

CLOSE TO HOME

THE FIELD REGINA NORTHROP NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP NEWSLETTER

March/April 2016

Annual Neighborhood Meeting April 28

By Willie Bridges, President, FRNNG

It's that time again! We are holding our annual meeting on Thursday, April 28, at McRae Park starting at 6 p.m. All residents are encouraged to attend for an opportunity to connect personally with our elected representatives, meet your current FRN board members, and to determine how your skills might help the neighborhood. Refreshments will be provided.

We have several vacant positions open on the FRNNG board of directors for the next term: 1st vice president, 2nd vice president, park chair, business chair, and education chair. In addition, FRNNG president Willie Bridges, communications chair Chris Schommer, and North Northrop representative Matt Steele are up for re-election for a second term. Ben Elliot, chair of our community and safety committee is also up for re-election and is looking for someone to partner with him as co-chair for the next two years. Please see page two of this newsletter for position descriptions and details. If you have any questions about any of these positions or are interested in getting your name on the ballot, please call the office at (612) 721-5424 or email frnng@frnng.org and we will get the information to you. These positions are two-year terms and board members can serve a maximum of three consecutive terms. You must live in the Field Regina Northrop neighborhood in order to fill any of these positions.

Your board has been very busy these last two years and we thank you for all your

*We invite you to attend
the 2016*

**Field Regina Northrop
Annual Neighborhood Meeting**

Mark your calendar
for Thursday

**April 28—6:00 p.m.
at McRae Park**

906 East 47th Street

Meet elected representatives and board members,
enjoy refreshments, and contribute your skills
to neighborhood leadership and activities.

support. During this time we have accomplished quite a bit. We've redesigned the FRN logo and newsletter. We've started "Operation Clean Sweep" and we've celebrated our neighborhood's 50th anniversary. We were the lead neighborhood organization for the upcoming 46th Street reconfiguration, participated in the new farmers' market, and we partnered with Tangletown neighborhood for our first open-neighborhood solar garden meeting. With your help, we can accomplish even more in the next two years.

Continued on page 2

President's Letter

FRN, can you believe it? It's been almost two years since I became board president of the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group. During this time, I've enjoyed the opportunity to meet and work with so many of you, throughout our community. I've seen you at community meetings sharing your concerns, and finding ways to work through them.

We've had discussions about our shared past history of FRN, including that of

Continued on page 3

On behalf of FRNNG we would also like to thank our outgoing board members for their years of volunteer service:

Tom Powers has been 1st vice president of FRNNG for the last two years and was a Regina representative for two years before that. Tom has put in many hours keeping our books straight. We would also like to acknowledge his wife Carol who has helped the board with its many events.

Ted Moe has been 2nd vice president of FRNNG for the last year after chairing the Greening Committee for six years prior to that.

Karen Young has been chairperson for the business committee for six years. Karen is the person who has worked with business owners on how to apply for funds available for our community to help fix up awnings, signs, planters, and even whole business facades.

Gerry Sell has been involved in FRNNG since its creation in 1965 and has been our resident historian. Gerry was most recently the chairperson for education committee and she has been involved with a number of committees with FRN. Gerry has been committed to FRN and she has always encouraged our community to be welcoming to all who want to live here.

On behalf of your board, we all thank you for your support these past two years. Looking ahead, on May 21 we will have our annual neighborhood celebration at McRae Park. Please mark this date on your calendar. If you would like to help plan or volunteer for this event, please contact the office. We need your help. ❖

Don't forget! Please plan to attend the annual meeting on Thursday, April 28, at 6 p.m. at McRae Park.

Meet people, make a difference, introduce initiatives, get things done, influence decisions

Will you consider serving our neighborhood in one of these leadership positions?

1st Vice President

Besides assuming the duties of the president in their absence from the board, the vice president is responsible for special projects and strategic planning. In addition, the vice president leads the finance committee and helps shape the long-term financial outlook of the group.

2nd Vice President

The second vice president will fill in for the first vice president and president in case of absence. The second vice president also supervises the FRNNG executive director.

