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FROM FENCES TO FIREPLACES TO FOOD

What happens when neighbors share their needs, learn skills from each other, and are open to connection? A food shelf expands to a community garden and partners with a local business! More than that, neighbors gain respect for cultures besides their own, grow food and eat together.

While much of the world feels divided, volunteers of We Garden on 15th and the New Creation Baptist Church's food shelf find themselves sharing stories around the dinner table with Black, Ojibwe, Russian and Ecuadorian families.

As one volunteer said, "Shifting from Americans' 'individual' mindset to more of a 'community' mindset is something we can learn from Black, Ecuadorian and Indigenous neighbors."

She was inspired to ask her contractor from KNO Woodworks what they do with the scrap wood that piles up after each project and learned that it was going to waste. Now, the scraps are collected after each job, and volunteers turn them into firestarters to sell with the proceeds going to We Garden on 15th and the community garden.

To buy firestarters, email WeGardenOn15@gmail.com. If you have questions about or are interested in joining a community garden committee to support We Garden on 15th, email fieldrep@frnng.org or use the volunteer sign-up form at frnng.org. To stay updated on projects like these, sign up for our *Close to Home* e-newsletter at frnng.org.

THANK YOU FOR LIGHTING UP THE HOLIDAYS

Huge thanks to everyone who shared their winter light display or checked out our first-ever Field Regina Northrop Holiday Lights Tour. The tour ran throughout December and included 26 displays across our neighborhoods.

We had a blast showcasing our beautiful communities for neighbors and visitors this holiday season.

CLOSE TO HOME
THE FIELD REGINA NORTHROP NEWSLETTER

Close to Home is published four times a year by the Field Regina Neighborhood Group, 906 E. 47th St., Minneapolis, MN 55407-3564. Stories and photos are welcome. Please send to frnng@frnng.org
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FIELD
REGINA
NORTHROP
Neighborhood Group



CLOSE TO HOME

THE FIELD REGINA NORTHROP NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2024



FOCUS ON FRNNG

By Nate Lansing | Board President

We're always so amazed at how generous and supportive our Field Regina Northrop neighbors are. You step up for Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group events – both attending them and volunteering to help make them a success – and when we ask, you also provide extra financial resources so that we can bring the activities, services and events that you value most.

This year, between Give to the Max Day and Giving Tuesday, you donated \$1,025 (and counting), all of which will go to help fund our FRNNG activities.

Based on the feedback we've received from our neighborhood surveys, we're in the process of planning what those activities will be in 2024.

Thank you again, and we look forward to the great New Year ahead!

Nate

WINTER FUN AT MCRAE PARK

Fire and Ice

Friday, January 19
6pm-9pm

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!

Ice skating | Fire pits | S'mores | Hot Cocoa
ARTrageous Winter Creation Station
Music | Broomball | Hockey | Snowshoeing

Enjoy a night with your family and friends at McRae Park! Limited skates and broomball equipment will be available for use.

REGISTER HERE:



MAGIC SHOW • 7PM-7:30PM

MCRAE PARK
906 E 47TH STREET
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55407



Questions? mcrac@minneapolisparcs.org or 612.370.4909

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GREENING MEETING | JAN. 27

Check out FRNNG's relaunched Greening Committee at the meeting on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024 from 12 – 2 p.m. at McRae Rec Center (906 E 47th St). Help reimagine what this committee can accomplish around sustainability, waste reduction, conservation and environmental justice.

Sign up at frnng.org or just show up. All are welcome!

AWW! SHOWCASE YOUR PET ON 'PETS OF FRN'

Calling all pet people. Whether you have dogs, cats, fish, birds, reptiles or anything beyond and in between, we know pet parents take hundreds of pictures of their beloved animals. And now you can showcase them on our new Pets of Field Regina Northrop web page, frnng.org/pets.

Submit one photo of each of your pets and include their name, breed, favorite activity and the neighborhood in which you live. We'll upload your pet's pictures to our

growing gallery at frnng.org/pets and feature some on our social media channels (with your permission).

