design will appear on new neighborhood entrance signs that are now faded to near invisibility.

Updated Mailing List

Some neighbors might not have seen *Close to Home* for a long time, a discovery we made when noticing the mailing list has missing addresses, including many for our neighbors in apartment buildings and some businesses. We are working on correcting this situation. ❖

Opportunities

Hale & Field Annual Plant Sale

Many neighbors look forward to this sale every season. The plant stock is healthy and affordable and the funds raised contribute to our neighborhood schools.

Online ordering

March 25–April 17 at:

www.halefieldpta.com/catalog

Plant pickup

Saturday, May 9, 8–11 a.m., Hale School parking lot, 53rd Street and 12th Avenue.

Help support your community schools. The plant sale profits benefit Hale and Field's PTAs.

Why order from the Hale and Field Plant Sale?

- Find gorgeous plants from Pahl's Market, one of Minnesota's best family-owned nurseries.
- Gift cards are available from Bachman's, Wagners, and Pahl's.
- Our nursery partners are neonic-free growers. The growers do not apply neonicotinoids—pesticides thought to be harmful to bees and other pollinators—to their nectar-producing plants.

Questions: Please contact the Landscape Committee co-chair: Cindy Goehring
ckgoehring@gmail.com ❖



Stock photo

Seeking Master Gardeners

If you're a master gardener who is willing to donate time to our neighborhood, we would appreciate having your contact information. Please call or email Sheryl or Stearline in the FRN office. Thank you!
612-721-5424 • frnng@frnng.org

In our neighborhood

Hope for 46th Street

By Matt Steele, North Northrop Representative

46th Street is the backbone of our community, connecting our three neighborhoods, two schools, McRae Park, I-35W, businesses, and a golf course. Yet 46th Street has been highly neglected for decades and is far from being safe. A motorist recently drove a car up a sidewalk, through a fence, and onto the Field Community School playground.

A few days later, a person riding a bicycle was hit by a motorist at the same intersection, and in mid February a crash sent a vehicle off the street and over a retaining wall to hit a house on the corner of 46th and Portland. These aren't isolated occurrences.

Whether you're driving a car, riding a bike, waiting for a bus, or walking, today's

46th Street is far from ideal. But that can change, and Friends of 46th Street is working to make it happen.

Within the next year, Hennepin County is planning to repave 46th Street within the existing curbs. In other neighborhoods—such as on East Franklin Avenue in Seward neighborhood or 50th Street that runs east and west through southwest Minneapolis—repaving has proven to be an excellent opportunity to make some simple improvements that make life safer, easier, and more pleasant for all users of the street.

We can also make our neighborhood more beautiful and livable by improving 46th Street, which can reduce the potential for crime while increasing the number of small businesses and amenities along the corridor. This is a critical year



Photo: Chris Schommer

Damage done to the Field School playground by a vehicle crash on 46th Street.

for our neighborhood, and we have the opportunity to build a more livable community with tangible results that may be seen within a matter of months.

Are you interested in getting involved, or at least staying in touch? Check out Friends of 46th Street on Facebook, email friendsof46thstreet@gmail.com, or reach out to me via the FRNNG office. 612-721-5424 or frnng@frnng.org ❖

Major Playground Renovation at Field Community School

In January, Field Middle School was awarded a Hennepin Youth Sports grant for major playground renovations. This grant was matched by the Minneapolis Public School District and will allow the school to add more green space, basketball hoops, landscaping, and other projects as pictured in the rendering above.

Many volunteers involved

Congratulations to the Field Middle School Grants team Stephanie Fuerniss, Mary Tesch-Stevenson, and Liz Jordan for organizing this project. Many members of the community were also instrumental including: architect Garrett Fuerniss who designed the playground, MPS District grants partner Harry Malone-Povolny and Principal Norlin-Weaver, the Field PTA, The Hale Field Foundation, and many other local community and business partners, churches, and day care centers wrote letters and made calls on behalf

of this project. As grant team member Stephanie Fuerniss said, this was a “total community effort!”