Education Committee

The chair of the education committee is responsible for enhancing the learning environment of area schools by fostering and encouraging greater neighborhood involvement. This person will act as a liaison for better communication and collaboration with the various educational institu-

tions in our neighborhood, PTA groups, and community education programs.

Business Committee

The business committee is responsible for supporting our local business in the neighborhood. There are several important grant and funding programs that the chair is responsible for distributing such as the "Great Streets Facade Program" that helps provide funds for local businesses to renovate their storefronts.

Parks Committee

The parks chair is the neighborhood's liaison with our local parks and is the advocate for our neighborhood to the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board. With the upcoming McRae Park field renovation and possible future projects coming in 2018 and beyond, this will be a very important position for the long-term development of parks in our neighborhood. ❖

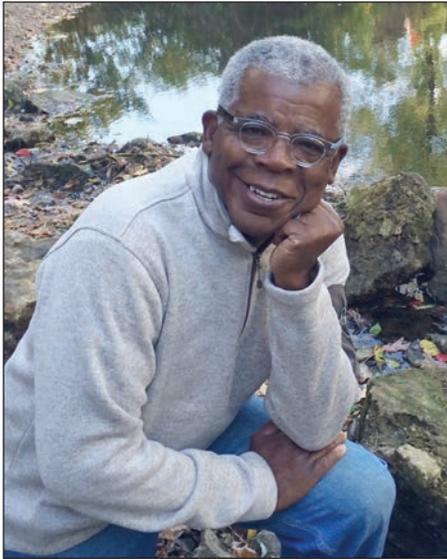
46th Street Update

By Chris Schommer, Chair, Communications Committee

While the time-frame for resurfacing 46th Street has not changed from this summer, the 46th Street planning process has been slightly delayed. The delay is mostly due to several other major Hennepin County planning projects that are occurring this winter and the slow task of coordination between different agencies. In this case Hennepin County, Minneapolis Public Works, and Metro transit. Particularly troublesome is the busy area around the intersection of 46th and Nicollet, since Nicollet is now also scheduled resurfacing and restriping this summer that will need to interface with the 46th St project. Because of this original goal of a public

meeting in March was pushed back to late April or early May with the intention of sharing a design option for the corridor that is fully engineered and stable so that neighborhood feedback on the project can be most useful and accurate.

Notice of a public meeting with Hennepin County and Minneapolis Public Works staff will be sent out via a postcard or our next Newsletter, and shared on our webpage and social media. If you would like to review the community developed concept from October or submit a comment to Hennepin County about your opinions, concerns or ideas for the project visit the Hennepin County project webpage at: www.hennepin.us/residents/transportation/46-street ❖



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

race relations going back to 1931, when the Lee family (Arthur, wife Ethel and daughter Mary) moved into the corner house on Columbus and 46th. They weren't welcome in the neighborhood at that time, and the Lee family moved out of the neighborhood, after two years of little to no peace. Since then, the house was placed on the National Historic Register, as a significant landmark site, in the struggle for racial inclusion and equality here in Minneapolis.

In the past two years, we've contributed to our area schools and businesses, towards their ongoing improvements. We've advocated for needed improvements to the baseball and football fields at our community's McRae Park. We are looking forward to have this done this year. We have and are continuing to explore thoughtful and innovative ways to deal with vacant houses in our community.

We still have work to do in our community, and we need your help to continue the work that we've started. Please continue the progress you've already made, by getting involved to make our neighborhood the best that it can be. Let's make all of our new neighbors feel welcomed and appreciated in our community.

FRN, just a safety and security reminder: to make sure you lock your parked cars, and that garage doors are always locked. Be aware of your surroundings, when out and about, and report any suspicious activity you see in your neighborhood. We want to keep our community safe, and you are an important part of making this happen.

