



Kingfield News

August 2004

www.kingfield.org

a quarterly publication

Kingfield to receive \$770,000 for NRP Phase II

Kingfield learned in April that it will receive \$770,000 under the second phase of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP), which is a significant drop from the program's first phase.

The program's funding decreased because of changes enacted by the state legislature, and a recalculation of disbursements by the city council in 2003. The program's second phase is expected to provide \$47.7 million city-wide through 2009.

The second phase funds, however, come with restrictions. Seventy percent of the funds must be devoted to housing programs, and no more than 10 percent of the allotment may be spent on staffing and other administrative needs. Based on KFNA's current budget, the second phase allotment would cover only one year of staffing, rent, and supplies. Without budget adjustments, KFNA would be forced to rely solely on volunteers and relinquish its small office at 3754 Pleasant Ave. S.

The KFNA board is looking at

transferring funds from dormant programs to staffing, allowing the organization to continue to employ two part-time staff.

The city conceived NRP in 1990 as a 20-year, \$400 million program to give neighborhoods money and authority to improve housing, parks, streets, safety, and many other issues. Kingfield received its first allotment of \$2.3 million in 1997. In response, scores of neighbors weighed in with their ideas on how to spend the funds, and successfully launched several programs in Kingfield.

Seven years later, KFNA is nearing the end of this allocation, with an estimated \$405,000 remaining. These funds are targeted toward completing the ornamental lighting on Nicollet Avenue between 36th Street and 40th Street, a redevelopment project on Nicollet Avenue, and continuing neighborhood and block grants. To inquire about how you may apply for a block or neighborhood grant, contact KFNA at (612) 823-5980.

-Sean Wherley

Niziolek opts against re-election

City Council Member Dan Niziolek, who represents much of Kingfield, announced in July that he would not run for a second term.

Niziolek said that the demands of the job were detracting from his family commitments, including two-year-old twins born soon after his election in 2001. Niziolek is an East Calhoun Community Organization (ECCO) neighborhood resident and former crime prevention planner with the city. The election for his seat will be in November 2005.

Niziolek's successor, however, won't represent Kingfield. Following the 2000 census, much of Kingfield was redrawn into a ward that lies mainly east of 35W. The northern part of Kingfield, from 36th Street through 42nd Street, will be in the newly drawn Eighth Ward. The southern portion of Kingfield, from 43rd Street through 46th Street, will remain in the Eleventh Ward, represented by Scott Benson.

The newly drawn Eighth Ward does not have an incumbent. Robert Lilligren currently represents the ward



City Council Member, Dan Niziolek

but was redistricted into a different ward east of 35W. Two people have already begun campaigning for the open Eighth Ward seat: Marie Houser, a Central neighborhood resident and Park Board Commissioner; and Jeff Hayden, a Bryant neighborhood resident and former aide to City Council Member Gary Schiff.

-Sean Wherley

Nicollet Avenue lighting petition proceeds

Residents of Nicollet Avenue between 36th Street and 40th Street may have seen KNFA staff and volunteers on their doorstep this past summer. Outreach for the second phase of the Nicollet Avenue lighting project continued through August in search of signatures from owners representing 65 percent of the project's physical area.

There are approximately sixty individuals that own parcels of property within the petition boundary area. The property owners that have been contacted so far have been overwhelmingly supportive of the project.

In addition to going door-to-door, KFNA mailed letters and made telephone calls to gather support for the project. About 30 percent of the property owners from the affected area live outside the neighborhood so KFNA is taking additional steps to reach them.

Once enough signatures have been collected, KFNA will submit the petition to the city for verification. From there, the petition will be submitted to the city council's Transportation and Public Works (T&PW) Committee. If approval is granted, a public hearing will be held.

The first phase of the project, completed in 2001, brought ornamental lighting to Nicollet Avenue between 40th Street and 46th Street.

-Rachel Foran



KFNA seeks legal help on 35W Access Project

Wanting to explore all of its options, the KFNA board voted July 14 to formally pursue legal help in the neighborhood's longstanding fight against the 35W Access Project, a \$260 million construction project that would spill thousands more cars each day into the heart of Kingfield.

The board voted unanimously to seek free legal assistance. The vote does not commence a lawsuit nor does it indicate the prospects for such a lawsuit.

