

CLOSE TO HOME

THE FIELD REGINA NORTHROP NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP NEWSLETTER

September/October 2015

46th Street Reconfiguration Community Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 21

Time: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Arrive anytime – informal open-house format

Location: Field Middle School
4645-4th Avenue South

By Chris Schommer

In the summer of 2016, Hennepin County will be performing a “mill and overlay” of 46th Street that will extend the life of the road. This process removes the top layer of asphalt and replaces it with a new smooth surface. During this process there is an opportunity to rethink the lane configuration of the corridor when re-applying the lane markings. This paving project could provide improvement opportunities for vehicular traffic, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Residents and business owners are invited to join representatives from Hennepin County, the City of Minneapolis, Field



Photo: Sue Filbin

A meeting on Wednesday, October 21, will address heavy traffic and high speeds that contribute to dangerous conditions for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists on East 46th Street.

Regina Northrop, Kingfield and Tangleton neighborhoods for a community meeting and workshop to discuss the future of 46th Street from Lyndale to Cedar Avenues. This meeting will take place at the Field Middle School auditorium on Wednesday, October 21, from 6-8 p.m.

A map of the 46th Street area will be displayed to allow posting comments and identifying problem areas. Staff will provide information on existing traffic volumes, crash history, and background on previous ideas for improvement.

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Clean Sweep October 3

By Mike Lyon, Ben Elliot, and Sue Filbin

Are you tired of the unwanted junk in your alley? Do you have items from spring cleaning that are still sitting around? Would you like to meet your neighbors in a fun, interactive setting while helping beautify our neighborhood? Please come join your neighbors in the October 3 Clean Sweep event!

The presence of debris, litter, graffiti, broken glass, and weedy yards and gardens is sometimes the first indication

that people aren't paying attention to their property or aren't invested in the overall well-being of their neighborhood. Simply by spending time maintaining and cleaning up property, a community becomes safer as the appearance of the property improves and people become better acquainted. As a result, our quality of life is enhanced.

On Saturday, October 3, from 8 a.m. until noon, neighbors accompanied by trucks driven

Continued on page 2

President's Letter

While attending a number of Field Regina Northrop block parties on National Night Out on August 4th, I realized once again the great diversity of our communities here. We have a unique community of involved and interested neighbors who contribute so much to the vitality of our neighborhood. Thanks to all who contributed to the National Night Out event. It breaks our usual routine, and gets us out of our houses to interact with each other and reacquaint with our block's neighbors

Continued on page 3

46th Street reconfiguration community meeting, continued from page 1

Many community members have called for traffic calming measures on 46th Street as the process of driving, walking or cycling around this four-lane corridor is often described as a “crazy” experience. Hennepin County officials recognize this and their data shows that 46th Street is experiencing a rate of crashes significantly higher than comparable streets. A working group has been established to study the transportation issues in this area and to examine actions that could be implemented with the paving project. The group consists of county and city staff with representatives from the Field Regina Northrop, Kingfield and Tangletown neighborhoods.

Different sections of 46th Street present their own problems, from the hectic 35W ramp to the wide-open “speedway” north of McRae Park to the calmer areas along the far east end of the corridor. Many cyclists must use 46th to cross the freeway. There may be room for bike lanes in a three-lane configuration and 46th Street is listed on Hennepin County’s master bike plan.

Parking may be impacted for sections of the 46th Street corridor. The county is studying these options and others, and is actively seeking neighborhood feedback on these issues. Many neighbors have already weighed in and you can too, even before the October 21 meeting. Just send your thoughts, comments and wishes to the FRN office at frnng@frnng.org, contact us on Facebook or Twitter, or call the office at (612) 721-5424 and leave a message. Thank you to everyone who has

already taken the time to comment. Your input has been very valuable already.

Look for more updates on the FRN website and on Facebook and Twitter. Neighbors will also be receiving a reminder postcard closer to the October 21 meeting.

Additional information is available on the county website at: www.hennepin.us In the search box, type “46th Street Study.” Questions or comments can also be directed to the county and city staff members listed below. ❖

Hennepin County

Bob Byers (612) 596-0354
robert.byers@hennepin.us

Kelley Yemen (612) 543-1963
kelley.yemen@hennepin.us

Minneapolis

Allan Klugman (612) 673-2743
allan.klugman@minneapolismn.gov

Clean Sweep October 3, continued from page 1

by city employees will roll through our neighborhood, picking up materials and debris that have accumulated or escaped weekly trash pick-ups and bi-weekly recycling collections.

