

CLOSE TO HOME

THE FIELD REGINA NORTHROP NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP NEWSLETTER

July/August 2017

July and August Fun at McRae

By Carrie Shidla, Communications Committee

Summer activities are in full swing! *Close to Home* again checked in with Heather Susag, recreation leader at McRae Park, to see what's new.

McRae Renovations Completed!

The McRae staff is so excited to have people again using the athletic fields! Completion of the athletic field renovations – including leveling, irrigation, and a water fountain – is finished and the fields are ready for use. This is the first phase of a multi-year park renovation that will include playground and pool updates in coming years.

Safety Camp

July 24 - 27

Safety camp is for kids ages second through fifth grades, where they can learn

Continued on page 3

Fulton Southside Sprint Bike Race Celebrates 7 Years

Popular South Minneapolis Bicycle Race Concludes Five-State Series July 23

By Jason Lardy

The 2017 Fulton Southside Sprint celebrates a major national honor. Minnesota's most popular amateur bike race weekend has been named the grand finale of the \$120,000 5-state Midwest Flyover Race Series. Sunday's race in south Minneapolis, the Fulton Southside Sprint, concludes the two-day Big Waters Classic July 22-23.

The 2017 Big Waters Classic starts with a new venue in St. Paul on Saturday – the



Photo: lardyphotography.com

The Southside Sprint Bike Race attracts locally based professionals as well as World Masters and US National Champions.

new Rondo Rush – before returning to south Minneapolis for the seventh-consecutive year. “The Big Waters Classic is the most popular sanctioned amateur road race in Minnesota,” notes race co-founder,

Continued on page 2



Photo: Sue Filbin

Among the renovations done to the athletic field at McRae Park were the installation of a water fountain located near the basketball court, an irrigation system, and drainage toward the field's edges..

President's Letter

Hello FRN,

I read in the *Southwest Journal* an article entitled, “For neighborhoods, a question of ‘teeth’ versus autonomy” about the City's concerns over how much power that its individual neighborhoods have.

If you would like to read online, go to this site: <https://tinyurl.com/ybvdz7mp>

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Jason Lardy. “We’re honored to have been named the Grand Finale of the prestigious Midwest Flyover Series. With races in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin, the competition will bring riders and fans from across the US to vibrant neighborhoods in Minneapolis and St. Paul.”

The Southside Sprint is applauded by racers for its urban setting, enthusiastic crowds and plentiful dining and shopping options on the course. “I was impressed with the crowds, the support, the staffing, the businesses and the neighbors. This is the largest crowd I have seen at an amateur race. AND, without a doubt the most fan support I have ever been privileged to witness,” noted USA Cycling official, Steve Haugh.

Championship-Caliber Racing for Everyone

The most popular event of the Southside Sprint schedule is the Family Dental Clinic Dash – the Kids Fun Race. This FREE event for kids ages 4-12 gives little racers a chance to show off in front of family, friends and neighbors. It’s just one of the opportunities the Southside Sprint provides for racers of all levels. New riders appreciate the Beginner Racing Clinic offered before racing starts and the dedicated beginner races that put coaches into the race alongside racers.

The event also showcases top Minnesota talent each year, including locally based professionals as well as World Masters and US National Champions. Defending Women’s Champion Alijah Beatty owns multiple junior national championships. 2014 Women’s Champion Kelly Catlin is a two-time World Champion and Olympic Silver Medalist.

Family Fun

Outside the fences, the Southside Sprint offers entertainment for everyone. The Family Fun Zone includes free kids art activities, fitness and lifestyle exhibits from sponsors and other neighborhood businesses and the always-popular snow

cone machine. This year, the Fun Zone will include an Athletes’ Village on 48th Street where teams will gather to warm up, cool down and interact with fans. Young race fans can get autographs and pictures with their favorite racers within a few steps of the finish line.

All of these activities bring new visitors to the neighborhood each year. Many racers live in the Twin Cities suburbs, greater Minnesota and neighboring states. For some, it’s their first visit to the Field Regina Northrop neighborhood. St. Paul racer Loren Willis noted, “I came back in the evening for a burger at the Town Hall Tap and a scoop at Pumphouse Creamery. None of that would have happened without the Southside Sprint.”