First, a lawyer must agree to take KFNA as a client and determine the neighborhood's options. If a lawyer found merit for a potential lawsuit, going ahead with the lawsuit would require a second vote by the KFNA board. As of this paper's publishing deadline, no lawyer had agreed to represent KFNA.

Kingfield's board voted in March 2003 against the 35W Access Project because of the anticipated spike in neighborhood traffic, the absence of light-rail or other transit on 35W, and the failure to address growing congestion on the region's busiest corridor. By moving existing ramps at 35th and 36th Streets to 38th Street, traffic on the Kingfield side of 35W at 38th Street is forecast to increase by almost 12,000 vehicles a day.

In addition, the Access Project would widen 35W from eight to ten lanes between 26th and 42nd Streets, construct two new freeway ramps at

Lake Street, build several new bridges, and reconfigure the Fifth Avenue ramps.

In January 2004, the Hennepin County Board and Minneapolis City Council approved the project's concept. A second and final vote is expected this fall following the release of a state-issued report on the project's environmental impact. By law, this report will be accompanied by a public meeting at which written and verbal comments may be given.

Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman, who represents Kingfield, voted in January to support the project's concept, as did City Council Member Scott Benson. The other two council members who represent Kingfield, Dan Niziolek and Robert Lilligren, abstained and voted against the project, respectively. Niziolek announced in July that he will not run for re-election in 2005, when his first term expires.

Kingfield residents are urged to call their elected officials before the expected fall vote and urge them to oppose the 35W Access Project. Here are the Kingfield representatives:

- County Commissioner Gail Dorfman (612) 348-7883
- Council Member Robert Lilligren (612) 673-2208
- Council Member Dan Niziolek (612) 673-2210
- Council Member Scott Benson (612) 673-2211

-Sean Wherley

Note from the President



Summer in the Cities. It's during this season that we take pleasure in the myriad of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors – walking around the lakes, lingering in the Lake Harriet rose gardens, playing soccer or baseball at the park, or even biking across town.

What better way to explore the city we love than at the slow, engaging pace a bicycle ride provides? And now we can ride all the way from Lake Harriet to the Mississippi River! How? On the RiverLake Greenway.

This six-year, grassroots project, spearheaded by Kingfield residents and other forward-thinking south Minneapolis neighborhoods, is almost complete.

I say almost because one critical piece is still missing – a new

pedestrian bridge spanning 35W. The current bridge is one of the only substandard components along the 4.5-mile Greenway. It is overgrown, undersized and visually unappealing, not only to its users, but also to the tens of thousands of city residents and commuters that pass through its shadow each day. The indifference to this structure has had the effect of rendering it invisible, unimportant, and underutilized.

The time has come to create something more inspiring, to put the final link into the Greenway chain, to offer the city an iconic and beautiful piece of civic infrastructure.

The time has come to build a new bridge.

Wouldn't you like to reconnect the neighborhoods torn apart decades ago with a beautifully and professionally designed bridge? Wouldn't you want the design to be contextually appropriate, user-friendly, safe, and enriched by your neighbors' suggestions? Wouldn't you like to

encourage all neighborhoods, city residents, and visitors to embrace alternative forms of transportation such as bicycling and walking?

Kingfield and Bryant neighborhoods have formed an ad hoc committee to move this vision forward. The committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Martin Luther King Park. Excitement for this project is brimming and with the right combination of skills, talents, and ideas it cannot help but succeed.

As Guy Davenport so eloquently stated: "Art is the replacing of indifference with attention."

Help us bring some long overdue attention to what has been mired in indifference for far too long. Join us in bringing this exciting civic vision to life. Together let us create a civic masterpiece that all of Minneapolis can claim and enjoy.

Best regards,
David M. Motzenbecker
President, KFNA

Building a better block? Apply for a KFNA grant

Do you have an idea for making the neighborhood great but lack the funds to implement it?

KFNA's Community Initiated Grants are a great way to improve the quality of life on your block or throughout the neighborhood. Resident-designed grants of up to \$1,000 per block are available for various projects. Some of the initiatives underway include inoculating trees against Dutch elm disease, installing speed humps in alleys to slow or eliminate cut-through traffic, and creating boulevard gardens that span the entire block.

Neighborhood-wide grants of up to \$3,000 are available for projects that benefit the entire neighborhood. Some current projects include replacing standard Metro Transit bus shelters with artist-designed shelters, and installing the "sprout" bike racks visible at local businesses in Kingfield.