Benefits of Clean Sweep

The immediate benefits of Clean Sweep are numerous. Neighbors meet each other and help fellow neighbors toward the common goal of cleaning up properties. Unwanted materials from yards, garages, and homes are properly disposed of.

Among the items that are not accepted during the October 3 pickup are hazardous materials, batteries, tires, appliances, computers, TVs, and mattresses. Hazardous materials may be taken to the drop-off site at the Hennepin County drop-off facility, 1400 West 96th Street in Bloomington. Volunteers will provide vouchers to neighbors to offset costs of disposal at the South Transfer Station, 2850-20th Avenue South.

Who can participate?

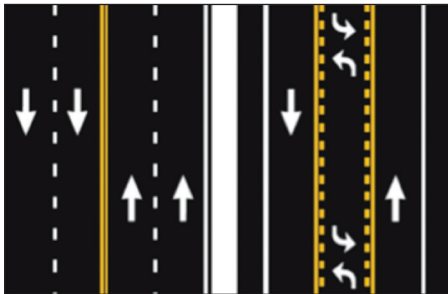
Any resident of Field, Regina, and Northrop neighborhoods may participate

in Clean Sweep by filling out our online form at www.frnng.org/clean-sweep2015. You can also contact Stearline in the neighborhood by office calling (612) 721-5424 or email frnng@frnng.org to sign up. Participation by four or more homes per block is required, with one neighbor from that block who is willing to load the trucks for two or more hours.

The twenty blocks with the highest levels of interest and participation by residents will be selected to take part in this year’s Clean Sweep. Residents (except for one per block) need not be present to have their refuse picked up, and there is no charge for the pick-up.

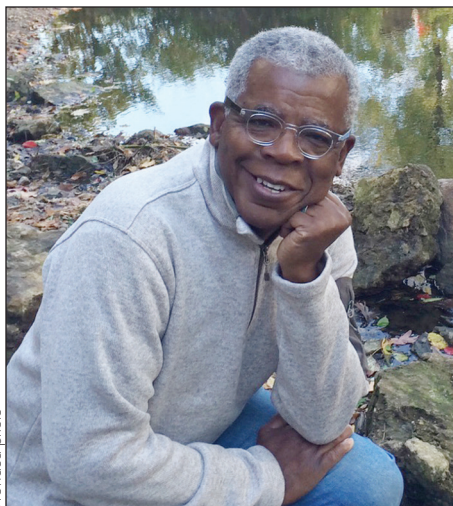
The chairman of the Community and Safety Committee, Ben Elliott, along with volunteer coordinators Mike Lyon and Deborah Spiesz, invite you start the day at 7:15 a.m. by having coffee and pastries with neighbors. Meet at the Parents in Community Action (PICA)—McKnight Early Childhood Family Development Center (Head Start) facility in the parking lot on the corner of 4th Avenue South and 42nd Street. See you there! ❖

Graphic: Federal Highway Administration



One option for traffic calming available to the county in this situation is what is commonly known as a “4-to-3 Conversion” where the current four lanes are converted into two single-vehicle lanes heading east and west with a center turn lane.

Similar projects have become very common around Minneapolis and have achieved the result of a more predictable and steady traffic flow, with a significant reduction of crashes and injuries. A local example of this type of conversion is 50th Street between Lyndale and France Avenues. 50th Street was converted from a four- to a three-lane street in the early 2000s. This type of configuration reduces the dangerous weaving that often occurs when people must stop to make a left-hand turn which is common along many sections of 46th Street. These left-turn situations are particularly dangerous to people crossing on foot who are often invisible to drivers passing by quickly on a four-lane street.



Provided photo

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

and to welcome newbies to the neighborhood. We must know of each other, to be able to look after each other. That's something we strive to do here in FRN.

We would like to hear your suggestions, on how to make our community an even better place to live. Please feel free to contact the FRN office with your suggestions, as well as for getting information on how to join one of our various committees.

One such committee, the Greening Committee, has been busy this year, beautifying the green spaces alongside the east side of the I-35W sound wall, along 2nd Avenue. Have you noticed that the grass has been cut and the bushes have been trimmed, and how neat and clean it looks? Your Greening Committee has done all this work, with the help of neighbors from FRN, with Co-Chairs Tim Price and Lindsey Feiner organizing the project. A full report of their efforts is on pages 6 and 7. They are always looking for new members, and you can get more information about this committee from the FRN office or email greening@frnng.org.