Racing begins July 23 at 8 a.m. and concludes with the final State Championship



Photo: lardyphotography.com

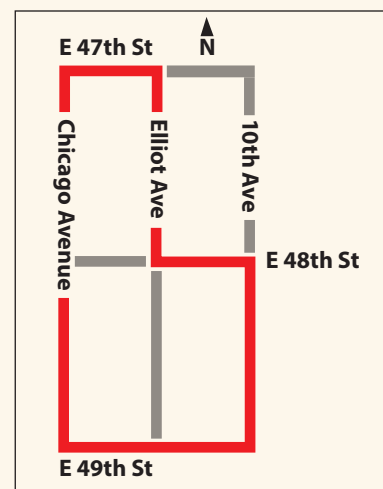
The most popular event of the Southside Sprint schedule is the Family Dental Clinic Dash – the Kids Fun Race.

awards ceremony at 4 p.m. The Family Fun Zone takes place during all race events at the corner of 48th & Chicago. Racers will toe the line just south of the 48th & Chicago intersection. Full race details can be found at www.bigwatersclassic.com ❖

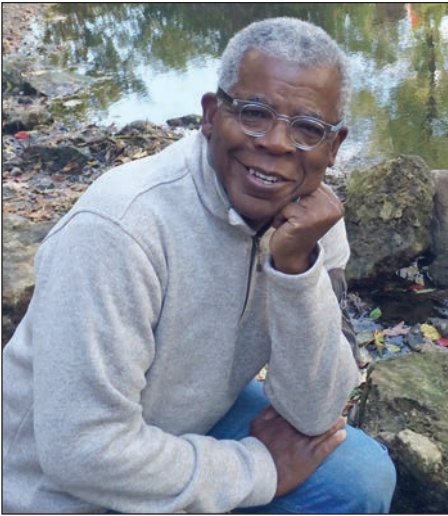
Southside Sprint – Sunday, July 23

Beginning Racers’ Clinic	7:00 a.m.	Family Dental Clinic Dash	2:30 p.m.
Masters’ Race	8:00 a.m.	FREE Kids Fun Race (Ages 4-12)	
Masters Category 4/5		Men’s Grand Prix	2:50 p.m.
Bikes & Pieces Citizens’ Race	8:45 a.m.		
Category 5/Citizens			
Men’s Race	9:20 a.m.		
Men Category 4/5			
Junior Jam	10:10 a.m.		
Juniors 9-14, 15-18			
Women’s Citizens Race	10:50 a.m.		
Women Category 4/5 Citizens			
Town Hall Tap Brewmasters’ Sprint	11:30 a.m.		
Men Masters			
Men’s Race	12:30 p.m.		
Men Category 3/4			
Women’s Grand Prix	1:30 p.m.		
Women Category 1/2/3			

Race Route



Provided photo



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

I've been involved with FRN on and off for about eight years. I can honestly say that in our neighborhood, I believe that our board has always placed the community first. When I look back, I am reminded that there have been many improvements made in our community. We have had surveys to get our residents'

input. We talk with our neighbors, asking what our community needs. We make our community aware of our home improvement loans. We seek input from the business community and we have worked with the businesses in FRN to make improvements.

Some people say the neighborhoods have too much power. They also say that not everyone's voice is being heard. We in FRN are always working with the community asking for their input. There can always be improvement in this area of getting people involved in their community.

I've read where some people feel the communities have too much power. If our communities had all this power, I do believe we wouldn't have as many chronic potholes as we do. We would make changes to how we address the homeless in our community. We would address improving our schools. We would do a better job of taking care of our elders. We would figure out how to work with the under-served

people and areas of our community.

We do have power when we vote for mayor, city council persons, school board members and the park board representatives. I hope that they're listening to us. FRN, I hope that you will always feel free to contact our city council persons and make sure that they hear our voices. You have to let them know that we want a say-so in our community. We want to be the ones who say what it is that we want to have happen in our communities. We don't want less power; we want to keep the power that we already have, and utilize it well.

If you agree with me, please call our city council persons: Elizabeth Glidden (8th Ward) 612-673-2208 and John Quincy (11th Ward) 612-673-2211 and let your voices be heard.