It's been a pleasure working together with you all and I'm looking forward to our future and making our community even a better place.—Willie, President, FRN

Open Mic Blowout Sunday, April 24

By Sue Filbin, Jill Leary, and Jenny Zander Washburn High School's Green Team, led by senior Jenny Zander and advisor Jill Leary, wants to save 90 trees per year. That's in addition to introducing sustainable practices and preserving natural resources. The team's current goal is to raise \$12,000 to be applied toward energy-efficient Dyson Airblade hand dryers. An **Open Mic Blowout** will take place at Pepitos Parkway Theater on Sunday, April 24, from 1 until 5 p.m. In addition to lively performances, a silent auction of donations from local merchants and individuals will raise extra funds. Refreshments will be available. Pepitos is donating the use of their theater.

Ticket prices are \$12 for adults and people older than 12, \$10 for Washburn students with current IDs, and \$8 for children younger than 12. For more information, or to donate talent or money, go to this website: http://washburn.mpls.k12.mn.us/green_team or email Green Team advisor, Jill Leary: jill.leary@mpls.k12.mn.us



Provided photo

This chaotic wave of trash, named "Trash Wave," was created by many of the 22 members of Washburn High School's Green Team. The piece is comprised of 80% discarded plastic. This figure represents the same proportion of plastic found in the eight million tons of debris dumped annually into the earth's oceans.

During the past couple of years, the Green Team has led initiatives to bring eco-friendly processes to Washburn and raise environmental consciousness

throughout the community. Team members recently put in place a new recycling and composting program in order to put Washburn's waste to better use. ❖

From Police 3rd Precinct Inspector Michael Sullivan

Feb. 26, 2015

UPDATE: Field Regina Northrop Community Meeting

From Inspector Michael Sullivan,
Commander, MPD Police 3rd Precinct

Thank you to all the residents who came to the Field-Regina-Northrop meeting last Monday, Feb. 22. It was good to be able to share the information about the reduction in burglary incidents in all three neighborhoods. Also, it was just as important to hear all the concerns and questions regarding problem addresses and other public safety issues in the neighborhoods.

- Our Community Response Team (CRT) is actively responding to concerns relayed to us and thoroughly discussed at the meeting about a problem address on the 4700 block of 5th Av S. In addition, the three neighborhoods have been designated for extra patrol by our district squads who will conduct alley patrols to continue burglary suppression.
- Through Farrokh.Azmoudeh of the Problem Property Unit and Roxanne Kimball of the Community Planning and Economic Development Office, I have learned that the property at 4640 Portland Av has been through several open houses and offers have been received on the property. Ms. Kimball says that the home's faults were included in the ads, and every applicant for purchasing the houses has engaged a structural engineer to survey the property. Portions of the foundation (walls) will need to be replaced. Ms. Kimball hopes the house will be sold by early summer. It was sad to know that Farrokh will be retiring soon.
- I have spoken with the supervisor of the precinct's Property Crimes Investigation Unit regarding improving the updating of burglary victims. The investigators in this unit are working tirelessly on cases and, as I mentioned in the meeting, they recently charged six individuals for separate burglary incidents within the 3rd Precinct.
- Also, a suspect has been arrested in the noontime robbery Feb. 23 of a woman at a bus stop near E. 44th Street and 4th Av S. The victim was approached by the suspect who had his hand in his hoodie jacket and demanded the victim's purse, or, he said, he would shoot her. She complied, handing over her purse and cell phone. The suspect fled on foot towards 5th Avenue and then northward. Officers later arrested him at a local gas station.
- In addition, I want residents to know that officers assigned to traffic complaints within the 3rd Precinct are actively patrolling along East 46th Street for traffic enforcement.
- Planning for a follow-up meeting for residents is underway. Details will be announced soon.

Thank you again for your commitment to your neighborhoods.

Respectfully,
Inspector Michael Sullivan
Commander

Strength & Honor,
Minneapolis Police Department – 3rd Precinct

From Housing Committee to Housing & Community Development' Committee
Committee Name Change Proposed

By Ian Campbell and Nate Lansing

With new real estate developments being constructed around the City of Minneapolis at a seemingly breakneck pace, it's only a matter of time before the Field Regina Northrop neighborhood begins to experience some of these changes. The FRNNG housing committee feels that it is important for residents of the neighborhood to have a committee who can act as a facilitator for conversations between neighborhood residents and developers interested in investing in our neighborhood.