As summer is coming to an end, some schools will soon start, while others will begin in September. For those of you who have kids starting school, remember to talk to them about being safe and aware of their surroundings. Remember to give your kids a safe word that you and only they will know, to test the veracity of someone trying to coax them to get in their car, offering to "give them a ride to see you because you were in an accident or are 'sick.'" Talk to your kids about how to deal with someone who is a bully in

school and/or outside of school. Don't be afraid to call the school to see how your daughter or son is doing. You can even check online to see if they are behind in their homework, and/or if it is getting turned in. You can also contact the school and learn the positive things that your children are doing.

We as parents and other adults have to let our kids know that their education is important. We have an expectation that our kids are in school, in the classroom on time, and attending all their classes. We want them to be the best that they can be.

Remember to talk with your kids and your teenagers about being responsible when it comes to using their phones. Parents, let them know that you may check their cell phone and tablet, from time to time. You will need to get their password or passwords as sometimes they may have more than one. This may make them think twice, before pressing the "send" button on something they broadcast digitally.

Thank you FRN for all that you do for your community. ❖

Seward Co-op to Open Nearby

By Chris Schommer

The neighborhood will soon have access to a new grocery option when the new Seward Co-op Friendship Store opens at 38th Street and 4th Avenue on October 6.

The store is built upon the site of the former Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church whose legacy is reflected in the new co-op's name. The Friendship Co-op will be a full-service grocery

store with a built-in classroom and space for cooking classes and demonstrations. Initially classes will focus on educating customers on how to shop at a co-op. In addition to the new building, the Co-op is commissioning two large murals that will focus on the history of the neighborhood. One mural will be located on the building's exterior that faces 38th Street with a second mural inside the store.

For more information visit: seward.coop/friendshipsite ❖



Photos: Chris Schommer

Artistic Utility Boxes

By Lindsey Feiner

All over the world, artists and neighborhoods have been wrapping utility boxes in an effort to reduce graffiti and beautify their communities. We've started out by wrapping three utility boxes in Field Regina Northrop with pre-approved designs provided by the City of Minneapolis, but we have many more boxes to wrap! We want these boxes to reflect FRN's values, history, diversity and strengths.

The beauty of this project is that the term "artist" is broad; you do not need to be a painter. Woodworking, graphic design, quilting, needlepoint, ceramics, photography, metalwork and more all apply! You could submit for consideration an existing piece or something you want to create just for this project. The artwork just needs to be something we can scale and reproduce into the utility-box format. For instance, if you are a sculptor, we may be able to use a photograph of your work on a wrap.

Any local artist who is interested in learning more about our utility-wrap project can apply by emailing greening@frnng.org. Please tell us about your artwork and how the neighborhood's values and strengths are displayed in it.

Artists will be compensated with a small stipend and a box description with artist info on the FRNNG website: frnng.org



HOME (Household & Outside Maintenance for Elderly)

By HOME Staff

Maintaining a home can be very difficult for an older adult living on a fixed income. Without services from a program like HOME (Household & Outside Maintenance for Elderly), Minnesota's largest chore services program for seniors operated by Senior Community Services, many older people may continue to live in a home that is not up to their standards or be forced to move to a nursing home. The purpose of the HOME program is to help seniors to remain independent in a clean, safe environment by providing accessible, reliable and affordable chore services.

In January 2015, Senior Community Services' HOME program expanded to

include Minneapolis, which allows the program to serve hundreds more seniors in Minneapolis, in addition to those already being served elsewhere in Hennepin County.

"Senior Community Services is pleased to bring Minneapolis seniors into our program. There is a growing need for services that help struggling and low-income seniors and caregivers maintain independence," says CEO Deb Taylor. "Without this program, many seniors would have to trade their homes for a more structured, and more costly, senior facility. In addition, Minneapolis residents now have access to a broad array of other helpful services from us," Taylor added. There is

a sliding fee scale based on income level.

Some of the services that the HOME program provides include:

- Vacuuming
- Dusting
- Sweeping/mopping floors
- Cleaning bathrooms
- Cleaning kitchens
- Changing bed linens

For program details visit www.seniorcommunity.org/programs or call 952-746-4046

New Home Improvement Loan Program

By Ian Campbell & Nate Lansing, Co-chairs, Housing Committee

The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group is pleased to announce the creation of a new Home Improvement Loan Program. This loan will allow property owners in the FRN neighborhood to make small- to medium-sized improvements to their homes such as roofs, siding, kitchens, bathrooms, and to improve energy efficiency. While FRN has operated loan programs in the past, an influx of new homeowners into the neighborhood in recent years who are interested in making investments into their homes has created a demand for a new affordable

option for improving their properties and reinvesting in the neighborhood.