Be safe, FRN!

July and August Fun at McRae, *continued from page 1*

about different types of safety issues in a fun, camp-like format. We're talking water safety with Abby's Hope (including swim lessons!), important discussions about stranger danger, light rail and train safety, and even bike safety – complete with a free helmet fitted just for them.

Movie in the Park: Sing!

August 19

On Saturday, August 19, McRae will

be hosting Movie in the Park at dusk, featuring "Sing." Bring a blanket, some bug spray, and refreshments to this family-friendly event.

After-School Rec Plus

I know it seems like school just got out, but it's already time to start thinking about after-school care for the kiddos! In August you can sign your kids up for the 2017-2018 After-School Rec-Plus

program for kids who are enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade.

For more information on these and other summer activities, stop by the McRae Recreation Center at 906 East 47th Street, call (612) 370-4909, or visit <https://www.minneapolisparcs.org> and click on "Activities and Events." ❖



Volunteers wrap up a great year

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

By Terry Mazig, Chair, Education Committee
FRN Volunteers wrapped up a great year of helping students by attending a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at Field Community School Media Center.

Volunteer Reflections

"Thank you for the invitation to breakfast...I have enjoyed my time at Field School, and I hope to continue for the next school year or over summer, if there is summer school."

*Sandra P. Media Center volunteer
Thursdays 11 a.m.–1 p.m. each week*

"It has been a pleasure volunteering at Hale! Best Wishes."

Sheryl B. 4th-grade volunteer

Hi Terry, "I have Sheryl B. who recently started. She is fabulous. I am really enjoying having her come into the (Language) classroom twice a week."

Ms. Croonquist, 4th-grade teacher at Hale Elementary School

"As a volunteer, I join Ms. Kim Hotchkiss and her band of the day Mondays. Sometimes I sit with the group and play along. I'm a trombone player. Other times, I take small groups of students to do small-group lessons where we work out difficult (music) passages in their concert music or lesson books. I have been working with Ms. Hotchkiss on and off for the last three years."

*Cathy H., parent and volunteer director,
First Notes Family Music*

"Obviously there is a great need for volunteers. went along on two college field trips. I enjoyed that a lot. Watching the kids and seeing how they reacted to the field trips was quite interesting.

"I found while doing binder checks with students (in the AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination –

Dear FRN Volunteers,
I/We are so grateful you found a niche at one of our schools. Thank you for enlightening students' minds, and letting them know their potential for success! That's the goal! —Peace, Terry Mazig



Field principal VaNita Miller (front left) with volunteers at the appreciation breakfast.



Field volunteer Kris R. (left) and volunteer liaison H. Dahlen.

Photos: Terry Mazig

classroom) some were very eager and some students very reluctant...but I think that was just to be expected. Volunteering... would I do it again? Yes!

Thanks again. Judy U., 6–8th AVID Volunteer

What I enjoy most about being at Field is the kids. Seeing the light come on in someone's eyes when they understand a particular math problem gives me a lot of satisfaction. The teacher I work with makes really good use of me — my time in the classroom is never wasted."

Perry B., Mr. Hamilton's 8th-grade algebra

Thank You Generous Neighborhood Sponsors

FRNG Volunteer T-shirts designed by
Chris Schommer

Kowalski's Parkview and Lyndale
provided delicious breakfast items

Sovereign Grounds provided wonderful
Turkish coffee

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www.familydentalclinic-mpls.com

Building lifelong relationships one smile at a time

Annual meeting elections outcome

New FRNNG Board Members

By Chris Schommer, Chair, Communications Committee

FRNNG welcomes some new board members who were elected at the April annual meeting. Board members are volunteers who help run committees and manage the organization, often putting in many hours on behalf of the neighborhood.

These newly elected members include: Treasurer Lara Dale, Greening Co-Chair

Lauren Anderson, and Field Representative Mark Perrier. In addition to new board members, former Field Neighborhood Representative Barbara Harris was elected 2nd Vice President. Lindsey Feiner is stepping down as Greening Co-Chair but is changing roles to become the new South Northrop Neighborhood Co-Chair.