To view the grant guidelines, visit www.kingfield.org. For more information about applying for a grant, contact KFNA at (612) 823-5980 or kfna@email.com.

-Sarah Linnes-Robinson

About the Kingfield Neighborhood Association

The Kingfield neighborhood runs from 36th to 46th Streets, between Lyndale Avenue and 35W.

The Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA) office is located in The Center for Performing Arts building, room 101:

KFNA
3754 Pleasant Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN 55409
Phone 612-823-5980
E-mail kfna@email.com
www.kingfield.org

The KFNA board meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at ML King Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave. So. The following residents are serving on the **KFNA Board of Directors** for the 2004-2005 term:

Thor Anderson.....821.1046
Rosemary Dolata.....827.4936
Martha Ingram.....825.4984
Rolf Johnson823-1066
Arthur Knowles.....823.0808
Ben Kristensen.....822.2312
Erik Lindseth.....827.3890
David Motzenbecker.....822.5571
David Muschenheim825.5959
Mari O'Rourke825-5172
Dave Saddoris.....396-3472
Niki Valens824-2286
Sean Wherley.....825.4952

KFNA Staff

NRP Coordinator:
Sarah Linnes-Robinson .823.5980
NRP Project Organizer:
Liz Gibson-Gasset.....823.5980x3

Kingfield News

If you are interested in writing, editing, designing, or taking photographs for the *Kingfield News*, call the KFNA office at 823-5980.



Cleaning Kingfield One Paint Can at a Time

On June 26, Kingfield held its first collection of hazardous household waste at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Operations Center, 3800 Bryant Ave. S.

KFNA sponsored the event with five neighborhoods – East Calhoun Community Organization (ECCO), Calhoun Area Residents Action Group (CARAG), East-Harriet-Farmstead Association, Lowry Hill, and Lyndale.



During the event, 242 residents dropped off household pesticides, paint, fluorescent lights, and other chemical products – filling two tractor trailers. Onyx Waste Services, a company under contract with Hennepin County, assisted volunteers in handling the waste before the materials are properly disposed of in landfills or incinerators.

Unfortunately, most people dispose of hazardous products by throwing them in the trash, pouring them down the drain, burning them, or dumping them in a vacant lot. These practices are dangerous because hazardous waste can contaminate lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater. For example, it only takes one gallon of oil to pollute one million gallons of water.

To reduce the amount of household hazardous waste and the potential environmental harm, KFNA will continue promoting collection of hazardous household waste. For more information, contact KFNA at (612) 823-5980 or kfna@email.com.

-Rachel Foran

Corridor housing initiative seeks input

Neighborhood residents are invited to attend a Sept. 23 community forum to learn of plans to redevelop Nicollet Avenue and gather input on the future of the corridor. The session begins at 7 p.m. and will be held at Martin Luther King Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S.

Since KFNA received funding earlier this year to explore the street's future, the organization has aggressively reached out to community members for input and support.

At the Kingfield Festival on July 31, KFNA's Redevelopment Committee hosted an exhibit encouraging people to try their hand at designing a better Nicollet Avenue. Several sites on the street were selected as samples and participants used actual building blocks to create developments. Designers were on hand to sketch the

structures being created, and a developer assessed the designs' costs.

In June, KFNA asked people at the Kingfield Farmer's Market to indicate their favorite Nicollet Avenue locations by placing green dots on a map and least liked locations using red dots. The hundreds of resulting dots on the map illustrated the areas of Nicollet Avenue embraced by residents and those most in need of attention. Individuals attending the farmer's market were also invited to complete a written survey to better understand their redevelopment priorities.

People may view and complete the Redevelopment Committee's survey by visiting www.kingfield.org.

-Rosemary Dolata

City launches I-35W stormwater study

The City of Minneapolis has commissioned a study to address flooding caused by heavy rain in Southwest Minneapolis.

Potential solutions include increasing the capacity of the stormwater tunnel under I-35W (near Kingfield), installing surface ponds or underground storage facilities, and reducing runoff at homes and businesses through the use of green roofs or rain gardens.

To improve the stormwater system, the city needs to know about stormwater flooding problems in Kingfield. Residents are asked to contact the city and provide the street address or intersection of flooding and a description of the flooding, including date and duration.

To forward flooding reports, contact Dave Saddoris of KFNA at (612) 823-5980 or MplsStormwater@hotmail.com.
-Dave Saddoris



Children create Peace Pole

In the last 18 months, youth living on the 3900 block of Pleasant Avenue have created a work of art and made a statement for peace.