Terms of the loan are 2.99% APR for 10 years, with a maximum of \$15,000 per property. This program is not limiting this program to only homeowners, as rental property owners may choose to make investments and improve properties for their tenants as well. The goal of the program is to continue to enhance the entirety of housing options available in our neighborhood.

For more loan information and how to apply, please contact the housing committee at: housing@frnng.org

Board member turnover

By Chris Schommer

Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood would like to say thank you to two outgoing board members.

Ryan Holweger, who has served as Parks Committee Chair for the past year and a half, will be moving abroad for a few years with his family. Ryan was instrumental in making our 50th Anniversary Celebration such a successful event and has put in many hours in support of our neighborhood parks.

Julie Kral, who joined as Programs Chair, is moving to be closer to family. We will miss Julie's energy and enthusiasm for the neighborhood!

The neighborhood group is now looking to fill the leadership positions for the Education, Parks and Programs committees. These positions are a great way to meet your neighbors and help make our neighborhood a better place for everyone. If you are interested in filling Ryan or Julie's shoes, please contact the FRN office by emailing: frnng@frnng.org or calling (612) 721-5424.

Buy Ad Space in Close to Home

Close to Home is exploring including a single-page advertising flier in future issues of our newsletter to help partially offset our costs. If you run a business in the neighborhood and are interested in reaching the more than 3,600 residences that receive this newsletter, please contact communications@frnng.org or call the office at (612) 721-5424 for details. We will be selling twenty spaces total, printed in color, at 4" wide by 2" tall each. Cost per space is \$65 and can be purchased by combining spaces to run larger messages.

Close to Home

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

Editors

Sue Filbin, Chris Schommer, and Carrie Shidla

Layout

Smiling Dog Design

Contributors

Council member Elizabeth Glidden, Willie Bridges, Ian Campbell, Ben Elliot, Lindsey Feiner, Sue Filbin, Nate Lansing, Mike Lyon, Tim Price, Stearline Rucker, Carrie Shidla, Chris Schommer, & Adam Webster.

Articles, photos, and announcements are welcome. Please email:

communications@frnng.org or call 612-721-5424

frnng.org

The deadline for the next issue: Friday, October 2, 2015

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2015 FRNNG Board

*Executive Committee Officers

*President: Willie Bridges

*1st V.P.: Tom Powers

2nd V.P.: Ted Moe

*Treasurer: Shannon Guernsey

*Secretary: Emily Poskie-Wilson

*Field Neighborhood Rep: Barbara Harris

*Regina Neighborhood Rep:

Shelley Nystrom

*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: Lindsey Feiner & Tim Price

Housing: Ian Campbell & Nate Lansing

Parks: Open

Programs: Open

Greening Committee Spruces Up 2nd Avenue

By Tim Price, Co-chair, Greening Committee, and Sue Filbin

Some years ago, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) entered into voluntary agreements with the City of Minneapolis for the maintenance of lands adjacent to and abutting the east side of the 35W sound-barrier walls along 2nd Avenue South, bordered by 42nd Street on the north and 52nd Street on the south. Primarily, maintenance included mowing grass and other greenery on these parcels of land.

Partnership with MnDOT

Since the installation of new sound-barrier walls in 2008 which included plantings of trees, plants, and flowers, MnDOT has retained its authority to maintain these lands as part of the revitalization of its thoroughfare “gateways” at 42nd, 46th, and 50th streets that abut or are near the following neighborhoods: Field, Regina, Tangletown, Kingfield, Hale, Page, and Diamond Lake. MnDOT intends to develop and enter into partnerships in furtherance of meeting mutual goals to preserve the vitality of neighborhoods



Photo: Sue Filbin

It's apparent that someone is tending the landscaping shown here at 48th Street and 2nd Avenue.

and reduce the appearance of blight along public thoroughfares.