Construction dates have yet to be determined. More information will be made available in the future. ❖



Image courtesy: Field Community School

A view looking north toward 46th Street of proposed renovations to the playground at Field Community School.

11th Ward Update

Council Member John Quincy



Council Member John Quincy

The big topic around City Hall and in the neighborhoods is Organics recycling. Organics recycling is coming for Minneapolis Solid Waste customers and is being rolled out during the next year. Residents now have a black cart for garbage and a blue one for recycling; organics will be collected in green carts. Any organics from the home can be put in the green cart for pickup on the same day as garbage.

Customers must opt in for this service and will be invited to sign up starting in April. But people don't have to wait; any Minneapolis Solid Waste customer can sign up now. Service will be available to 25 percent of customers in August, and the rest will roll out in spring 2016. The early sign-up gives the City time to order carts and plan the routes.

What can be composted?

Organics collection will include all food scraps, including fruits, vegetables, bones, meat trimmings, breads, pasta, nut shells, egg shells, coffee grounds, tea bags and dairy products. Some of these can't be managed in a backyard compost bin. Organics recycling also includes food-soiled paper that can't be recycled in the blue cart, including paper towels, napkins, facial tissues, wax paper, egg cartons and pizza boxes. Just make sure the paper is not lined with plastic. Other things that can go into organics recycling include

wood chopsticks, wood Popsicle sticks, toothpicks, dryer lint, animal and human hair, certified compostable plastic and houseplant trimmings.

Items not accepted include milk cartons, plastic-lined paper products, paper vacuum cleaner bags, liquids, oils, greases and fats. If an item can go into the regular recycling, it should go there instead of in the organics cart. Yard waste must remain separate; customers should keep using yard waste collection for branches, leaves, grass clippings and other outside plant material.

Managing organics

It is recommended that home users keep a small organics container conveniently near the kitchen to collect materials. There is no reason to expect a new household smell from organics; separating organics doesn't introduce any new materials that aren't already there. It's simply putting them in a different place to make use of a resource, instead of managing it as trash.

Organics will need to be placed in compostable bags inside the green cart to keep it clean year-round and to avoid freezing to it in the winter.

Rollout by geographic area

Rollout will take place in two phases by geographic area, with 25 percent of customers having organics recycling available in August and the rest in spring 2016. People can start using the green cart as soon as they get it. The phases are by area for the most efficient collection routes.

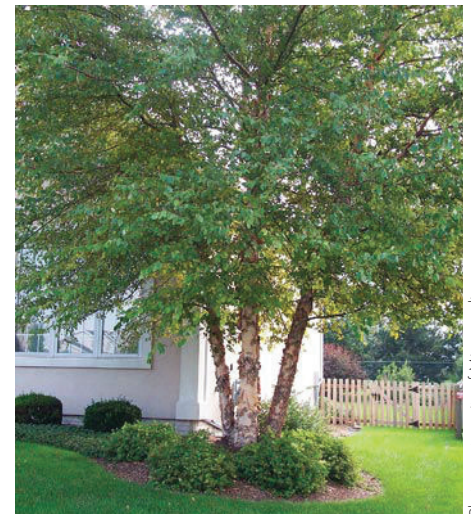
Opt in

The carts will be distributed only to customers who opt in. To get a green organics collection bin, Minneapolis recycling customers can request one at swrcustomer@minneapolismn.gov or by calling 612-673-2917.

I am always available to answer your questions at 612-673-2211. 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 or visit the website to sign up. www.MinneapolisMN.gov/ward11

The Minneapolis Tree Sale Begins March 23

Starting Monday, March 23, the City of Minneapolis is offering more than 1,200 three- to eight-foot trees for only \$25 each. These trees sell out quickly so be sure to order as soon as possible. There are more than 60 species available, including fruiting apple trees, fast-growing river birch, and strong oaks that will last for generations.