At the January FRNNG board meeting, housing committee co-chair, Ian Campbell, proposed a motion to add "Community Development" to the name and responsibilities of the housing committee, which was unanimously approved. According to FRNNG bylaws, this change now must be presented in print to the public. The following are the changes being made to the committee name and Statement of Purpose:

Name: The FRNNG Housing Committee shall become the FRNNG Housing & Community Development Committee.

Statement of Purpose: The Housing & Community Development Committee's Statement of Purpose shall be amended as indicated by wording in bold:

"The goal of the Housing & Community Development Committee is to promote a safe and healthy environment for all Field Regina Northrop neighborhood residents, developing housing strategies to rehabilitate existing housing stock and affordable rental housing, **and to facilitate the responsible development of the built environment.**"

Questions or comments regarding this change may be submitted to frnng@frnng.org and housing@frnng.org by Thursday, April 28 ❖

Fundraiser for MN Ovarian Cancer Alliance

Black, White & Teal Gala

Saturday, April 16

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Minneapolis South – Bloomington

mnovarian.org/events/black-white-and-teal-gala/

6 p.m. Silent auction

7:30 p.m. Dinner and program

Dancing to follow

By Becky Lechner, MOCA

Bid on fabulous items to support MOCA, the Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance.

Hear from guest emcees and speakers, including WCCO's Kim Johnson and Cities 97's Keri Noble.

Tickets \$125/person.

Register at www.mnovarian.org or call (612) 822-0500. ❖



Andrea L. Newton, DDS | Julie E. Clouse, DDS

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Building lifelong relationships one smile at a time

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

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or call 612-721-5424

frnng.org

The deadline for the next issue:
Friday, April 1, 2016

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Northrop Neighborhood Group, Inc.

Established in 1965

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2015 FRNNG Board

**Executive Committee Officers*

**President: Willie Bridges*

***1st V.P.: Open**

***2nd V.P.: Open**

**Treasurer: Shannon Guernsey*

**Secretary: Emily Poskie-Wilson*

**Field Neighborhood Rep: Barbara Harris*

**Regina Neighborhood Rep:*

Shelley Nystrom

**Northrop North Neighborhood Rep:*

Matt Steele

**Northrop So. Neighborhood Rep: Mike Lyon*

Business: Open

Communications: Chris Schommer

Community and Safety: Ben Elliott

Education: Open

Greening: Lindsey Feiner & Tim Price

Housing: Ian Campbell & Nate Lansing

Parks: Open

Getting to Know St. Joe's

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee

If you're in one of the hundreds of vehicles that travel daily on East 46th Street, you've surely noticed St. Joseph's Home for Children. St. Joe's – a program of Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis – is located on a 12-acre campus at 1121 East 46th Street, east of McRae Park and across 46th from St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. When the site was developed in 1885 as the Minneapolis Catholic Boys' Home, it was thought that the countryside near Minnehaha Creek would provide a pleasant, rural experience for orphaned children.

In the 1960s, an era when society determined that foster placement was preferable to orphanage care, the Minneapolis Catholic Boys' Home and St. Joseph's Home for Children (that was then located in St. Paul) became one entity, taking the St. Joe's name at the Boys' Home property.

How St. Joe's Functions

St. Joe's has collaborated with Hennepin County for more than 40 years to screen all children who are removed from their homes or the streets due to abuse, neglect, danger, or emergency conditions. Annually, approximately 1,200 children, from infancy to age 18, are brought to St. Joe's central-intake facility where their physical and mental health – as well as their emotional condition – are assessed by skilled intake workers and on-duty registered nurses. Within hours, the children are placed in a foster home or in an appropriate shelter, which may be at St. Joe's.

St. Joe's Staff

A staff of 60 full-time employees, about 40 on-call professionals, and hundreds of volunteers are dedicated to the children at St. Joe's. Another program of Catholic Charities that is located on the St. Joe's campus is Hope Street Shelter which has a staff of 40. For many employees, St. Joe's becomes their first job out of college. Some stay – for more than 30 years in several cases – while others move on.