See: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i35whwy62gateway>

Our neighborhood (FRNNG) has entered into a partnership with MnDOT and the City of Minneapolis – Public Works Department – to maintain these parcels of land in view of the fact that MnDOT is only able to maintain the land two to three times during the spring, summer, and fall months. This leaves the land with grasses, plants, and weeds growing to heights of three to five feet. Our overall project goal is to tend these parcels of land to assure that lands are well maintained. This effort includes reaching out to community groups and organizations to

partner with FRNNG in achieving these community and service goals.

About volunteering

Generally, the Greening Committee, residents, and volunteers started maintaining the land south of 46th Street around May 2015; north of 46th in July 2015. We schedule various “greening events” and volunteers have flexibility to do what they can on their own. We continue to build greater community involvement and the number of volunteers is increasing.

Tim promotes these efforts as “90-minute bursts” of activity that include weeding, weed whacking, tree trimming and mulching, mowing the grass, picking up litter, planting plants and flowers, etc.



Photo: Tim Price

Matt Nelson from Boy Scout Troop 3038 removes weeds from the landscaping on the east side of the sound-barrier wall on 2nd Avenue.



Photo: Tim Price

Billy Milless and Willie Bridges whacking weeds along the sound-wall barrier on 2nd Avenue.

Approximately 9-12 core volunteers are involved and that number is complemented by other volunteers who participate less regularly. The FRNNG Board members also help in these efforts. Specifically, we hold spring and fall clean ups as board events plus one other event during the summer months.

We are always looking for more volunteers, particularly among residents living along 2nd Avenue. To the extent we can add to the core group, it will be less of a burden to others. Several leaflets have been passed out to neighbors and more will be done, particularly to publicize greening events for resident involvement. So far, no master gardeners have been involved but we're certainly looking for some to join us.

In the future

We are preparing a grant request to MnDOT for funds to support plantings and mulching at the 46th Street and 50th Street gateways. Some residents have also donated plants and flowers. This fall, we will plant perennials and hostas that are donated by neighbors. While this is a project in the works, the community building and engagement of residents who live along 2nd Avenue is both a goal and a great outcome for our neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods.

When Tim Price was asked what motivated him to become co-chair of the Greening Committee, he responded: The quality of life Minneapolis offers to its residents is something I value greatly. My contribution is to do what I can to make certain our neighborhoods stay as places where others want to live. I was on the earlier Greening Committee and was involved in planning. As our former chair, Ted Moe, completed his tenure as chair of the committee, I was interested in making sure we had continuity in our work. I was joined by Lindsey Feiner as co-chair and, with her work on the utility-wraps project, our efforts certainly complement each other. ❖



Photo: Gene Phelps

Volunteers stopped just long enough to have their picture taken. In the back row, from left to right: Billy Millness, Willie Bridges. Middle row: Lindsey Feiner, Deborah Spiesz Stearline Rucker, Paul Feiner. Front row: Tim Price.



Photo: Tim Price

These two photos show the landscaping along 2nd Avenue at 44th Street "before" and "after" volunteers spent time maintaining this area along the sound-wall barrier.



Photo: Tim Price

8th-Ward Update

Council Member Elizabeth Glidden



Council Member Elizabeth Glidden

Dear Neighbor,
Thank you for this opportunity to update you on city and neighborhood issues.

Airport Update

Over the last month or so, we at City Hall started to hear from more constituents complaining about airport noise. The City contacted the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) about these concerns and Dana Nelson, MAC Noise Manager, looked at the data and confirmed what residents were observing. The number of nighttime operations was up.

Increase in Nighttime Operations

When talking about airport data, there are different definitions of “nighttime,” but this information was based on 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. time period. Night arrivals at the airport were up 15% compared to last year. Since many nighttime arrivals come in over Minneapolis, our residents are impacted disproportionately by this problem. The increase in arrivals over Minneapolis, specifically, was 24%. The theory behind Minneapolis getting arrival noise at night is that we are spared the louder operations (departures) which use the other end of the runway.

Action by the NOC & MAC

Minneapolis shared our concerns with our MAC Commissioners and with other communities around the airport. At the Noise Oversight Committee (NOC)

meeting on July 22, the committee took an action to advise the MAC of this problem and to ask MAC to communicate with airlines operating at MSP and remind them about the airport’s desire to limit the number of flights scheduled at night.

Runway Use Efforts

Another effort underway is our work to change how runways are used. The airport has a program in place called the Runway Use System (RUS) and the idea behind it is the FAA Control Tower should use runways where less people will be impacted by noise, whenever possible. So, if they can avoid departing or arriving planes over Minneapolis, they should do that. You helped the Noise Oversight Committee to communicate with the MAC about the importance of this issue. The FAA Control Tower has agreed to work on it, starting with early-morning flights and then looking at late-evening flights.

