

# CLOSE TO HOME

THE FIELD REGINA NORTHROP NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP NEWSLETTER

May/June 2016

## Annual Neighborhood Celebration Saturday, May 21

By Carrie Shidla & Chris Schommer, Communications Committee

The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group and the Minneapolis Park Board will be hosting our annual neighborhood celebration on Saturday, May 21, from 10:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at McRae Park. This celebration is always a wonderful day to enjoy fellowship with friends in the neighborhood, meet new people, connect with your local elected representatives, and support local businesses and talent.

The day will kick off at McRae Park at 10:45 a.m. on the field stage with family entertainment, such as the McRae Park Balletinas, Washburn High School Black Box Theatre, and Southwest High School Jazz Combo. There will also be pony rides, K-9 demonstrations by the Minneapolis Police Department, and an urban chicken display.



Aztec dancers delight the audience in 2015.

The fun will continue in the afternoon with a beer garden by Adrian's Tavern starting at noon, and several great food trucks parked nearby for everyone to enjoy. The raffle this year will be even



Bouncy houses at the annual celebration provide popular fun for younger neighbors.

bigger than last year, and features many prizes including a 60" flat screen TV, great bikes from Nokomis Cycle, and more! Purchase five tickets for \$5 to enter the drawing.

Washburn athletics will be running games, rides, and the superslide. There will be balloon art for the kids, and Sebastian Joe's will be giving away free ice cream. Nokomis Cycle is offering coupons for summer bike tune-ups.

Last year's 50th-anniversary/neighborhood celebration was a fabulous day of neighborhood fun. Neighborhood group volunteers look forward to another successful event this year. Keep track of events by visiting our website at [www.frnng.org](http://www.frnng.org) or join us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest information about activities, vendors, and times. ❖ See page 2 for a partial list of performers and participants.

## Neighborhood Strategic Planning

By Chris Schommer, Chair, Communications Committee

The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG) is thinking about the future and is planning to complete a new strategic planning document to guide our work in the coming years. Our goal is to have this strategy completed by July.

In order to develop this plan, FRNNG will ask neighbors for their ideas and opinions starting with a booth at our annual neighborhood celebration. We will also be conducting surveys by mail and online, so keep an eye out for a letter from the neighborhood group and be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter. This is your neighborhood. What would you like to see happen? ❖

## President's Letter

Recently, I've attended a number of meetings regarding our community: its safety, well-being and current concerns. At one of our community meetings, we talked about keeping our community safe. Ben Elliott, who is chair of the community and safety committee, organized a community-wide meeting to talk about safety concerns along with invited guest Inspector Michael Sullivan, Commander of the Third Precinct. At the meeting we talked about some of the community's

*Continued on page 3*

# Meeting Addresses Problem Properties

## Performances, presentations and vendors include:

- Field Community School Jazz Group
- Lions Drum Corp
- McRae Park Ballerinas
- McRae Park Famous Adult Jazz Combo
- Southwest High School Jazz Combo
- Stone Rock Band
- Washburn High School
- Black Box Theater Company
  
- Balloon art
- Banking and savings information: Wells Fargo
- Dog & cat tricks: Minnehaha Animal Hospital
- Free fitness consultations and free fitness class: Fit For Life
- Free ice cream cone: Sebastian Joe's
- Games, super slide, and rides: Washburn High School athletics
- K-9 Unit demonstration: Minneapolis Police Department
- Saving for college and retirement: Jones Financial Group
- Pony rides: Come Back Live
- Urban live chicken exhibit
- Youth accounts information: Wings Financial



Photos: Sre Filbin

The annual neighborhood celebration is great fun for the whole family.

By Mike Lyon, South Northrop Representative  
 During the meeting on February 22 that was convened to discuss an increase in burglaries in our area, a number of people mentioned a related topic: vacant and problem houses. To address this concern, a meeting was held at McRae Park on Monday, April 4. Chair of the community and safety committee, Ben Elliott, conducted the meeting.

## Problem properties and vacant houses

Of the three or four problem properties in FRN that were mentioned at the meeting, the most notable is the property at 4640 Portland Avenue, referred to as “The Pink House,” which has been vacant since 2009.

The property has changed ownership between the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County since 2009, but was never sold to the public. The city of Minneapolis, current owner of the property, made it available for purchase in mid-January 2016 through a new city program: Vacant Housing Recycling Program. An offer by a well-regarded developer is currently pending approval by the Minneapolis city council and is expected to be finalized in August. If the developer withdraws the purchase offer, the city has committed to raze the house with backed support from council members from the 8th and 11th wards and the FRN board. Once razed, the lot will become available for purchase.

## A problem for years

Neighbors have called 911 since 2009 to report suspected illegal activities in the vacant property at 4640 Portland. Because of incomplete information by concerned residents and inaccurate data by 911 personnel, concerns about the property were never flagged as a “problem property” by the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD).