Senior program director Jon Stumbras noted during an interview that he regularly encounters former employees when he makes presentations in the metro area. As a licensed social worker who earned a master's degree in social work with a focus on children and families, Stumbras has devoted the past 30 years to mental-health issues, working in home therapy, school-based counseling, psychiatric hospitals, outpatient therapy, day treatment, and residential treatment. When he's out in the community, Stumbras frequently meets people who have a connection to St. Joe's. He related a story of listening to a 60-year-old guitarist during a fund-raising event. Approaching Stumbras afterward, the musician said that he had learned to play the guitar at age 12 while living at St. Joe's.

The director acknowledged that everyone at St. Joe's is helping kids during the "toughest time in their life" and that it's challenging work. The staff and volunteers see their fundamental task as "...helping the children to be successful."

Because of the unique circumstances of each child, there is no "average stay." There also is no "out of here" nor giving up on a child. St. Joe's is the final stop for children in need. The staff is dedicated to working with each child, guiding them to learn behavior that is acceptable at home, in school, and in the community.

Services St. Joe's Provides

St. Joe's Emergency Shelter for children ages 6-17 provides an asset-based environment for up to 90 days in which children continue to attend their home school whenever possible. For children with serious emotional challenges, St. Joe's Residential Treatment program assembles a team of youth counselors, therapists, medical professionals, and others to help children and their families develop and work toward goals such as learning conflict resolution, establishing coping skills, and refining problem-solving abilities. The average stay is six months, although children



Photo: Sue Filbin

Jon Stumbras, LICSW, senior program director, St. Joseph's Home for Children

may return home after four weeks or may continue living at St. Joe's for up to 18 months. Aftercare support continues for six months after a child leaves St. Joe's.

For children with severe emotional and behavioral needs who are able to live at home, the Day Treatment program integrates education and treatment. Children in kindergarten through eighth grade attend school and receive mental-health treatment at St. Joe's through a program that's tailored to each child's individual needs. Classes take place in one of eight classrooms at nearby Laura Ingalls Wilder School where students learn to function successfully at home and in school and community settings.

Homelessness

Hope Street, with its two free-standing units, provides shelter for 28 homeless youth. In addition to Hope Street itself, a transitional-living program at Hope Street consists of apartment-like living for eight young men who figure out a plan for skills, jobs, and independent living with the help of counselors and case managers.

Community Interaction

As one example of community interaction, program director Stumbras described the opportunity two St. Joe's kids, ages 9 and 10, had last fall to play on McRae Park football teams. Park staff, team coaches, and fellow players made sure the St. Joe's players felt welcome and made it to practices and games, ensuring that they were fully participating members of the team.

St. Joe's kids also have an opportunity to cheer professional sports teams who are generous with donated tickets to games.

A mural on the walls of the entry and reception area, facing southeast toward the parking lot, is another example of community involvement. A neighbor who paints murals offered to embellish the reception-area walls. Sketches were made and St. Joe's children voted for their favorite. The mural artist spent one week to complete her design. Other neighbors help tend the grounds, participate in the community garden, read bed-time stories, provide transportation, take kids on outings, and help the maintenance crew during the annual painting of all interior rooms and trim.

Support

St. Joe's receives funding from Hennepin County, Dakota County, Minneapolis Public Schools, and other public sources as well as from private donations from individuals, families, and supportive organizations. Information about in-kind donations is at this web link: www.cctwincities.org/donate/wish-list-for-people-in-need/ To make a financial contribution, you can visit www.cctwincities.org/donate/

To donate your time and talent at St. Joseph's Home for Children, contact Mary Schoelch, long-time Children's Services Volunteer Coordinator, by calling the main St. Joe's phone number: (612) 204-8250. You will experience first hand what director Stumbras says: "We have the ability to change kids' lives." ❖

Introducing Heather Susag

New Director at McRae Park

By Chris Schommer, Chair, Communications Committee

McRae Park welcomed new full-time director Heather Susag in December. Heather first started working for the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) as a 16-year-old and has been involved ever since. For the past nine years, Heather has been working full time for the MPRB in the area of youth development and the "Youthline" program that provides youth mentorship, education and recreation programs all over the city of Minneapolis. Heather also has experience working at several local park programs. This is Heather's first opportunity as park director.