Altitudes

Some residents have said they believe airplanes are flying lower. MAC staff looked at a couple previous years’ data compared to this year. They looked at the altitude of airplanes as they passed Remote Monitoring Tower (RMT) locations. The gist of their conclusions was that there isn’t a clear trend or change for departure altitudes. However, departing planes are always lower on average in the summer due to warmer and thinner air. Also, the planes being used at MSP tend to be larger than in the past so a larger plane at the same altitude is going to be experienced differently.

The Process

Every 5 years, the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) updates their Long-Term Comprehensive Plan (LTCP) for the airport. Each plan looks ahead 20 years and identifies what MAC expects to happen at the airport, such as the number of passengers and planes. MAC is currently

working on the 2035 LTCP. After the initial community engagement, the draft LTCP will be published for a 45-day comment period. The plan is expected to be adopted by the end of 2015 or early 2016.

Update: City Council Preparing Working Families Ordinances for Vote in 2015

The City Council continues to work on a Working Families agenda of ordinances that include Earned Sick and Safe Time (often called Paid Sick Leave), Fair Scheduling, and Enforcement and Preventing Wage Theft. The Council is acting to ensure that workplace standards are keeping pace with the needs of workers and the industries that are growing in our city. The goal of these ordinances is to continue to keep Minneapolis as economically strong and competitive as possible.

Earned sick and safe time has a positive effect on business profitability, reputation and employee morale, jobs grow in sectors where it has been applied, and there has been little to no evidence of negative impacts on a city or state’s economy.

Fair scheduling laws typically set minimum standards for giving advance notice of schedules to employees, with incentives and penalties for changing schedules, canceling work shifts at the last minute, and other standards as needed.

I look forward to engaging with you as we work to develop these important policies. I invite you to contact me at 612-673-2208 or elizabeth.glidden@minneapolismn.gov Also, I host community office hours every Monday from 9 a.m. -11 a.m. at Sabathani Community Center, 310 East 38th St., at a table in the first-floor hall closest to the parking lot. Please just drop by or call our office for a time-certain appointment.
—Elizabeth Glidden, Council Vice President, City of Minneapolis

New Italian Restaurant to Open on Cedar Avenue

By Carrie Shidla

A new neighborhood restaurant will soon add to the thriving south Minneapolis dining scene. Short for “Italian Eatery,” *ie* will open its doors at 4724 Cedar Avenue later this fall.

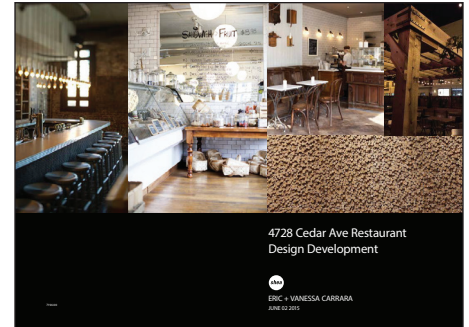
The restaurant is a labor of love for its owners, Eric and Vanessa Carrara. Eric, who was raised in a large Italian family in Pennsylvania, practically grew up in the business – his family has owned a “red sauce” neighborhood joint since the 1930s. After moving to Minneapolis for college, he soon found his way back to the industry he knew so well, and has helped open and run almost 20 restaurants in the Twin Cities over the last 10 years.

It was on a trip to Italy – where he proposed to wife Vanessa – that the vision for *ie* began to take shape. Charmed by

the neighborhood squares (or piazzas) and warm, community-focused restaurants, Eric and Vanessa began to plan for a beautiful space with handmade pastas, seasonal dishes, an excellent wine list inspired by their travels in Italy – and a great beer list with local, craft and Italian beer.

Six years later, they seized the opportunity to buy the building that housed the former Carbone’s location. An extensive renovation is currently underway, and the new space will have 200 seats – including patio seating, a bar, a space for private parties – and free parking. Vanessa, who grew up by Lake Nokomis, is thrilled to be able to serve the community in which she grew up.