River birch

Your pre-ordered tree will be available for pick up at the Minneapolis Impound Lot May 16-19. Limit one tree per property. Order your tree at www.treetrust.org or call 952-767-3886. ❖

Photo courtesy city of Minneapolis

Passionate about fitness

By Sue Filbin

What if getting more physically fit could be enjoyable, affordable, and convenient? If that were the case, would you leap up to find your athletic shoes at the back of a closet and run out the door? In fact, you can run or walk or bike to Fit for Change—Be Fit for Life.

Proprietor of Fit for Change, Duane Whittaker, has lived for decades about a half block from the border of our neighborhood. His friendship with longtime Field neighborhood business owner, Carlo Lochesmsingh, resulted in Duane's realizing his dream to open a business dedicated to fitness.

Staying fit

As a Minneapolis high school athlete, Duane aspired to become a coach. Instead, he pursued a career in information technology and had a long military career in the field of fire protection. Duane remained active, a lifestyle that made two years of study for an associate's degree in health and fitness,

an internship, certification for personal training, and a specialized certification in functional training a continuation of his passion for staying fit.

During his time as a personal trainer at LA Fitness, Duane performed more than 1,000 30-minute individualized fitness sessions. He now applies this experience to creating individualized personal fitness plans for his clients, then training and motivating them to commit to becoming fit for the rest of their lives.

Since September 2014, Duane has assessed the fitness level of men and women of all ages at his fitness center that's located in a north-facing space at 4801-4th Avenue. During half-hour and hour-long appointments, Duane's clients work on relieving stress, weight control, core strength, muscle strength, endurance, flexibility, balance, and stability. Duane is dedicated to helping people improve their quality of life, enabling them to stay active and to live without pain.

Getting fit with Duane is a great experience that's helping me reach my fitness goals. —Sandy N.



Photo: Sue Filbin

Duane Whittaker, Fit for Change, is dedicated to helping people remain active and pain free.

What about the significance of the name of the business? Duane believes we must make a change to add fitness to our life—and keep it in our life. He stated, “We gotta make the change, then stay at it.” His flexible programs and reasonable rates help individuals and small groups make a positive change toward adding physical activity to their life. To add improved fitness to your life, call Duane at 612-501-5332 or at <http://www.fitforchangeonline.com> ❖

Volunteer at Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery!

One of the biggest volunteer needs at the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery is in our *Cook For Kids* program.



Photo: Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery

Recruit a team of up to six people to purchase groceries, cook on site, and serve breakfast, lunch, or dinner to children at the Crisis Nursery. This is a great opportunity for your team of coworkers, faith community, family, or club to cook a meal for approximately 25-30 children, care-provider staff, and volunteers. This can be a one-time event or occur on a regular basis.

Opportunities are available daily 365 days per year:

- Breakfast: 7 a.m.–9 a.m.
- Lunch: 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
- Dinner: 4 p.m.–6 p.m.

Time commitment: 1.5 hours prep (including shopping) and 2 hours at the nursery.

Age requirement:

Volunteers must be 12 or older. Volunteers under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult age 21 or older.

We're located close by at 4544-4th Ave. South! If you're interested in signing up, please contact Abbie Hugunin at 612-767-8470 or ahugunin@crisisnursery.org or www.crisisnursery.org/get-involved ❖

Business Beat

Carbone's Moves, Improves, and Expands

By Sue Filbin

Since 1986, the Magnuson family has served highly rated pizza, pasta, hoagies, salads, and more to families, neighbors, and sports teams from their Carbone's Pizzeria restaurant on the west side of 47th and Cedar Avenue.

In 2012, the Magnuson parents retired, selling the restaurant to son Dan and his wife Jessica. Dan grew up working in the restaurant and met Jessica while the two were in college. Together they have two young children ages seven and four, and a dream to make Carbone's even more welcoming and popular.

When the opportunity presented itself for Carbone's to stay in the neighborhood and double its space, Dan and Jessica purchased the former office building/dry cleaner located on the north end of the Bergan's SuperValu parking lot.

After major renovations were completed, the west end of the building is now the new, roomier location of Cork Dork. (See article on page 11.) And since December 2014, Carbone's diners have admired the attractive, inviting restaurant space that now has a variety of booths, tables, and a convivial bar, lots of large windows, and six large-screen TVs. In May, guests will enjoy their meals while seated on an east-facing patio that affords a view toward Hiawatha Golf Course.