When asked what she was looking forward to in her new position, Heather said she is excited to, "Hone in and develop programming that has a wide spectrum." Heather says her experience so far at McRae has been very well rounded and she hopes to support the local community by making McRae a neighborhood destination no matter your age. In addition to supporting the youth sports community, there are opportunities to pilot new senior programs and host more programming for pre-school children (such as the new indoor playground on Mondays for pre-K children). She has already expanded youth programming with the return of RecPlus, a summer child care and education program, after a 10-year absence from McRae.

The upcoming athletic field replacement project that is scheduled to begin later this summer and last through 2017 will be a big challenge for McRae Park but Heather says she is excited about it. "I know how tough it has been to play sports in the past. I am excited that [this project] is not only



Photo: Sue Filbin

Heather Susag became the director of McRae Park in December 2015.

going to re-shape sports but will make the land more usable for everyone." This includes new multi-sport athletic courts, additional warm-up basketball hoops and completely re-built athletic fields. Heather said she is also very excited about one overlooked aspect of this project – new walking paths, shady areas, benches and lighting that will allow guests to circumnavigate the entire park. "Now you can walk your dog, seniors can walk, and small kids can bike all around the park!"

If people want to contact Heather with their ideas for programming at McRae or for more information, please email mcrae@minneapolisparcs.org or call the front desk at (612) 370-4909. McRae is open 3-9 p.m. during the school year and 12-8 p.m. during the summer.

Programs at McRae Park Indoor Playground on Mondays

Mondays from 10:30-12:30
6 month-Pre K

Register online or register in person. Kids can play with newly purchased tunnels, bikes, and listen to music. Free for now. Starting in the spring there will be a one-time cost of \$5.

Summer Rec PLUS

Summer childcare. Includes swim lessons, field trips, naturalist programs and other activities.

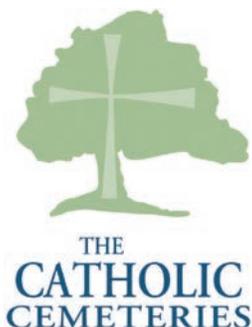
Age: Must have completed kindergarten through 6th grade
7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Registration starts March 15 ❖

St. Mary's Cemetery A neighborhood cemetery

*A serene place
within the community*

4403 Chicago Avenue
(651) 488-8866
catholic-cemeteries.org



11th-Ward Update

Council Member John Quincy



Council Member John Quincy

Dear Neighbors,

Thank you for the opportunity to keep you updated on what is happening at City Hall.

The New Year offers us the chance to reflect on our accomplishments and plan for future successes. **We have a lot to be proud of for 2015:**

We made it easier to access and understand City services and do business in Minneapolis.

We made strides toward more equitable access with more information in different languages.

We provided a safer and healthier community.

We began creating new, inviting, innovative and world-class public spaces using high-quality urban design.

We continued to change the face of our workforce to better reflect the community we serve.

Looking ahead to 2016, we will continue to strive to achieve our vision for the City:

Minneapolis is a growing and vibrant world-class city with a flourishing economy and a pristine environment, where all people are safe, healthy, and have equitable opportunities for success and happiness.

We work better together as one team, and we'll continue to work together on big projects such as Nicollet Mall and the

Downtown East Commons, earned sick time and paid time off for Minneapolis workers, and more. We'll also continue to serve the public well by driving toward results, building public trust, engaging the community, and providing high-quality, innovative services.

New Animal Care and Control Ordinances

The City approved a new Animal Care and Control ordinance that sets clear requirements around the safety of animals, removes counterproductive regulations, and creates a permit for reptiles and amphibians. The ordinance also:

Clarifies definitions and requirements to make it easier for residents to comply.