A number of neighbors who attended the April 4 meeting expressed vehement frustration with the situation. A common theme of the night was the willingness of

concerned neighbors to continue to monitor and report suspicious activity but they want and expect a response, along with ongoing feedback from the MPD.

## Solutions and suggestions

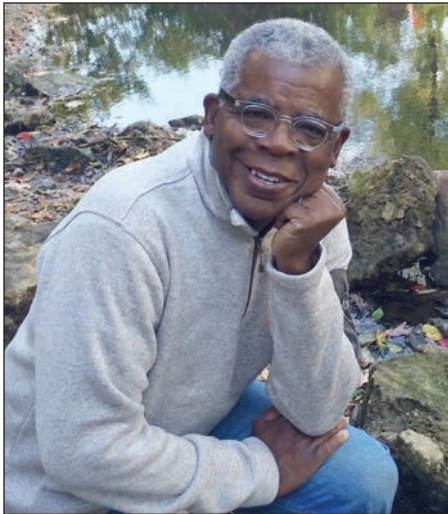
Some solutions to the issue of problem properties were offered by officials and neighborhood board representatives who attended the April 4th meeting. A supervisor from 911 presented information on the correct way to report information. See this website for more information:

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/911/tipsforcalling>

The neighborhood community and safety committee will continue to help residents of FRN voice their concerns to MPD’s crime prevention specialist and the MPD in general at monthly committee meetings and through other means of communication. The goal of the community and safety committee is to act as a liaison between the residents of FRN and the MPD when elevated issues are identified. Also, an established block club that is connected to the crime prevention specialist can enact an effective plan for solving an issue such as a “problem property.”

Senior project coordinator from the residential and real estate finance division of the City of Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development department (CPED), Roxanne Young Kimball, will be presenting the city council with the recommendation to approve the sale of 4640 Portland on May 13th.

If you would like to know the current status of a vacant property, please contact Roxanne Young Kimball at **Roxanne.Kimball@minneapolismn.gov** or the neighborhood housing committee at **housing@frnng.org**. If there is a problem property on your block, you may contact the community and safety committee at **communityandsafety@frnng.org**. ❖



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

concerns. It was a lively discussion. There were suggestions on things that we can do as a community to monitor and maintain our community safe from burglaries, drug trafficking, etc., that all communities face. Inspector Sullivan says that we should call 911 whenever we see suspicious activities going on in the neighborhood.

I'm suggesting that you also give the FRNNG office a call with your concerns. We may be able to direct you to the appropriate person that you need to contact.

I attended another meeting at which city council members John Quincy and Elizabeth Glidden were in attendance. Among issues discussed, we talked about some vacant homes in the community and what can be done with them. We learned that one such home has already been sold. Another home has potential to be sold and rehabbed. If it isn't sold, the house will be demolished. This house had been vacant for over six years.

It is so important that we as a community look out for each other. We can't afford to say that this doesn't affect me. If there are negative things going on in our neighborhood, it's important that we report it to the proper authorities.

The greening committee is looking for volunteers to help with the landscaping

project along 2nd Avenue. You may have noticed the improvements: weeds gone, grass cut, and flowers will be planted this spring. Co-chairs Tim Price and Lindsey Feiner need your help. Please give the neighborhood office a call if you are interested in volunteering for this committee and our other committees.

The McRae baseball field project is a "go" and will start in late July. The field will be closed for a year. McRae Recreation Center will remain open with activities throughout the summer.

I hope that you and your family member will plan on attending our annual neighborhood celebration on May 21, 2016, at McRae Park. We will be celebrating FRN community!

FRN neighbors, when you are working out in your yard make sure that you close your garage door and that you lock your back door if you are working in the front yard.—Willie, President, FRN

## Utility-Box Artwork Project Continues

By Lindsey Feiner, co-chair, Greening Committee

The greening committee has continued with the utility-box wrap project this winter and spring, gathering many images created by artists in the neighborhood.

The project has been moving forward in phases. The first three boxes were completed in fall 2015, and the second phase will begin in spring 2016. Five boxes wrapped in mainly nature-themed art should be completed in June and July of 2016. This art consists of mainly of photography and painting.

In fall 2016, the project will conclude with four boxes on Portland and Park Avenues. The theme for these boxes will be the diversity, history, and people of FRN. We are still accepting artwork that fits into this theme.

By the time you see the artwork on the utility boxes along the parkway and Chicago Avenue, it will have been through two city committee reviews! The application process started in April with determining box eligibility (only certain utility boxes can be wrapped). That step was followed by the review of the artwork by the Public Art Advisory Panel and the Arts Commission. Once those entities sign off, the greening committee applies for an encroachment permit for each box and a local vendor wraps the boxes.

