



Kingfield News

August 2003

www.kingfield.org

Habitat Home seeks volunteers

It's official: 3700 Stevens Avenue will host a new affordable house within the next year. The best part of the news is that Kingfield will help build it! Habitat for Humanity, in partnership with the Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA), will supervise construction of a house that will bring new neighbors to Kingfield.

On July 15, Habitat for Humanity's Mike Nelson met with immediate neighbors of the proposed house to outline the project. Floor plans, elevations, and pictures of similar Habitat projects were passed around and discussed. Habitat's process and mission were also discussed.

Earlier this year, a zoning variance halted progress on the site. The vari-

ance has now been granted and groundbreaking is expected to begin in September. After groundbreaking, framing and foundation work will begin.

That is when we need you – our neighbors. We all know the value of good neighbors, living in a great neighborhood, having people to count on, and places to gather. What better way to welcome our newest neighbors than to help build their home?

KFNA has scheduled two workdays, Saturday Oct. 11 and Nov. 8. It is possible there will be another day in the spring. We all have busy schedules, but we ask that you consider opening yours to fit in a powerful experience in building not only a home, but also a community and friendship.

To volunteer or get more information, call the KFNA office at (612) 823-5980 or visit www.kingfield.org.

-David Motzenbecker

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Kingfield Housing Hoopla

Community Meeting for Kingfield Affordable Housing Project

Monday September 29, 7 pm, MLK Park
Projects anticipated at: 3700 Stevens, 3618 1st Ave, 3822 Stevens and 23 West 38th Street.

Energy Fair/ Housing Information in a Time of Tight Resources

Thursday October 23, 6-9 pm, MLK Park
Sponsored by KFNA and Center for Energy and Environment. Come meet contractors, see new materials, and hear about energy funding options.

Habitat For Humanity Home Build

Saturday Oct. 11 and Nov. 8, 9 am - 4 pm
Work crews of 15 people needed each day; workers must be 14 or older. Call KFNA, 823.5980, for information or to volunteer.

Kingfield News mulls alternative format

The KFNA board is discussing options for making Kingfield News self-supporting, which comes in advance of declining NRP funds to the neighborhood (see article on page 3).

Currently, the neighborhood spends nearly \$10,000 each year to publish five issues of Kingfield News, the neighborhood newsletter. There is no question that the primary function of the newsletter – keeping Kingfield neighbors abreast of the events and issues affecting our neighborhood – should be preserved. However, as the cost can no longer be sustained, new models must be explored.

The Kingfield Communications Committee, which publishes the newsletter and is a subset of the KFNA board, is leading the discussion of a new format. One idea being explored is to partner with the Southwest Journal to create a "neighborhood" page within the bi-weekly newspaper.

To achieve a self-sustaining model requires the help of Kingfield businesses. In exchange for covering printing costs of the page, businesses would receive prominent listing as sponsors. (Kingfield News continued on page 4)

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 Office
3754 Pleasant Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409
Phone 612-823-5980
Fax 612-823-6085
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 Avenue So. The following residents are serving on the **KFNA Board of Directors** for the 2003 term:

Thor Anderson	821.1046
Tony Aspholm.....	827.2956
Tom Buller.....	823.3470
Rosemary Dolata.....	827.4936
Paige Fitzgerald.....	827.3643
Martha Ingram.....	825.4984
Arthur Knowles.....	823.0808
Ben Kristensen.....	822.2312
Erik Lindseth.....	827.3890
Heather Martens.....	822.3322
David Motzenbecker.....	822.5571
David Muschenheim.....	825.5959
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.



A Note from the President

"Leadership has a harder job to do than just choose sides. It must bring sides together."
-Jesse Jackson



Here it is, my first letter as your newly elected President; your leader for the next year. I'd like to talk to you a little about leadership, my background, and my goals for Kingfield in the coming years. That being said, off we go.

First, leadership. I feel that strong leadership requires a lot of listening. It also requires a lot of doing. To be a strong leader you have to take the time to stop talking and listen. Listen to your peers, your neighbors, and your mentors; anyone that can help you understand the world just a bit more. There is always something new to learn, but you must be receptive, or else the opportunity may just pass by unnoticed.

Leading a neighborhood asks that I offer my skills to help build a community of friends, neighbors, and business people into a cohesive whole. As Jesse Jackson says, bringing sides together. To do this a leader must inspire, must create excitement, must put forth ideas into the collective consciousness, and he must do all of this with a high degree of insight and wisdom. I hope, through this process, to use my skills and talents to lead Kingfield humbly and effectively.

My background. A long and winding road, that's for sure. The short version? I moved from Chicago to Minneapolis in 1994, rented an apartment in Kingfield at 4206 Nicollet Avenue, and am still here nine years later. I attained my master's degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Minnesota in 2001 and currently work for Oslund and Associates.

In 2000, at the behest of KFNA President David Brauer, I joined the organization's Zoning Committee. I served until the next election, when I decided to run for the board. I was elected and have served for the past two years, including the last year as chair of the Redevelopment Committee. I was re-elected to the Board of Directors this past April and was elected as President shortly thereafter.

As President, my goals for Kingfield are continually being reframed by listening to what my neighbors feel strongly about. Here are a few:

- Complete a Kingfield Master Plan. A detailed study of the neighborhood would project an organic framework for future development in Kingfield. This encompasses housing, retail, environment, transit, livability, density, and many other issues.
- Continue advocating and building/developing affordable housing for renters and homeowners in the neighborhood.
- Increase membership and active participation in the affairs of the neighborhood. We all live here and we all should know, understand, and participate in the decisions that affect our way of life.
- Advocate for greener, more environmentally friendly development. This could include solar panels for homes and businesses, green building materials and techniques, and transit. The list is endless.
- Advocate Kingfield's position and ideas regarding the future of 35W and Lyndale Avenue – two of our borders.
- Bring more small business into the neighborhood. These would add vitality and increased safety to our streets.