FRNNG thanks all new and returning board members for all they do for the neighborhood! ❖

Hale-Field Partnership, 45 Years Later! Save the date: November 8

Honoring Leaders of Hale/Field School Desegregation 1971

Where are we now? How will we grow?

We are looking for names of those who fought for and supported pairing, for people to assist in planning, as well as historical information about and from people who were involved, artifacts, memories, etc.

Contact: Terry Mazig, chair of the Education Committee at education@frnng.org with any information you have, or to get involved.



Photo: Terry Mazig



Choose a lawyer you can talk to - Dave Porter
612-722-1001 * 5208 Bloomington Avenue

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

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Smiling Dog Design

Contributors

Willie Bridges, Alexandra Cortes, Sue Filbin, Jason Lardy, Lisa Lardy, Terry Mazig, Jennifer Neale, Chris Schommer, Carrie Shidla, Sybylla Yeoman Hendrix

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, August 4, 2017

The Field Regina
Northrop Neighborhood Group, Inc.
Established in 1965
1620 East 46th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55407
FRNNG Info Line (612) 721-5424
E-mail: frnng@frnng.org
Program Manager: Stearline Rucker

2016-2017 FRNNG Board

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2nd V.P.: Barbara Harris

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Northrop South Neighborhood Rep's:
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Nate Lansing

Parks: Maria Gillece

“Bob Next Door”

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee

How do you describe one neighbor to another? Some of us use geographic shorthand such as, “Joe, second house from the corner with the big hill” or “Lisa, the house with the black fence and the white dog.” For us, the neighbor whose house is just north of ours was “Bob next door.”

Bob and his late wife MaryLou moved into their home in 1952. Bob recently died at the age of 91. He was a good neighbor – quiet, considerate, and attentive to his home and lawn. What I knew about Bob was that he liked golf, reading history, dogs, flowers, and fresh tomatoes. He and I had a “sharecropping” arrangement for his south-facing gardens. He had the sun and soil; I had energy and knees that bend. We shared the cost of the tomatoes and other plants and seeds, and split the harvest.

The impetus of a loud thump

One night in March 1993, my husband and I heard a loud thump. When I poked my head out the front door, I saw three young men running from Bob and MaryLou’s home. They got into a small old car and drove speedily down the hill with their lights off. We called 911 and Bob and MaryLou, who were out of town at the time. Fortunately we had their phone number.

After the police officers checked the home, I asked one of them about block clubs. She responded that neighbors who are connected to each other by having an organized block club have an edge over burglars and others who look for opportunities to take advantage of inviting circumstances. She went on to say that trained block leaders are the block’s conduit to the crime prevention specialist and the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD). Through clear communications, block leaders receive and distribute information from the MPD, keeping their

neighbors informed about current nearby criminal activity and reminding neighbors about safety and crime-prevention.

That police officer’s remark, along with inspiration from Leighton, the longtime block club leader for the 4900-block of 10th Avenue, inspired me to become a trained block club leader. Training took place during two evening sessions. A sergeant divulged that when he saw lights on in a home, he couldn’t be sure whether someone was home or the lights were on a timer. It seemed to me (and still does) that would-be thieves are likely to be similarly perplexed. I also recall the importance of turning on a light near your front and back doors to prevent break-ins. Burglars prefer to work unseen and unreported.

Our first block party

Although we had lived on our block for three years, I didn’t feel I knew any neighbors well enough to invite them to share organizing and hosting a block party so I plunged ahead, distributing paper invitations to each neighbor and hoping for a good turnout. On the first night in August 1993, our few lawn chairs were sprinkled on our sloping front yard along with a card table to hold lemonade, paper cups, and cookies from the Paradise Pastry Shop (no longer at 42nd and Cedar Avenue). And there was a sign-in sheet so we could use the birds-eye map provided by the MPD to share contact information.

Most of my preparation for the party was spent on assembling and rehearsing all that I’d learned during my five hours of training. (Training now occurs in a convenient, reduced amount of time. See the article on page 7 by crime prevention specialist Jennifer Neale) From a pile of index cards, I read with great earnestness all the information I thought my neighbors needed to stay safe and to protect their property and each other.



Photo: Sue Filbin

Block club map stuck to a neighbor’s refrigerator.