Any local artists interested in learning more about our utility-wrap project for the fall 2016 phase can apply by emailing [greening@frnng.org](mailto:greening@frnng.org). Please tell us about your artwork and how it relates to the themes of diversity, history, and the people of our neighborhood. Artists will be compensated with a small stipend.

### Phase 1 – Completed Fall 2015

- Minnehaha Pkwy. & Cedar, NW corner
- 46th St. & Park Ave., NW corner
- 46th St. & 4th Ave., NW corner

### Phase 2 – Due to be completed Spring 2016

- Minnehaha Pkwy. & Chicago, SW corner
- Minnehaha Pkwy. & Portland, SE corner
- 48th St. & Chicago
- 46th St. & Chicago Ave., NE corner
- Minnehaha Pkwy. & Bloomington, NE corner

### Phase 3 – Due to be completed Fall 2016

- 46th St. & Portland Ave., NW corner
- 42nd St. & Park Ave., NE corner
- 42nd St. & Portland Ave., SE corner
- 47th St. & Portland Ave., NE corner ❖

# 46th Street Update

By Chris Schommer, Chair, Communications Committee

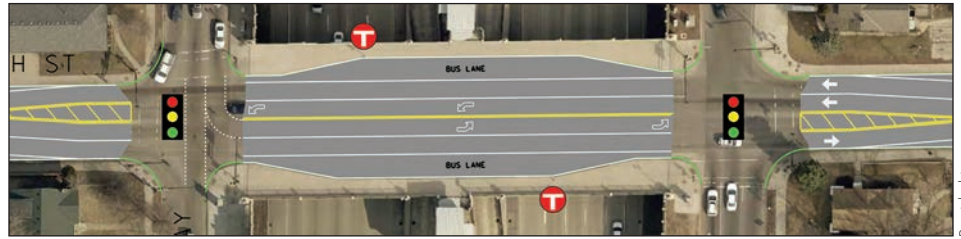
On April 28th at the annual neighborhood meeting, Hennepin County shared their first official public draft for the upcoming 46th Street repaving and restriping project through the Field Regina Northrop neighborhood. Their plan is based around the initial community-developed concept that was presented to the neighborhood in October 2015 and the large amount of feedback that was received in the months since then, as well as crash and traffic data.

The plan features a shift from the current four-lane configuration to a “three-lane” configuration (two directional lanes plus a center turn lane) from 35W to Chicago Avenue. From Chicago Avenue to Cedar Avenue, traffic will travel in one lane in each direction. County engineer Bob Byers provided information (below) on the advantages of the three-lane configuration.

“Nationally and locally, it has been found that 3-lane roads are typically twice as safe as the 4-lane undivided roads they replaced. The safety benefits of the 3-lane roads result from slower speeds, a reduction of weaving maneuvers, dedicated left-turn lanes, and better overall clarity for vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle travel. The levels of congestion and delay are predicted to remain similar to what is experienced today. Little or no traffic diversion to other streets has been observed after similar conversions in the county.

“Today, 46th Street carries about 11,000-16,000 vehicles per day between Chicago Avenue and I-35W. The morning rush hour is about 8% of the daily volume and the evening rush hour is about 10%. County and city staff will be monitoring the operations and are prepared to modify the design if conditions warrant.”

With the move to a three-lane configuration, there are six feet of space left between traffic lanes and the curb. This is not enough to provide parking along the



Bird's-eye-view, facing north, of East 46th Street that is a bridge crossing over Interstate 35W.

Provided images

three-lane section of 46th. However, there is enough space for bike lanes thanks to a new process that is able to mill down the rough concrete gutter pan to provide a smooth asphalt surface from curb to curb. 46th St. is also on Hennepin County's long-term bicycle transportation plan. This bike lane will stretch between Lyndale Avenue and Cedar Avenue. However, due to space constraints, there is a gap at the 35W interchange beginning at 3rd Avenue where the configuration is modified to handle the increased freeway traffic.

Other community-driven inclusions in the design are an enhanced crossing at 46th and Oakland Avenue that will use plastic

The time frame for removing and replacing the surface of 46th Street has been changed from July to mid September 2016. The actual construction work will take approximately one week to accomplish and the street will still be partially open to traffic when possible.

Hennepin County is asking the FRNNG board for a vote to recommend their draft plan at the May 18th board meeting. Board meetings are open to the public and are held at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church at 1620 East 46th Street, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. If you wish to comment at the meeting, please call the office ahead of time at (612) 721-5424 or email com-



East 46th Street at Oakland Avenue. Enhanced pedestrian crossing is indicated by blue dots.

bollards (represented by the blue dots in the graphic) to create a crossing refuge in addition to the current pedestrian-activated signal. A similar layout is planned at 13th Avenue although this section will have painted lines only at this time.

ments to [frnng@frnng.org](mailto:frnng@frnng.org). Full plans can be viewed on the Hennepin County Project Page that can be found at [www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us) by searching for “46th Street.” ❖



East 46th Street at Cedar Avenue.