Requires an owner to stay near enough to a tethered animal to protect the animal – or someone else – from the animal, if needed.

Requires traps to be humane for nuisance animals such as raccoons and squirrels.

Makes it easier to own chickens by:

Removing the neighbor-signature condition for owning six or fewer chickens, turkeys, ducks, or pigeons.

Offering commercial licenses for up to 30 birds for egg sales.

Allowing composting of chicken manure.

The changes also provide expectations for care and management of animals that are housed at the Minneapolis Animal Care and Control facility and in private shelters. It specifies that all animals must receive:

Veterinary care

Preventative vaccinations

Emergency medical care

Pain management

Sanitation and disease-prevention protocols

The ordinance clarifies the holding period for stray and surrendered animals, and it includes transparent processes in shelters for euthanasia and transfers to rescue partners.

The ordinance revisions reflect a combination of best practices and direct feedback from stakeholders.

I am always available to answer your questions at 673-2211. If you would like to receive the bi-weekly email Ward 11 Community Connections Newsletter, please send me an e-mail at John.Quincy@MinneapolisMN.gov or visit the website to sign up: www.MinneapolisMN.gov/ward11 ❖

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Nokomis Cycle

By Adam Webster, Member,
Communications Committee

Note: On January 6th, we shared a great story on our Facebook page featuring Dwight Gronlund, as a Secret Santa, surprising a customer with a new bike. Since then, that story has now been shared by others more than 3,700 times! We thought it would be a good time to check in with Dwight for this issue's 4 Questions column. You can view the original story on Facebook by visiting this shortened URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/nokomiscycle>



Dwight Gronlund in his shop, Nokomis Cycle, on 46th Street and Bloomington Avenue.

Photo: Adam Belz

Are you a former professional cyclist? What led you to open a bike shop in the first place?

Actually, I'm a former architectural draftsman (and bike commuter) who was looking for a career change in the early 1990s. I'd always enjoyed riding my bike, and so I sought more experience in bike repair at places like Freewheel and REI. I learned about the business side through courses at Normandale College and a friendly internship with a small shop over in southwest Minneapolis. After that, I looked for an area of the city that didn't already have a bike shop. I've been at this location ever since.

Looks like you've been in Northrop since 1994. What's changed in the years since you set up shop?

It was pretty quiet at Bloomington and 46th back then. When I got here, only Overcraft Printing and Don's Barber Shop were here. Two months after I opened Nokomis Cycle, a stylist shop opened next door, and a version of that has been operating there ever since. In 1997, Sisters' Sludge opened up on the corner, helping pave the way for more foot traffic at the intersection. And since one of those sisters became my wife (we first met in the trash-collection area in the alley), I'd consider that a pretty important development for the neighborhood!

Minneapolis routinely shows up as one of the most bike-friendly cities in the nation. How have you experienced this at your shop?

I've lived in Minnesota since 1968, and Minneapolis since 1984. I think both Minneapolis and Saint Paul are good for bicycling because they aren't filled with "city," so to speak. These urban areas still protect their lakes and rivers, and that means bicycling in the Twin Cities can happen on paths in nice areas removed from car traffic. Recent efforts by local government to expand bike access on arterial roads have helped, but that only works when there is a good reason for leisure biking in the first place. Bikes themselves have really changed in recent years, too. There is much more variety out there now, and it's just easier to find a bike that meets every biker's needs. I personally enjoy riding many different types of

bicycles, and I have a few different ones to suit my mood.

What's the biggest maintenance mistake bike owners make regularly?

People can forget that bikes are machines. Over time, every machine needs to be tuned up in order to deliver the experience you want. Chains need to be greased, tire inflation needs to be optimized and cables and brakes need to periodically be recalibrated, especially after our winters. As the snow melts, one of the simplest things bike owners can do is bring their bikes in for a once-over. A professional can spot issues quickly and in most cases can offer an immediate fix that will keep your gears from slipping all summer long.