You might be wondering what the outcome was of that first block party. We had a good turnout. Most important: people met each other. Although Bob did not attend, his wife MaryLou did. As we made our way around our irregular circle to introduce ourselves, MaryLou and a couple who lived on the corner realized they had both lived on the block for more than 40 years, yet they had never met! A look of satisfaction, and perhaps even joy, seemed to be exchanged among those of us gathered on that August night.

Some neighbors were glad to simply meet each other; several others proclaimed the night was fun (Really?!) and volunteered to help with future gatherings. Some never – ever – attended another block club gathering. “Bob next door” was in that group. But last week, when I put a pot of coffee on his kitchen counter after Bob died, there, stuck with magnets to his refrigerator, was the most recent version of the block map. Bob didn’t want to attend a gathering of neighbors, but he did want to be connected.

Please share a story about interaction between you and the neighbors (with their permission) on your block. The deadline for the Sept./Oct. issue of *Close to Home* is Friday, August 4. We know countless friendly, helpful activities are going on all over our community and look forward to reading your story.

Submit your story to Chris Schommer, chair of the communications committee, at: communications@frnng.org ❖

The value of block club leaders

By Jennifer Neale, Crime Prevention Specialist, Sector 3

Lately when I attend meetings of block club leaders, the topic of being an extrovert or introvert pops up. People who consider themselves to be shy or quiet doubt their ability to function effectively as a block club leader.

It's been my experience that the block club leaders who make the biggest difference related to crime prevention and safety are those who are dedicated to their neighbors. It's as simple as that.

What does a block club leader really do? It varies by the block and the people involved, but the one constant is connecting neighbors to each other. And how is that done? Through communicating – by whatever means it takes to reach your neighbors: Conversations, phone calls, emails, text messages, tweets, Facebook posts, and paper flyers dropped in front doors.

The value of connecting

How can something as simple as communication prevent break-ins, theft, vandalism, and other crimes? The act of communicating with someone helps them feel included. And by feeling included, neighbors become interested in and better understand who actually lives at each address. Neighbors take notice of suspicious activity such as hearing the sound of breaking glass or seeing someone they don't recognize remove a lawnmower or snow blower from a garage. In fact, they make the effort to contact a neighbor when they notice a garage door is left open; they make an effort to extend their awareness beyond the boundaries of their own property to pay attention to the well being of others.

Connecting through National Night Out

With National Night Out (NNO) occurring on August 1 this year, you have

an ideal opportunity to connect with your neighbors. If your block has a block club leader, offer to help that person host a block party on NNO. If your block doesn't have a block club leader, take the initiative to get neighbors together. Ask several of them to collaborate to make something social happen on your block. And contact me. My goal, and the goal of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) Third Precinct and MPD Chief Janeé Harteau, is for every block to be "covered" by a block club leader.

If you don't know your neighbors, the easiest way to begin communicating with them is to drop a note in their front door. Invite them to provide contact informa-

tion so that neighbors can easily communicate with each other by sharing safety- and crime-related information. Invite them to contribute to and attend a block club party. Let them know when and where the party will be, what to bring (if anything), and what to expect. And then have fun, *talking* with your neighbors! ❖

More information

Please contact me with questions about being a block club leader.
jennifer.neale@minneapolismn.gov
612-673-2839

Information about National Night Out is available at this link:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno/>



Photo: Chris Schommer

Field Neighborhood residents blocked off their street for a night to have an "urban campout."

An Urban Campout

By Shilad Sen, Field Neighbor

Last summer our block held an urban campout. We closed our block to vehicle traffic, pitched tents in our front yards, and created a neighborhood summer camp. Kids wandered from tent to tent playing games and watching movies while the adults visited around a campfire and staffed the grill.

Organizing the event was surprisingly easy. We have an active block email list, and we used it to see if neighbors support-

ed the idea (they did!) and to poll them to find a good date. You can request a permit to close your block from the City of Minneapolis if you do it at least 35 days in advance, and they deliver barricades. We also rented a 12-foot inflatable movie screen and projector for \$100 from Fundamental and showed a few movies after dusk. The event was a great way to enjoy time with our neighbors and build our block identity. I foresee many future urban campouts in our future! <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/publicworks/permits> ❖

Pepitos' Joe Minjares perseveres and inspires

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee
The *StarTribune* highlighted one of our neighborhood noted personalities in Jon Tevlin's column on Thursday, June 15. That column provided abundant content for a second column, written by renowned writer and business-writing trainer – Stephen Wilbers – who also happens to be a neighbor.