Initially, two families living on the block agreed to be "bump-out buddies" by watering and weeding the gardens planted on the bump-outs at the intersection of Pleasant Avenue and 40th Street.

Their children, however, wanted to do more. Inspired by the peace pole at the Lake Harriet Rock Garden, they decided to erect a 4-sided pole covered on three sides with decorative tiles and on the fourth side with a peace slogan. Children submitted slogans before settling on "Let Peace into Your Heart." The other slogans, all having merit and importance to the respective authors, were placed in a jar and buried in the garden.

Wanting to do more, adults on the

block applied for and received a Community Initiated Block Grant from KFNA to create a second pole for the peace garden. At the block club's ensuing meeting, adults and children painted tiles with their own expression of peace.

Ceremonies were held when each pole was put into place. The block erected the first pole in the spring of 2003 during the beginning of the U.S. war with Iraq. The ceremony became a vigil in which many families sang peace songs. The second pole was erected later in 2003.

Not long after the ceremonies, however, the tiles started falling off the poles. Since this past spring, the block has used a different adhesive and it is hoped that the peace poles, with their decorative tiles, will remain for a long time as a testament to one block's longing for peace in the world.

-Mary Vanderford

Rash of murals color Kingfield

Kingfield is awash in color.

Thanks to a KFNA program, outdoor murals were painted this summer at Spectrum Travel, 3600 Nicollet Ave. S., Curran's Restaurant, 4201 Nicollet Ave. S., Fairy Godmother, 3801 Grand Ave. S., and Lucky Girl Gourmet Grocery, 3800 Grand Ave. S. A fifth mural, planned for Nicollet Auto Service, 3611 Nicollet Ave. S., is on hold.

All sites were selected because the exterior walls are frequent targets of graffiti, and the business owners agreed to prepare each wall for painting and to work with artists to choose a design that helps identify, but not advertise, their establishment.

Artists were selected based on their skill, experience, willingness to mentor youth, and diversity of painting style. They included Malichansouk Kouanchao at Spectrum Travel, Karlee Mariel at Curran's Restaurant, Mary Therese Peterson at Fairy Godmother, and Joanne Jongsma and Kristin Abhalter at Lucky Girl Gourmet Grocery. Ed Charbonneau, who created the mural at Westrum's Tavern, will design the mural for Nicollet Auto Service.

The project paired artists with youth, many of whom were participating in their first public art venture. To be selected, the teenagers were required to submit applications with references that could vouch for their reliability and responsibility. Selection did not require demonstrated artistic ability.

During one of the paintings, some of



Young artists work on the mural at Curran's

the youth were overheard saying: "Wow, we got so much done!" "I can't wait until we paint the water tomorrow." and "Is it really okay if we paint on Saturday, too?" The youth impressed observers with their willingness to work in the hot sun, and accept directions concerning technique and style from adult artists.

The mural project is supported by grants from Valspar Paint and Scaffolding Services, and Kingfield's Neighborhood Revitalization Program. To participate in next year's program, contact KFNA at (612) 823-5980 or kfna@email.com.

-Sarah Linnes-Robinson

Corner Table opens on Nicollet



Scott Pampuch, owner of Corner Table

Corner Table restaurant opened for business in July in the former N.E. Thyme Café site at 4257 Nicollet Ave. S. The establishment offers revolving main courses such as Fennel Crusted Pork Loin and Coconut Poached Tiger Shrimp, and weekend brunch ranges from flapjacks to Smoked Salmon Hash.

Chef and owner, Scott Pampuch, who received his culinary training with Al Chase at Minneapolis Community and Technical College, previously spent several years at the Modern Café, and six months at N.E. Thyme Café. When the latter restaurant closed, Pampuch jumped at the opportunity to launch Corner Table, enlisting the partnership of chef de cuisine Keven Kvalsten.

Pampuch says his focus is to craft great dinners from the freshest ingredients. He partners with food vendors such as the Minnesota

Southeast Food Network, Roots and Fruits, and a favorite from the Kingfield Farmer's Market - Elsie's Farm.

The wine list, carefully crafted to complement the range of menu items, includes a category called "wines on a stick," which features locally owned wineries. Those who enjoy exploring new wines will appreciate that all wines can be purchased by the glass at 25 percent of the bottle price. The beer menu includes Guinness on tap.