It will be a family affair, no doubt. In addition to seeing Eric and Vanessa, you may also see Eric’s mother, who advises



her son. The daughter of Italian immigrants, she’s a bit of an expert. When Eric presented her with his plans and invited her to sample the cuisine, her response was, “The sauce . . . it’s good.” ❖

Stay tuned for more information on progress and opening dates at italianeatery.com or follow them on social media on:
Instagram: @italianeatery
Twitter: @italianeatery
Facebook: @italianeaterymn

A Planned Act of Kindness

By Sue Filbin and Stearline Rucker

Random acts of kindness occur regularly throughout our neighborhood but on Friday, August 21, an organized effort by neighbors helped one long-time resident.

Agnars Svalbe grew up in the house in which he lives on the 4900-block of 3rd Avenue. His name is familiar to fans of Washburn High School football or basketball games at which Agnars has been the announcer for more than 40 years.

With the house next door up for sale, and untrimmed trees, shrubs, and weeds abundant in Agnars’ yard, neighbors from 47th to 51st Streets offered to help him spruce up his yard. More than a dozen people convened to prove true the idiom that “...many hands make light work” or in this case, lighter work.

After several hours of hard work, as someone recorded the names of the helpful neighbors for this article, Agnars asked, “Is it possible to put a note in there about how thankful I am to all these people?” The answer is “Yes”! Here’s a list of the hard-working neighbors who contributed their hands and generosity: Cynthia Adair, Paul Haller, Jana Hiller, Mike Hiller, Joe Holloway, Ron Hopfensperger, Krystal Pope, Tim Price, Brenda Roth, Stearline Rucker, Pat Steeber, Susan Stensland, and Maddi Zydowicz. Dottie Haugen, whose late husband Jim coached Washburn football for many years as did her younger son, Peter, stopped by to visit and later delivered a colorful chrysanthemum for Agnars’ front stoop. ❖



From left to right: Krystal Pope, Agnars Svalbe, Stearline Rucker, and Dottie Haugen.



Neighbors helped a long-time neighbor by trimming trees and shrubs, and clearing overgrown plants from his yard.

Concept photo

Photos: Sue Filbin

Women Against Military Madness

By Adam Webster

“Women Against Military Madness” is a short title that suggests a number of core convictions. How should an outsider understand WAMM’s mission?

Since 1982, WAMM has focused on changing discourse from one that accepts militarism and economic injustice to one of generosity. We see many unmet needs in our neighborhoods and excess profits for weapon manufacturers. WAMM’s gatherings all seek to address this system and create communities of peace, justice and generosity.

A visit to your website does a nice job of outlining WAMM’s 30+ year history in the Twin Cities. How has the mission of the group changed over the years?

Polly Mann helped found WAMM and remains an active board member at age 95. She says, “I think WAMM’s mission has not changed over the years. Those active in WAMM have increasingly realized how devious the system is and how difficult change is. It can be affected, of course, with big noisy demonstrations and emails in profusion and hundreds

of letters to the editor and congressional members. We cannot make huge contributions to political campaigns...but we are willing to take the ‘guff’ that comes with insisting on real change.” We must be doing something right, since Minnesota Women’s Press readers voted us Favorite Peace and Justice organization for the second year in a row!

WAMM adds a lot of energy to the Northrop neighborhood. What sorts of programming keeps your members busy?

We’re made up of committee groups dealing with various issues. Anyone can request help to start an issue group with us, and we’ll support them if it aligns with WAMM’s mission and values. For example, our Peace Bridge Vigil has been a fixture on the Lake Street bridge every Wednesday. Another vigil now takes place at the intersection of Summit Avenue and Snelling Avenue every Friday, too. At other times, the Drone Committee hosts “Fly Kites, Not Drones” activity so that children may decorate kites and fly them near a Minneapolis lake or playground

while adults talk about the devastation caused by drones. It’s a playful activity that promotes thought-provoking conversation. We proudly support many—and truly diverse—actions.

How can someone get involved? What are the best ways to find out more?

The best way to get involved with WAMM is to stop by the office. We’re open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. We would love to have our neighbors come to our Second Monday Movies here at 4200 Cedar Avenue. The popcorn is fresh, the films interesting and we follow with open discussion. Childcare is available. We also have engaging public talks open to the public, too. Check our website for ongoing WAMM actions and activities or follow us on Facebook. We especially invite *Close to Home* readers to find a comfortable place to be active in WAMM.

4200 Cedar Ave, #3
www.womenagainstmilitarymadness.org

Senior Partners Care

Does the financial burden of the gap left between medical bills and Medicare keep you or a loved one from getting critical medical care needed to stay healthy? Stop worrying, there’s a solution! Let Senior Partners Care (SPC) help you. SPC is a statewide program, which began in 1973, that helps low- to moderate-income Medicare beneficiaries limit their out-of-pocket medical expenses.