# Open Streets Coming to Chicago Avenue in 2017?

By Chris Schommer & Stearline Rucker  
FRNNG, in coordination with our neighbors to the north and south, is working on developing an Open Streets event along Chicago Avenue for 2017.

These popular city events close off the street from vehicle traffic on a Sunday and let people use the street however they like. There are events held up and down the street and FRNNG is tentatively planning to combine our annual celebration with Open Streets next summer.

If you would like to see this happen, we need your support! While the Open Streets personnel are well practiced with running an Open Streets event and will be able to provide volunteers on the day of the event, the vast majority of planning is done by neighborhood organizations and volunteers. If you are available to help make this vision a reality and bring an Open Streets event to Chicago Avenue, please contact the office at (612) 721-5424 or [frnng@frnng.org](mailto:frnng@frnng.org) ❖

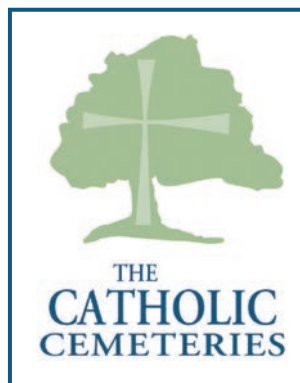
## Spring Park Update

By Steffanie Musich, Ward 5 MPRB Commissioner  
With the spring comes construction schedules! I'd like to start this spring park update with a "Thank you" for your patience while crews put the finishing touches on the Nokomis-Hiawatha "Triangle Park" at Bloomington Avenue and 54th Street. The playground is now open and seeing all the families out there playing has been really fun. Improvements to the southernmost Cedar Avenue crossing within the park to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists began in April and will be complete by May.

In other exciting news, the McRae Park athletic field improvements have been fully funded. Construction will begin after the Green Machine Football Clinic, which

is being held July 7-9 (Activity: 61607). The athletic fields will be closed through mid summer 2017 to ensure the new natural turf has time to fully establish. Two new drinking fountains are being installed in the park to ensure our athletes and park visitors stay hydrated.

The new athletic fields come with a reconfigured stormwater drain system. To manage the stormwater on site, the fields drain to a raingarden. For the raingarden to have the best opportunity for success, I am seeking volunteer stewards to periodically weed this new garden. If you're interested in supporting the park in this way, please email me at [smusich@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:smusich@minneapolisparcs.org) or give me a call at 612-230-6443 ext. 5. ❖



### St. Mary's Cemetery A neighborhood cemetery

Join us on Memorial Day weekend  
& for Memorial Day services —  
May 30 at 10 a.m.

4403 Chicago Avenue  
(651) 488-8866  
[catholic-cemeteries.org](http://catholic-cemeteries.org)

## 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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Sue Filbin, Chris Schommer,  
and Carrie Shidla

### Layout

Smiling Dog Design

### Contributors

Council member Elizabeth Glidden, Willie Bridges, Lindsey Feiner, Sue Filbin, Jason Lardy, Mike Lyon, Stearline Rucker, Chris Schommer, Carrie Shidla, & Adam Webster.

Articles, photos, and announcements are welcome. Please email: [communications@frnng.org](mailto:communications@frnng.org) or call 612-721-5424

### frnng.org

The deadline for the next issue:  
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Community and Safety: Ben Elliott

### Education: Open

Greening: Lindsey Feiner & Tim Price  
Housing: Ian Campbell & Nate Lansing

### Parks: Open

# Meet Joe(y) and His Namesake Restaurant

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee  
Pepitos, the renowned Tex-Mex restaurant that is a destination for neighbors as well as hungry people who drive for miles, is celebrating its 45th anniversary in May! What's the story behind those 45 years? It's a good one, "written" by a restaurateur who's also a published playwright, performer, and stand-up comedian.

The setting is 48th and Chicago. The cast is comprised of Joe Senkyr Minjares, his wife Sue, their parents and relatives, and now their children. Pepitos is a family restaurant owned and operated by the Minjares family, who welcome guests with the hospitality and food that is their heritage.

## The ingredients

When Joe Senkyr Minjares returned from serving in the Army for four years in intelligence, he worked in a machine shop and for a security agency. But it was Joe's position managing Mac's Tap on 38th and Nicollet that proved to be an invaluable experience when he and his wife purchased their family restaurant in 1971.

At first, the restaurant continued as the Colonial Inn, an establishment that began in 1925 and was known for its burgers, beer, and pizza. During the summer of 1971, a customer who knew Joe's mother was doing the cooking asked why she wasn't cooking the food of the family's Tejano heritage – the heritage of Mexicans who grew up in Texas. Joe's mother had been cooking or working in restaurants during her entire life.