The headline for the original column is: “Garrulous Mpls. restaurateur too sick to work keeps on laughing.” We learn that Joe Minjares – “Little Joey” from Pepitos – “has kept his creativity and his sense of humor” while managing the progressive effects of the 2011 diagnosis of pulmonary fibrosis. Tevlin provides a buffet of information about Joe's family; his career as a writer, actor, and comedian; his largesse; and more.

A second column

The headline for the second column is: “If you want to connect with readers,

add heart.” In the Monday, June 26, *Business* section of the *StarTribune*, Stephen Wilbers used the content from Tevlin's column as an instructional commentary on effective business writing, his profession. Wilbers explained that while he loves the food at Pepitos and admires Joe's performance talents, his attention was drawn to “the quality of writing in the family story printed on the back of the menu.” Wilbers originally wrote about Pepitos nearly 16 years ago, noting that the story “captured the heart and soul of Pepitos.” In his recent column, Wilbers comments on Joe's “own outsized heart.”

Light and heat

Some would describe Joe as a guiding light in our neighborhood. Others might say he's more of a bonfire – the exciting site of warmth and activity where people want to gather. In one of the columns, you will read this quote about light and heat from Joe himself – that he always “wanted to be the guy with the blowtorch.”

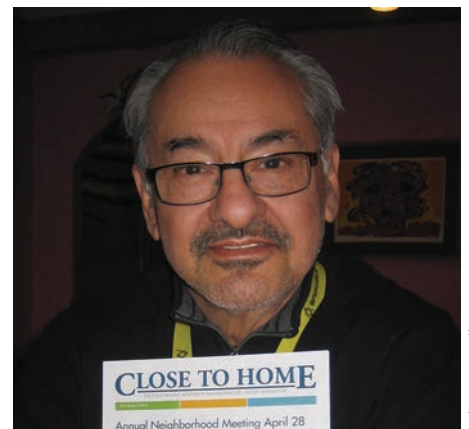


Photo: Sue Filbin

Joe Minjares of Pepitos Restaurant

<http://www.startribune.com/garrulous-restaurateur-too-sick-to-work-but-keeps-on-laughing/428539633/>

Close to Home featured an article about Pepitos in the April/May 2016 issue. ❖

Increasing Neighborhood Presence on Social Media

By Chris Schommer, Chair, Communications Committee

Starting in July, the neighborhood is ramping up our social media presence. We have engaged a social-media company to create a strategy and schedule for posting information. Among our goals is to increase awareness of our neighborhood by media, organizations, businesses, and individuals to generate more customers for nearby businesses and more residents for homes and apartments. Follow our progress on our website, and on Facebook and Twitter. ❖

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Peak Season at the Nokomis Farmers Market

By Alexandra Cortes, Executive Director, Neighborhood Roots

It's peak summertime at the Nokomis Market! Mark your calendars for Wednesday evenings as vendors' stalls are filling up, and our activity calendar is jam-packed, too! In July, find fresh flowers and the first of the cherry tomatoes, along with plentiful zucchini, broccoli, carrots, cucumbers, beets, and potatoes. Look for the first sweet corn toward the end of the month, and for the tomatoes to keep getting bigger and juicier as the weeks progress! August adds apples, peppers, and melons to the mix. There are always eggs, pastured meats, breads, and food trucks, too.

Spend the whole evening at the market. In addition to delicious things to eat, there are fun activities to enjoy, and we're open rain or shine. On July 12, kids can make a sun print with 3 Bears Landscaping! Learn all about forest hydrology and watersheds on July 19 and about microbiology on July 26, with Market Science. Representatives from the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG) will also be at the market on July 26, so stop by to find out the latest neighborhood happenings.