You'll want to bookmark the page so you can visit it whenever you need a smile. If you see a pet on the website that may make a good playmate, we encourage you to connect through the comments on our social media posts. Who knows? You might find a dog-walking buddy or a pet playmate!



ASK THE BUNNY: WHO IS FIELD SCHOOL NAMED AFTER?



The Minnehaha Bunny has been a Field Regina Northrop resident since 2002. It sees a lot from its corner of Portland Ave. S. and Minnehaha Parkway. That's

why the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group has recruited it to be a *Close to Home* columnist. If you have a question for the bunny, submit it at frnng@frnng.org.

Question: Who is Field School named after?

Answer: Although I know a lot of kiddos who go to Field, I wasn't sure where the name came from.

It turns out the school is named after Eugene Field, who was a newspaper reporter, editor, writer and poet.

He was born in 1850 in Missouri, but despite living in many cities, he never lived in Minneapolis. Instead, he, along with his large family, resided mostly in Chicago and St. Louis.

In college, he was kind of wild and played a lot of practical jokes. He led raids on the president's wine cellar, painted the president's house in the school colors and fired the school's landmark cannons at midnight. After college, he spent six months in Europe.

Field came home without a penny and began his journalism career. When he was 29, his poem "Christmas

Treasures" was published; he eventually wrote more than a dozen volumes of poetry, mostly light-hearted verses for children. These include "Wynken, Blynken and Nod," "The Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat," and "Little Boy Blue."

Some of his poems were set to music, and many were illustrated by the renowned painter Maxfield Parrish.

Unfortunately, Eugene Field died at the young age of 45. But his children's poetry lives on, and he's remembered by a star on the St. Louis Walk of Fame. In 2016, Field was inducted into the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame.

Oh, and our Field School is one of more than 30 around the country that bears Eugene Field's name.

IS 2024 THE YEAR TO SPRUCE UP YOUR HOME?

In addition to Duck Races, newsletters, and greening projects, FRNNG also offers Home Loan Programs through the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE). These home loans allow residents of Field, Regina and Northrop neighborhoods to apply for low- or no-interest financing without income limits.

Remodeling, doing maintenance, improving energy efficiency and

installing solar panels are a few of the kinds of projects that qualify for a home loan program.

CEE is an energy nonprofit that was formed in 1979. From the beginning, it partnered with neighborhood groups. The organization has its roots in Minneapolis but now operates nationwide.

More information on the three loan options (Home Improvement,



Emergency Deferred, and Exterior and Energy Deferred) can be found at frnng.org/loanprograms. Need help? Reach out to us at frnng@frnng.org to be connected with a board member for assistance and to learn more.

CHECK OUT LOCAL BUY NOTHING GROUPS

By Adam Fix | Communications Committee

Do you have too much stuff? Is there an old coffee table or stack of New Yorker magazines piling up in your basement? Have you ever bought too much of a snack item that no one in the family likes? Or maybe you need an extra Thermos or a gently used winter jacket to get you through the January deep freeze?

Like many of us, you don't have exactly the right stuff. That's where Buy Nothing comes in.

The Buy Nothing Project (buynothingproject.org) is a benefit organization that establishes

"gift economy" access around the world. This means neighbors give items to neighbors, with no money or trading involved. Buy Nothing is about reusing resources and minimizing waste, all while connecting and strengthening communities.

I've given all kinds of stuff through Buy Nothing: furniture, an old coffee maker, Pokémon cards I got as a gag gift, cat litter that was the wrong clumpiness, and more. Almost anything and everything can be given away or loaned out.

To participate, either download the app

at buynothingproject.org/join or join your local Facebook group.

We have two neighborhood Buy Nothing groups:

- Regina/Field: bit.ly/ReginaFieldBN
- Northrop: bit.ly/NorthropBN

Next time you're looking to buy local, don't forget to also "buy nothing" local! Meet neighbors and experience the simple joy of random acts of kindness.