While the cuisine at Corner Table is sophisticated, the atmosphere is anything but exclusive. Those familiar with the decor of N.E. Thyme will immediately recognize changes made to the dining space, including stone tile flooring and wood ceiling panels. In addition, the wall between the kitchen and bar has been opened to allow for better communication between chefs and servers.

Pampuch likes the fact that many of his patrons are neighborhood residents who frequently walk to the restaurant to enjoy a meal, drinks, or appetizers. Hors d'oeuvres include crepes, fish stew, and a variety of artisan cheeses with homemade bread. Any sweet tooth will be gratified by offerings such as peach cobbler or French cheesecake. Oh, and don't forget the espresso.

Corner Table is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Breakfast is available weekends from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Reservations may be made only for parties of six or more people; call (612) 823-0011.

-Thor Anderson



Farmers' Market grows

The Kingfield Farmers' Market continues every Sunday through October 10. It is located on Nicollet Ave., between 42nd Street and 43rd Street, and operates from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This year's line-up of vendors includes:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Elsie's Farm | certified organic produce |
| Yeth Tourn | vegetables and herbs |
| Mai Vang | vegetables |
| Vang Family Farm | fresh produce |
| Bakery on Grand | bread and baked goods |
| Dancing Oak Farm | organic beef |
| Rattlesnake Ridge Bison | buffalo meat |
| The Roastery Coffee | beans and brewed coffee |
| Bryn Mawr Soap Company | hand-made soaps |
| Halcyon Designs | jewelry |
| Life Force Chiropractic | massages |
| TumblingWall Cards | greeting cards by Joshua Boucher |
| Arnie's delicious Knishes | pastries |
| Arnes Farm Honey | honey |
| Trees of Gold | maple syrup |
| Anita's Sturdy Little Totes | tote bags |
| Universal Pants | clothing |
| Master Gardener | answering gardening questions |

Coming in September:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cave Creek Farm | pumpkins, squash, gourds, corn |
| Bramblewood Cottage | traditional Scottish Treats |
| Ron and Nancy Johnson | apples |

Neighbors revel at Kingfield festival

Face-painting, barbecued turkey legs, a 15-foot tall inflatable bouncing "room" for kids, the mounted patrol of the Minneapolis Police Department, and four bands highlighted the July 31 Kingfield Festival in Martin Luther King Park.

An estimated 300 people moseyed through the park during the five-hour festival, grabbing a bite to eat, visiting with neighbors, making art, or enjoying the live music spilling through the area. To better promote the festival to all Kingfield residents, organizers this year mailed a bilingual postcard printed in English and Spanish to all addresses in Kingfield and posted a similar flyer at neighborhood businesses.

The slate of live entertainment included folk group Lemonade Seduction; Black Bear Bayou, a zydeco/Cajun group; and two rock and

roll bands: the The Public Radio Band and the Thunderdogs.

The festival included several hands-on art tables for kids, sponsored by Leonardo's Basement, the Center for Performing Arts, Martin Luther King Park's YouthLine, Diana Korpi, a Kingfield resident and owner of Halcyon Designs, and Kingfield resident Roberta Avidor, who oversaw the face-painting.

KFNA would like to thank the following neighborhood businesses which generously donated items to the festival: Pump-N-Munch, Best Foods, Sebastian Joe's Ice Cream, and Amoco. Festival organizers are also grateful to Martin Luther King Park staff for their help planning for and assisting at the event, in addition to many neighborhood volunteers.

-Sean Wherley



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Calendar of Events

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|--------------------|--|
| Sun. until Oct. 10 | Farmer's Market 43rd Street & Nicollet Avenue 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. |
| Sept. 14 | Primary Election To find polling location, call (651) 215-1440 or visit http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us |
| Sept. 17 | NRP Policy Board Candidate Filing Deadline To obtain candidate applications, call (612) 673-5140 or visit www.nrp.org |
| Sept. 23 | Nicollet Ave. Redevelopment Planning Meeting Martin Luther King Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S. 7 p.m. See article on page 2 |
| Oct. 31 | Halloween Party Martin Luther King Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S. |
| Nov. 2 | General Election 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. To find polling location, call (651) 215-1440 or visit http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us |

The Kingfield board meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM at Martin Luther King Park. Meetings start with a community forum.

For more information on these events, call the KFNA office at (612) 823-5980.

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Have you seen the new "sprout" bike racks in Kingfield?