After that customer's remark, the menu changed. Traditional Tex-Mex flour tortillas, tacos, enchiladas, and burritos became – and continue to be – popular mainstays. Homemade tortilla chips are served with Pepitos' acclaimed salsa. Mexican specialties such as Chili Rellenos, flautas, and tamales coincide nicely with hamburgers, wings, chicken dishes, and Tex-Mex pork ribs.

The kids' menu is intended to be appealing and affordable as are the popular lunchtime and weekend buffets. The restaurant's best-selling item heads the "Mexican Munchies" section of the menu. Nachos Lupitas is the last original recipe created by Mama Lupe. Six homemade fritters are topped with a choice of toppings, finished with homemade guacamole and sour cream, then lightly baked. All fillings, salsas, and shells are made fresh daily and no lard is used in the refried or black beans.

Pepitos renowned icy Margaritas, along with cocktails, wine, beer, and craft beers, are all available in the restaurant, in the Parkway Theater, at sidewalk dining during pleasant weather, and of course in the Poco Loco Lounge. Wednesdays are jazz nights and an open stage is featured on Sunday nights in the lounge. Admission is free on both evenings.

## Location, location, location

One part of the current Pepitos Restaurant is the oldest building on 48th and Chicago. It was originally a carpentry shop and hardware store that was located at 4800 Chicago Avenue. Built in 1900, the building was moved in 1916 to its present location at 4820 Chicago.

Pepitos is also the longest-lived business on the corner. In 1973, Joe was one of six fellow business owners to found SCABA – South Chicago Avenue Business Alliance. Joe, along with an architect, a chiropractor, Sven Anderson (owner of a hardware store in the space now occupied by Tiny Feet Boutique and Sovereign Grounds' playroom), and others wanted to attract more business to the corner. They began to create events that drew people to the area during a time when there were many vacant storefronts.

## What's in a name?

If you're wondering about the name Pepitos, it means "Little Joe" or "Joey" and became the restaurant's name in

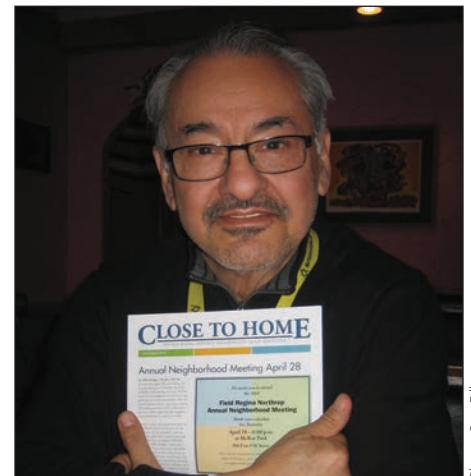


Photo: Sue Filbin

Joe Senkyr Minjares welcomes all to celebrate Pepitos 45th anniversary and Cinco de Mayo.

1975. But what about the names of all those celebrities that are etched on tiny metal plaques posted on the restaurant's walls? Joe's late father recorded the names of well-known people who enjoyed having a meal at Pepitos. Many were performers Joe met during his days studying and performing in Los Angeles. Others were connected with Prince's Flyte Tyme records when their office was on Nicollet Avenue. Now, TV personalities and professional sports athletes stop in for their favorite meals. Pepitos is also the official caterer for Mexican food for the Minnesota Twins professional baseball team.

When Joe was in high school at Minneapolis Central, he wrote two short plays. Several Pepitos customers – Louie Anderson, Joel Hodgson, and Jeff Cesario – recognized Joe's people skills and encouraged him to do stand-up comedy. After the restaurant was underway, Joe took off three months to study improv in Los Angeles. He performed at The Comedy Club and became a favorite of Scott Hanson, who gave Joe a lot of work as his opening act. Joe won the Twin Cities Comedy Invitational in 1984 and became a local headliner, mostly at the Comedy Gallery, for Roseanne, Jerry Seinfeld, Jeff Foxworthy, and others. Joe also had a number of opportunities to perform in plays at Mixed Blood Theater Company

thanks to artistic director Jack Reuler. And Joe is also a published playwright. The Minnesota History Theater produced his “The River Road Boogie.”

### Bright lights

Joe’s familiarity with show business has been invaluable since 2007 when Pepitos became owner and operator of the Parkway Theater. Joe admitted that saving the theater has been a “drain” on finances, but the theater has also led to “exciting things happening.” Well-known entertainers and musicians perform at The Parkway, and important and enjoyable movies are shown. Joe is proud of what he and theater programmer Lara Schommer Lau have accomplished. Although Pepitos full menu and beverages are served in the theater, Joe describes it as more of a concert venue. In addition to performances, it’s a welcoming venue for family and class reunions, students’ families hosting graduation parties, and benefits for causes.