The owners' intention was to create a family-oriented restaurant in which neighbors and guests can enjoy wine or beer—including 15 local craft beers on tap—with their meal and children are content while playing with supplied Etch A Sketches and toys from a treasure box. The roomier space welcomes the softball and kickball teams sponsored by Carbone's to celebrate—or commiserate—after a game. Jessica and Dan invite you to stop in for lunch or supper sometime soon.



Jessica and Dan Magnuson own and operate the family-friendly Carbone's Pizzeria on 47th and Cedar Avenue. The windows behind them look out onto the new east-facing patio that will be open in May. www.carbonespizzeria.com 612-724-0063

Planning an Autumn Garden + Art Crawl

The Parkway Artists Coalition (PAC) is planning a Garden+Art Crawl in the Field Regina and Northrop neighborhoods for the middle of September. Participating gardeners (and their gardens) will be paired with visual artists and musicians, poets, performance artists, and others.

If you're a gardener or an artist who would like to be part of the Parkway Artists Coalition's first Garden+Art Crawl, please email Sheryl Schwyhart at parkwayartists@gmail.com by March 13.

Parkway Artists Coalition is a group of artists dedicated to advancing arts-based opportunities, supporting the

artist community, and fostering greater engagement with the community.

To learn more about PAC, go online to these sources:

facebook.com/ParkwayArtists

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Logo design: Sarah Golden

Business Beat

A conversation with the Cork Dork

Four questions with Russell Fay, owner/operator of Cork Dork Wine Company by Adam Webster

What's the best part about moving into the new space on the other side of Cedar Avenue?

The new space has more elbow room, and the visibility of the shop is greatly improved. I also think it's in a prime location to offer more convenience to customers. There is more parking, and it's easier to get to. And we'll make it easier for people leaving Carbone's Pizzeria or Bergan's SuperValu to quickly pick up something to bring home.

How'd you come to the name "Cork Dork"? What does the name say about the design and direction you have for your business?

I was first called a "cork dork" by a liquor distributor when I was opening The Craftsman (4300 East Lake Street, Minneapolis) in 2004. He was trying to sell me on lower-quality wine that had a high profit margin. When I told him I wasn't interested, he made the comment that I must be one of those "cork dorks" who wouldn't compromise on quality. The name stuck.

What's something you wish more people knew about wine?

I want people to know that you can find good and bad wine in any price range. I view it as my job to find only good wine, especially at lower price points. Placing good values in a space with an unpretentious feel helps my customers trust that they get quality products at great prices.

Do you live in the area? Any favorite local haunts that you frequent yourself?

I have owned a home in the Longfellow neighborhood for ten years, and grew up in the Camden neighborhood of north Minneapolis. I have the city in my blood and couldn't be prouder. And since I have a background in the restaurant and hospitality business, I find that my favorite spots are usually "hole-in-the-wall" places that serve good, real food. For me, that includes Colossal Café (1839 East 42nd Street), Chris & Rob's (3101 East 42nd Street), and anything in the Mercado Central (1515 East Lake Street).

4701 Cedar Avenue South • www.corkdorkwineco.com ❖



FRNNG Meeting Information

Full Board

3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (LNPC) 17th Avenue and East 46th St. The full board does not meet in July or December.

Business Committee | business@frnng.org

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

Community and Safety Committee | communityandsafety@frnng.org

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

Housing Committee | housing@frnng.org

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

Education Committee | education@frnng.org

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

Parks Committee | parks@frnng.org

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

Greening Committee | greening@frnng.org

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

Communications Committee | communications@frnng.org

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

Support the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group

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. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

FRNNG VOLUNTARY DONATION

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Close to Home is written for neighbors by neighbors.
The next deadline is Friday, April 3.
Please email articles & images to: communications@trmg.org

Nokomis Farmers Market returns for 16 weeks. See page 1.

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Photo courtesy Neighborhood Roots