The August 2 market will host a bald eagle and two other raptors from the Raptor Center from 5 -7 p.m. We'll have a craft activity for kids on August 9, and a geology activity with Market Science on the 16th. August 23 is Bike to the Market day, and August 30 will again bring FRNNG representatives.

We'll see you at the market! Find us at 5167 Chicago Avenue through September 27. Hours are Wednesday from 4 - 8 p.m. through August, and 3:30 - 7 p.m. in September. You can also find the Nokomis Market on Facebook for all the latest details. ❖



Provided photo

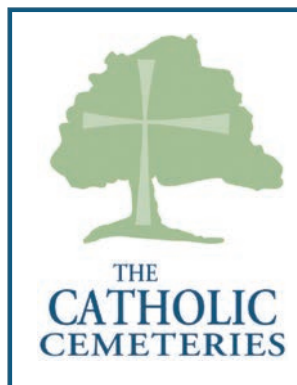
4700 Cedar Update

By Chris Schommer, Chair, Communications Committee

There was a lot of activity at 4700 Cedar Avenue last winter, but it appears that plans have stalled out. A private developer had proposed a drive-through coffee shop and redevelopment of the former gas station which prompted a public meeting through FRNNG, and a plan review by the Minneapolis Planning Commission.

While the zoning of the property allows for a drive through and the type of construction proposed, there was community

and City concern about the traffic flow and curb cutouts onto Cedar would cause a potentially dangerous situation. The Planning Commission made the determination that the plan should be changed to include a single curb cut onto Cedar Avenue. The developer appealed to the Planning and Zoning Department, which denied the appeal, and that was supported by the full city council. At this point, the developer has not indicated future plans. There is no building permit, and nothing has been submitted. ❖



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The Circle World of Anna's Tailoring

This article was written by Sybylla Yeoman Hendrix for the February 2014 issue of the *SENA News* – the newsletter for the Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association (SENA). This updated article is reprinted here by permission.

Anna's Tailoring is located on Cedar Avenue next to the popular *ie* – Italian Eatery. Inside is a beautiful shop filled with potted plants and angel figurines, along with sewing machines, some other equipment, and a clothes-changing stall. The business is owned and operated by Anna, also known as Jong Hwa Ra.

Soon after she moved from South Korea to the United States 32 years ago, Jong Hwa Ra learned that Americans had trouble pronouncing her name. After some deliberation, she chose her daughter's name, Anna, because it was short and straightforward. Anna spent many years focusing on her most important goal, the education of her children. But when her son, then in middle school, asked her why she didn't have a job, she decided it was time to find one.

Anna's Tailoring opened 20 years ago, and since then Anna has built a second family with her customers. When I asked Anna what she liked about the neighborhood, she said, "The customers are honest, so I am honest with them." She looks at your alteration or repair problem and tells you the cost to fix it, so you know before you leave your garment behind. She charges \$7 to \$9 to repair surface problems, \$10 to hem a garment, and \$15 for anything deeper than the lining. If your coat's zipper is broken, Anna will fix it. Replacing the zipper might make her more money, but Anna wants to help people save money. During the winter of 2013-2014, she fixed 137 zippers.

In return, Anna's customers have become her friends, and signs of that friendship are all over the shop. Most noticeable are the angel figurines at the front of the



Photo: Sue Filbin

Anna (Jong Hwa Ra) seated in her shop, Anna's Tailoring, 4726 Cedar Avenue.

shop. Anna's customers bring them to her from their travels all over the world. I also admired a veritable rainforest of houseplants. Anna told me her customers bring their sick plants to her. She rehabilitates them in her large, sun-filled shop windows and then gives them back.

The back wall of Anna's shop has shelves full of pillows made out of every fabric imaginable. When customers go abroad, they bring Anna pieces of fabric, which she turns into pillows. Her collection now spans more than 70 countries. Sometimes more than one customer goes to the same country, and Anna combines multiple fabrics into the pillows. When she retires, Anna wants to give the pillows to an arts school so that a design student can create something out of them.