SPC has partnered with many of the major metropolitan area healthcare systems and hundreds of clinics and providers statewide. Some of our key metro providers are Fairview, HCMC, Park Nicollet/Methodist, North Memorial, HealthEast, and Minnesota Oncology.

Partners agree to accept Medicare as full payment on Medicare-covered services for SPC members.



Senior Partners Care members must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B, cannot have a supplemental medical insurance policy (though they can have a Part D Drug-only policy), are not on Medical Assistance, and meet our program’s financial guidelines: \$1,961

in gross income per month for a single person and \$2,655 per month for a couple, and liquid assets of under \$48,500 per household regardless of size. This excludes a house you live in and one car. Just look at the impact SPC has had on Jean’s life, “I’ve been retired for 20 years and have a fixed income. SPC has saved me thousands of dollars.” —Jean

For program details and applications visit www.seniorcommunity.org/programs or call (952) 767-0665.



The Parkway Artists Coalition Garden+Art Tour, scheduled for Sunday, September 20, is postponed until next year.

5th-Annual Bike Race Sets Attendance Records

Southside Sprint Celebrates Biggest Year

By Jason Lardy

A record field of bicycle racers turned Chicago Avenue into a drag strip on July 19 as the Southside Sprint celebrated its 5th running. 265 elite racers rolled to the line on the warm July Sunday, joining a record of over 150 kids “Fun Racers.” More than 600 spectators lined the streets and filled the front yards of neighborhood homes, cheering the riders to top speed.

The race earned USA Cycling’s State Championship Criterium designation for the first time in 2015, awarding state champion’s jerseys and medals to the winners of individual race categories. “Criterium” races, like the Southside Sprint, cover short-distance courses over multiple laps. Ten state champions were crowned throughout the day.

The race is overwhelmingly popular among racers. For the fourth consecutive year, the event drew more racers than any other race on the Minnesota bicycle racing calendar. They credit the neighborhood’s enthusiastic turnout as one of the most compelling aspects of the event. Said David Carney, Masters Category 4/5 race winner, “This is the only race in Minnesota that has this much spectator enthusiasm.”

Also popular are the opportunities for new racers to try bicycle racing for the first time. The event’s unique beginner clinic again drew nearly 30 first-timers and the separate men’s beginner and women’s beginner races were among the largest fields of the day. Event organizers plan to continue each in 2016. Race details, including full results can be found at www.southsidesprint.com



Photos: Sue Filbin



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

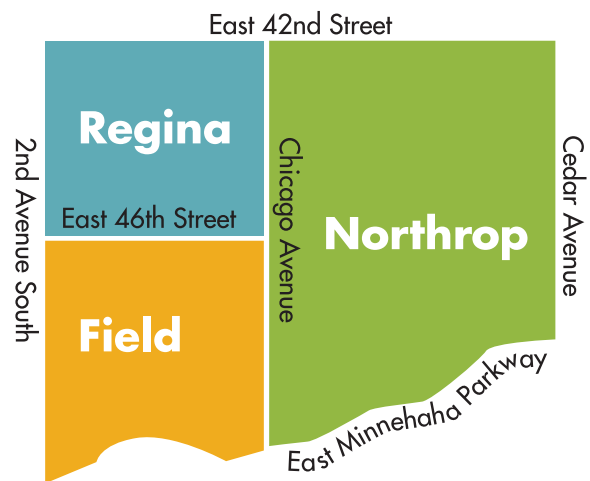
1st Monday of each month at 7 p.m., McRae Park Rec. Center

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



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





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Close to Home is written for neighbors by neighbors.
The next deadline is Friday, October 2.
We welcome your comments, articles, and photos.
Please contact us by email: communications@frng.org

Are you concerned about traffic flow and safety on 46th Street?

Plan to stop into the open-house style 46th-Street Reconfiguration Community Meeting. Talk with staff from the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County, and neighbors from FRNNG, Kingfield, and Tangletown neighborhoods. Get information and express your ideas. (See article page 1.)

46th Street Community Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 21
Time: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Arrive anytime - informal open-house format

Location: Field Middle School
4645-4th Avenue South

Want to get rid of "stuff"?

Pitch your junk, or help others pitch theirs. (See article page 1.)

Clean Sweep

Saturday, Oct. 3, 8 a.m.-noon