### Come on over

Pepitos observes Cinco de Mayo with one week of special events and music, special foods, and movies. This year, the celebration will be extra special due to the 45th anniversary of Pepitos opening in 1971.

Pepitos is a neighborhood place; a family restaurant. Joe and Sue raised their five children in nearby Hale neighborhood. Joe says emphatically that a lot of people made the restaurant possible – and still do. Their daughter and three of their four sons work at Pepitos. (The remaining Senkyr Minjares son is a Minneapolis firefighter.) Joe sees in the young families who enjoy the restaurant an “open-mindedness” and a willingness to “be themselves.” He also observes “what great parents they are” and proclaims “our neighborhood is in good hands.” ❖

**Pepitos Restaurant and Pepitos Parkway Theater**  
4820 Chicago Avenue, 612-822-2104  
<http://www.pepitosrestaurant.com/>  
Pepitos Catering, 612-827-2928  
Pepitos Mexigo Deli, 4624 Nicollet Avenue

# Heading to the nursery? Choose native plants!

By Carrie Shidla, Communications Committee

As you plan any landscaping and gardening projects this spring and summer, consider being deliberate in selecting native plants. It’s become increasingly popular to use native species in recent years because they thrive in our climate, protect our water, and provide a habitat for our wildlife. And, of course, they add beauty. Everyone wins!

Below are some varieties to look for, and ask at your garden store for recommendations for native plants.

### Grasses

Big bluestem, switchgrass, Indian grass, little bluestem

### Shrubs

Red osier dogwood, wild rose, climbing prairie rose, New Jersey tea



Photo: Sue Filbin (Common Milkweed)

### Flowering perennials

Butterfly milkweed, coreopsis, purple coneflower, showy sunflower, black-eyed Susan, Joe Pye weed, yarrow

These are just a few! Ask for recommendations at your local garden center, and do some research. Some good resources include:

[www.bluethumb.org](http://www.bluethumb.org)  
[www.extension.umn.edu](http://www.extension.umn.edu) ❖

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# 8th-Ward Update

Council Member Elizabeth Glidden



Council Member Elizabeth Glidden

Dear Neighbors

Thank you for this opportunity to update you on City and neighborhood issues.

## Parks Funding Proposals

By the time you read this, the City Council may have voted on a proposal to provide increased funding to our park system, to address a maintenance backlog at neighborhood parks.

To date, three proposals for funding Minneapolis Parks have been introduced publicly:

First, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has a referendum proposal, which would provide \$15 million per year for 20 years dedicated to neighborhood parks. Voters would need to approve this proposal.

Second is a proposal by Council Members Barb Johnson and Lisa Goodman that includes a guaranteed minimum of \$10.5 million per year for 20 years, a \$3 million per year increase in operating revenue, and one-time funding of \$1.5 million.

Third is a proposal by Mayor Hodges and John Quincy for \$300 million over 10 years in parks- and city-roads capital investment. The proposal would fund, annually, \$10 million in park capital maintenance and \$20 in roads maintenance.

Many residents have contacted me to express support for our world-class park system, and I believe that the funding needs for maintaining park infrastructure are real. At the same time I want to ensure that we are able to balance our need to address other funding priorities, including our significant road-maintenance gap. Failure to maintain either of these fundamental systems – park infrastructure and city roads – will result in higher cost to taxpayers down the the road.

The City is now considering financial impacts of all three of the above proposals through its Ways & Means committee, and reviewing potential funding sources such as an increased levy. A final issue that has been raised by many residents is ensuring the Park Board utilizes a racial-equity framework to determine funding priorities and timeline for any increased investment in neighborhood parks.

## Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance Approved by City Council

To reduce the litter, waste, environmental impacts and expense of managing carry-out bags, the City Council has approved an ordinance to regulate the use of plastic carryout bags in retail establishments. The new ordinance takes effect June 1, 2017.

Key features of the ordinance include: Retail establishments may not provide plastic carryout bags to any customer.

Retail establishments providing bags to customers may only use recyclable paper bags, compostable plastic bags or bags designed to be reusable multiple times.

Retail establishments providing bags must charge customers at least 5 cents per bag. (Customers who receive food assistance are exempted from paying for a bag.) Retailers may choose to pay a 5¢ fee to a litter clean-up nonprofit in lieu of charging this fee.

Certain types of plastic bags will be exempt from the prohibition, including bags that come into direct contact with food, takeout food bags, and specialized types of bags, for instance for newspapers or dry cleaning.

With this ordinance, Minneapolis joins many communities across the country and the world that have adopted laws to address the impacts created by carryout bags; more than 160 U.S. cities have enacted carryout bag bans and/or fees.