4553 Bloomington Avenue South
www.nokomiscycle.com

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Duane Whittaker
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A longtime neighbor—

St. Mary's Cemetery

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee

One of the busiest intersections in our neighborhood – 46th and Chicago – is also among the most quiet. Since 1873, long before traffic became plentiful, the north-east corner of this intersection has been occupied by St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery.



Photos: Sue Filbin

One distinctive memorial in the cemetery honors firefighters from the City of Minneapolis.

With its location near the center of Field Regina Northrop, St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery is geographically part of the community. Its 65 groomed acres provide a resting place for more than 66,000 people, and a quiet space for neighbors and visitors.

The sole full-time employee, Baltazar Cardoso, who speaks English and Spanish, lives nearby. From April through October, seasonal employees help Baltazar maintain the grounds, prepare sites for burials, tend and install markers, repair equipment, clean up storm damage, and place flowers and wreaths.

St. Mary's is dedicated to being a good neighbor. When pedestrians remarked that it was inconvenient to walk on the 46th Street sidewalk because of the heavy snow flung onto the sidewalk by Hennepin County plowing crews, St. Mary's purchased a special plow attachment to clear that extra-heavy snow.

Welcome

Neighbors are welcome to walk on the paved roads and to take in the tranquility of the site. Artists sometimes sketch the rolling landscape and historic, sculptural markers. School children rub tennis balls on rubbing paper to transfer decorative images from grave markers to paper. Dog walkers are welcome when they keep their dogs leashed and pick up after their dogs.

Each year, St. Mary's hosts a Memorial Day celebration that includes a parade, recognition of veterans of past wars, Mass, and refreshments. This special observance is part of a long partnership between the Knights of Columbus and the cemetery.

History

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery was originally established as the parish cemetery for the Basilica of St. Mary (located in downtown Minneapolis). It is now one of five cemeteries owned and operated by

The Catholic Cemeteries, an independent, self-sustaining religious corporation. In the Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis, 110 cemetery properties are owned and maintained by their respective parishes.

The cemetery's designation as a Catholic cemetery means that it is considered by Catholics to be sacred ground due to its having been blessed by a bishop. Catholics are welcome to be buried at St. Mary's, as are their non-Catholic spouses and family members. Friends and neighbors who live nearby have also been buried in the cemetery over the years. Between 100 to 125 burials now take place annually.

In the fall of 2015, one of the less-used paved roads was closed to make space for 100 conventional graves and 100 cremation spaces. In addition to traditional burial plots, 600 crypts

Continued on page 11



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and 300 cremation niches are available in St. Mary's Garden Mausoleum that opened in 1994. One of the most striking markers in the cemetery is a tall memorial to firefighters who served in the City of Minneapolis.



The dedication to the cemetery and neighborhood from those responsible for St. Mary's became apparent during a conference-call phone conversation with John Cherek, director of Catholic Cemeteries, and Jon Louris, operations manager for the Catholic Cemeteries and supervisor at St. Mary's Cemetery and Calvary Cemetery, St. Paul. John Cherek said, "If any neighbors have any ideas as to how we can be a better neighbor, please let us know." (651) 228-9991 ❖

SAGES – St. Joan of Arc Church

The SAGES of St. Joan of Arc Church are holding a workshop – *Discovering New Possibilities for the Brain* – on Saturday, March 12, 9-12:30 p.m. Presenters Elaine Gaston and Mark Scannell will explore new and better ways to nurture our brains.

Coffee and refreshments will be available beginning at 8:30 a.m. in Hospitality Hall. The fee is \$10. Please preregister through the Parish Center. 612-823-8205. 4537 3rd Ave. So. ❖

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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 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 Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Sovereign Grounds, 48th
and Chicago. (Note the changed day of the week from Wednesday.)



We thank our partner in producing this newsletter –
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March/April 2016



We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting on Thursday, April 28, 6 p.m. at McRae Park.

How would you like to use your talents? (See article page 2.)

Volunteer for a board of directors position:

- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- Business Committee
- Education Committee
- Parks Committee

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Close to Home is written for neighbors by neighbors.
The next deadline is Friday, April 1.

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