Anna says her world is a "circle world." She gets what she gives to other people. If she is honest with her customers, they will be honest with her. If she gives to the world, the world will give back to her. Twelve years ago, a customer brought in a large bag of children's clothing, each piece

with a superficial mending problem. Anna felt guilty charging the customer regular prices which, although low, would add up to a sizable amount of money. When the customer returned, Anna asked her how many children she had. The customer replied that she had only one child, and these were clothes she was giving to others. She wanted them to be in good repair when she donated them. Anna was delighted that her work was going to a good cause and ever since has collected clothing from all of her customers. When she has accumulated a few bags, the same customer from 15 years ago takes them away and redistributes them.

Anna began her business to help pay for her children's education; she thought that when they were done with school, she would be done working. Then her children got married, are having children of their own, and Anna is still not done. "Now I think, when I die, I'll be done." ❖

612-721-2245 • 4726 Cedar Avenue
<https://www.tcdailyplanet.net/circle-world-annas-tailoring/>

Coming Soon

Sift Gluten Free Bakery

By Carrie Shidla, Communications Committee

A new commercial and retail bakery space will be coming to the corner of 46th and Bloomington Avenue. Molly Miller, whom you may recognize from the Kingfield and Mill City farmers markets, has recently begun construction on the building at 4557 Bloomington to create a permanent home for [Sift Gluten Free Bakery](#).

The building will be divided into a commercial bakery, a retail space, and some additional storefront space on the East side for tenants. Getting the space ready will be a family affair, with Miller's brother and father, who is a woodworker and home builder, assisting in the buildout. "It will have a clean, modern vibe – but very warm, with my father's beautiful woodworking," says Miller.

In addition to the extensive selection of gluten-free bakery items, there will also be coffee and espresso drinks, and kombucha on tap. Sift products can currently be found in coffee shops all over the metro area, and Miller plans to maintain and expand existing retail customers in addition to offering her own retail space.

Miller is excited for this new chapter of her successful business, and excited to be located in the Northrop neighborhood. "I've had my eye out for places in south Minneapolis. There are so many wonderful neighborhoods and communities, with places you can walk to. I've had such a great following from being part of the Kingfield farmers market, and this corner was a great fit. I just knew this is where I wanted to be! ❖"



Provided photo

FIELD REGINA NORTHROP



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 11:30 a.m., Turtle Bread Company, 48th and Chicago

Communications Committee | communications@frnng.org

2nd Monday 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 6:30 p.m., McRae Park Rec. Center

Education Committee | education@frnng.org

1st Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m., McRae Park Arts & Crafts Room

Greening Committee | greening@frnng.org

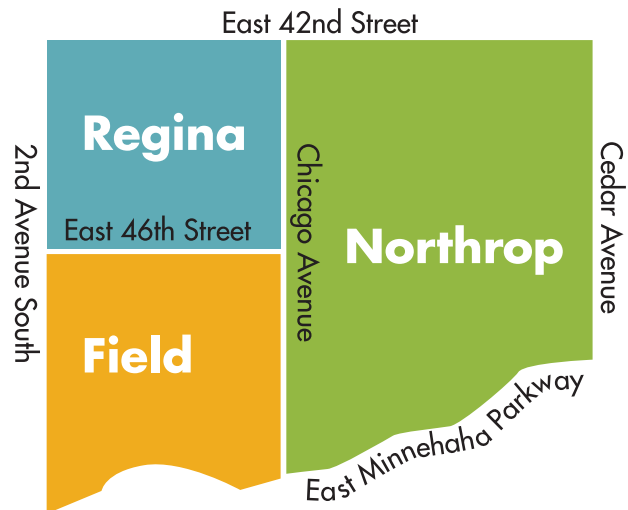
2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Turtle Bread Company, 48th and Chicago

Housing Committee | housing@frnng.org

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

Parks Committee | parks@frnng.org

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



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



Read About Neighborhood Activities & Achievements:

Southside Sprint Bike Race

Activities at McRae Park

Education Committee Thanks

Block Club Stories

Neighborhood Personality

Busy Businesses

***Thank you for patronizing
our local businesses!***



July/August 2017



Good weather, music, food, prizes, performances, a bouncy house, appealing vendors, busy volunteers, & friendly neighbors all contributed to the success of the annual celebration.

Close to Home is produced for neighbors by neighbors.
The next deadline is Friday, August 4.

We welcome your comments, articles, and photos.
Please contact us by email: communications@frnng.org

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