## How to reach Elizabeth

I invite you to contact me at (612) 673-2208 or [elizabeth.glidden@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:elizabeth.glidden@minneapolismn.gov). As well, I host community office hours every Monday, 9-11 a.m. at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E 38th Street, 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. ❖

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# Sitting Still for Patrick Nau Photography

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee  
What have you noticed about the numerous dogs you've observed as you stroll, jog, bike, or drive along Minnehaha Parkway? If some look familiar, perhaps it's because you've seen their portrait displayed in the windows of Patrick Nau Photography on 48th and Chicago. There's a good chance that some of the dogs on the parkway have been captured as the subject in one of Patrick's classical pet portraits.

For 35 years, Patrick has skillfully photographed families, high-school seniors, and pets. One family has had their children's portrait taken for each of the past 17 years. The owner of three dogs drove more than three hours to have Patrick take photos of her canine companions. Clearly these people have gone beyond the common regret that comes from not having photos taken and that is often accompanied by the refrain, "I wish I had..." or "I should have had that photo taken when we had the chance."

## The back story

Patrick Nau was an aspiring trumpet player at the University of Minnesota until he deduced he didn't have quite enough talent to make music his profession. He redirected his artistry to studying photo and audio-visual technology at a local technical college. After hanging his diploma on a wall of his home studio, Patrick's quickly growing business required a move to a space on 52nd and Bloomington Avenue.

One evening five years later, after enjoying supper at Adrian's Tavern, Patrick noticed a "Space for Rent" sign in a nearby window. He signed a lease for the space "two or three days later." That was in 1989. During the decades since then, Patrick acknowledges that "...the photography industry has changed so much. Everyone is taking pictures of everything."

## Digital photography

What Patrick enjoys and appreciates about

the digital age of photography is that "...dozens of poses are possible" and "...my clients and I can be reviewing the photos in the showroom within 15 minutes after the session." The "classical" photos taken by Patrick are characterized by "a great pose, a beautiful background, and classical lighting." Retouching and other enhancements are also a component of classical portraiture.

## Pet photography

In the spring of 2005, after reading an article in an industry magazine about pet photography, Patrick was motivated to explore that specialty. For six months, Patrick took the photos of the pets who belonged to the staff of across-the-street-neighbor Minnehaha Animal Hospital. Now, with more than 1,000 portraits of dogs in his portfolio, Patrick acknowledges that photographing dogs "...is the most exciting and challenging work I've ever done. I absolutely love it." Patrick also promotes Portraits in the Park, a special opportunity for people and their pets to be photographed together somewhere along nearby, scenic Minnehaha Creek.

What sets Patrick apart from other photographers of dogs are two qualities: endless patience and a perspective that nothing is ever a problem. He gives directions to the dogs – and their humans – during the short shoots. Sounds, props, and treats are used to encourage the subjects to reveal their true spirit and most-winning temperament. Patrick also sets aside the dog toys and treats to take photos of cats.



Photographer Patrick Nau, 48th and Chicago.

Self-portrait photo: Patrick Nau Photography

Patrick has strategic partnerships with a number of pet-related businesses including, for the past nine years, Chuck and Don's Pet Food and Supplies where he does in-store holiday portraits. He has also been a fixture at all of their new-store open houses during this time period, recently photographing 102 sessions in six hours!

The next time you and your dog take a walk, why not stroll past Patrick Nau's photography studio to see if you recognize someone among the portraits displayed in the front windows. Feel welcome to stop in or call Patrick with any questions or ideas for a portrait. ❖

[www.patricknau.com](http://www.patricknau.com)  
[www.facebook.com/PatrickNauPhotography/](https://www.facebook.com/PatrickNauPhotography/)  
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*Building lifelong relationships, one smile at a time*

# Minnehaha Animal Hospital

By Adam Webster, Communications Committee  
**You've been involved in veterinary care for more than two decades. What drew you to the field and what keeps you in it?**

I grew up on a “hobby farm” with animals large and small, and I was fascinated with how bodies work, including what can go wrong and what can be done to help. Veterinary medicine was an obvious choice, since it provided me the opportunity to work with patients for their entire lives, without regular referral to outside specialists. I get to do exams, draw lab samples, read x-rays and even perform surgery—a little bit of everything. What keeps me in the field is the bonds I encounter between pet and pet parent. Protecting and lengthening that relationship is truly rewarding work.

**Minnehaha Animal Hospital has been a mainstay in the area for a long time. How has your practice evolved in the years since the doors opened?**

Interestingly, veterinary medicine has evolved to where human medicine was when I started practicing. Care is not doctor-delivered now; it is team-delivered. Highly trained personnel come together to provide the best service we can for our clients, handling everything from scheduling to technology to direct patient care and more. We even have our own group of specialists available. This means we generate more information on each case than a solo practitioner can realistically digest, but through regular departmental and all-staff meetings, we provide 360 degrees of care. Clients may see only one doctor in a given visit, but they get the expertise of an entire team. It's a challenge to coordinate, but the model works. We recently opened a second clinic (Pet Doctors Animal Clinic, 25 East Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis), so we're doing something right!

**What's the one thing you wish more pet owners did to better care for their animals?**

One thing that has really changed is the understanding of the importance of the annual (or for older pets, biannual) wellness exams. If one year of a pet's life is

about seven people years, an annual visit is like seeing your own doctor once every seven years. Such visits provide a detailed health history and help owners develop a health plan designed for that specific pet's species, breed, age and lifestyle. This is especially important for cats, who instinctively hide illnesses. Routine care visits are often the only way to find kidney disease or diabetes at an early stage, or to address cancer before it spreads. Minnehaha Animal Hospital offers a variety of flexible payment plans to make these exams more affordable.

**You've been an active member of our community for a long time. From your perspective, how has this neighborhood changed?**

I live here, too, so I notice and appreciate what the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group volunteers do to keep us healthy as a community. I'm especially



Joyce Tesarek, D.V.M., center, and her staff.

Photo: Patrick Nau Photography

impressed with the work done to enhance the safety and strength of the commercial areas. Adding bike racks, improving lighting and tree coverage, and replacing poorly utilized properties with viable businesses gives us a great small-town feeling. We can shop, relax and play in our own community without a mandatory trip to the suburbs for missing services. What a great neighborhood! ❖

4809 Chicago Avenue South  
[Minnehahaanimalhospital.com](http://Minnehahaanimalhospital.com)



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Popular South Minneapolis Race Concludes Major Festival July 22-24

# Southside Sprint Expands to Three-Day Big Waters Classic

By Jason Lardy

The 2016 Southside Sprint celebrates a major expansion as it becomes the spotlight of a new three-day festival of bike racing – the Big Waters Classic, July 22-24. The Southside Sprint, the MN state championship, races through the neighborhood around 48th Street & Chicago Avenue on Sunday, July 24.

The Big Waters Classic adds new events in the popular Minneapolis North Loop neighborhood on Friday, July 22, and in the bike-crazy “Northeast” neighborhood on Saturday, July 23. “The Southside Sprint is the most popular amateur road race in MN,” notes Big Waters Classic co-founder, Jason Lardy. “With the addition of the Fulton Downtown Drag Races and Northeast Grind, we hope to draw even more riders and fans from all over the Midwest to the vibrant neighborhoods in Minneapolis.”

The Southside Sprint criterium on July 24 will include nine individual race categories, the popular Family Dental Clinic Dash – Kids Fun Race and the Twin Six Family Fun Zone. Racing starts at 8 a.m. and continues until 4 p.m. A beginners’ clinic at 7 a.m. will give new riders the chance to learn to race before starting the Bikes & Pieces Beginners Race.

As always, family fun activities will keep fans engaged throughout the day. The Kids Activity Area gives kids a chance to make art with their race numbers, practice their sidewalk art skills and have their faces painted. The Athletes’ Village brings racers and their team tents right into the middle of the action. Fans can get up close and personal with their favorite racers as they prepare for their state championship pursuits.

One of the most popular spectator events in south Minneapolis, the 2015 Southside Sprint was the largest amateur road bicycle race in Minnesota for the fourth consecutive year. More than 300 racers will showcase the speed and skill of Minnesota bike racing in front of 600+ spectators in the 2016 race. The 2014 Women’s Elite Champion, Kelly Catlin, earned a World Championship this spring and will represent the US in the Olympics in Rio in August.

More information about the Big Waters Classic is available at [www.bigwatersclassic.com](http://www.bigwatersclassic.com). ❖

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:communityandsafety@frnng.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2nd Monday 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](http://greenhavenprinting.com)

GREENHAVEN  PRINTING



May/June 2016



Join your neighborhood friends at the annual neighborhood celebration on Saturday, May 21, at McRae Park.

**Some of the performances, presentations and vendors at the annual neighborhood celebration**

- |                                    |                             |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Field Community School Jazz Group  | Balloon art                 |
| Lions Drum Corp                    | Live urban chickens         |
| McRae Park Ballerinas              | Dog & cat tricks            |
| McRae Park Famous Adult Jazz Combo | Free fitness consultations  |
| Southwest High School Jazz Combo   | Free ice cream cone         |
| Stone Rock Band                    | Games, super slide, & rides |
| Washburn High School               | K-9 Unit demo               |
| Black Box Theater Company          | Pony rides                  |

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Close to Home is written for neighbors by neighbors.  
The next deadline is Friday, June 3.

We welcome your comments, articles, and photos.  
Please contact us by email: [communications@frnng.org](mailto:communications@frnng.org)