I'm glad I've had the chance to introduce myself to you, to tell you how I view leadership, how I came to be your President, and the issues I am passionate about. If I didn't meet you at the Kingfield cabaret Aug. 15, you can usually find me at Anodyne Cafe every Saturday and Sunday morning reading something interesting and watching the people pass by. So, please just sit down, introduce yourself, and tell me what's on your mind.

Best regards,
David M. Motzenbecker

NRP's demise spurs neighborhood fundraising

Minneapolis' 20-year plan to collect tax receipts from downtown businesses to spend in neighborhoods is nearing its end. As city leaders debate the future of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, which was devised in 1990, neighborhoods like Kingfield are preparing for the inevitable.

NRP's first phase delivered \$3 million to Kingfield, which was used among other things to improve neighborhood business facades, install ornamental lighting on Nicollet Avenue, and sponsor youth soccer and football teams at King Park.

The second 10-year phase of funding, however, looks to be severely diminished. Tax relief to businesses, passed by the legislature last year, reduced revenue for NRP. Program funding,

which was originally slated at \$20 million each year, is likely to fall to less than \$11 million after 2003. Moreover, remaining funds in the city-wide NRP account are being targeted to off-set budget cuts to police and other city services.

To compensate and ensure the solvency of the Kingfield Neighborhood Group, Kingfield board members are looking to alternative funding sources.

In August, at the Kingfield ice cream social and cabaret, the neighborhood organization sold food and beverages, charged artists to display their wares, and levied a fee for food vendors to operate. While receipts at the event failed to exceed expenses, it marks a beginning in offsetting program costs.

"We want to go slow and get neigh-

borhood residents used to paying for things at Kingfield events," said Sarah Linnes-Robinson, NRP coordinator for Kingfield. "In the end, we want all programming to pay for itself."

Earlier in the year, at the Kingfield annual meeting, organizers distributed a container seeking donations to the neighborhood group. Board members plan to make such solicitations a regular occurrence at future events.

Later this year, KFNA plans to mail a fundraising letter to all Kingfield homes and businesses (see article on page 6). Similar efforts have been done in other Minneapolis neighborhoods, netting more than \$1,000 for the Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association last year.

-Sean Wherley

Business façade program flourishes

After three years of providing matching funds to neighborhood businesses for exterior improvements, the Kingfield business façade program is coming to an end.

In 2003, the KFNA Redevelopment Committee committed remaining program funds to twelve projects. These included new decorative awnings at Fun Sisters and Up A Creek, at 43rd Street and Nicollet Avenue, and a complete overhaul of the storefront at Colonial Cleaners, at 37th Street and Lyndale Avenue.

Three other projects, at the intersection of 38th Street and Nicollet Avenue, are in progress and will be completed by late fall. These include a new coat of paint for Shorty & Wags, and new storefronts at Best Foods and the Salvation Army.

-Liz Gibson-Gasset



Tai Chi Plus for Adults 55+

Mondays at 10 am at Martin Luther King Park in the Multi-Purpose Room starting on September 22 and ending December 15.

Staff from the Southwest Senior Center will help you learn the basics of Tai Chi and also practice other aerobic and strength exercises that will leave you feeling better. To sign up, please call the Center at 612.822.3194. A \$13 donation is appreciated for the 13-week program. Please make checks payable to KFNA. This program is made possible through the KFNA Community Initiated Grant Program, a project of the KFNA NRP Action Plan. This project is citizen designed and questions should be directed to Mary Ann Schoenberger at 612.822.3194

-Mary Ann Schoenberger

Elm Watch moves past its green beginnings

Does seeing "orange" make you "red?" When the "orange" is a spray-painted stripe on a tree, indicating it is dying of Dutch Elm Disease, it may make Kingfield residents angry.

To address the dying trees, KFNA last year created the Elm Watch Project, which partners with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and a private business to identify trees that have Dutch Elm Disease but are not beyond control.

The project is funded through a Kingfield Community Initiated Grant, and follows opinions expressed in a neighborhood survey indicating that Kingfield should maintain the amount of "green" in the neighborhood.

When an ailing tree is found by the Park Board, it notifies all project partners, including Minneapolis business, A Top Notch Tree Care. Top Notch schedules an emergency inspection of the tree to determine if it is a good candidate to receive a therapeutic injection of "Alamo." Trees are carefully selected to test this new drug; three were treated in 2002 and two this year. Of the ones injected last year, all appear healthy with no signs of Dutch Elm Disease.

Through July, 30 boulevard elms in Kingfield were identified as having Dutch Elm Disease, compared to 32 trees in the neighborhood for all of last year. This figure is small, however, compared to the 50 elms on private property which have been condemned this summer. Kingfield's condemned elms represent almost 20 percent of the total for District 5, which covers the area east from Lyndale Avenue to Cedar Avenue and south from Interstate 94 to Highway 62.

So why is the number of sick elms so high this year? Ralph Sievert, Director of the Forestry Department of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, attributes it to the mild winters the last few years. Without extreme cold, the beetles are

not dying in the numbers they usually do, and this means they are reproducing on the Elm trees, carrying with them the fungus which causes Dutch Elm Disease.

A tree identified with Dutch Elm Disease is marked with an orange stripe, signifying it for removal. A tree suspected to have the disease is marked with an orange dot. This inspection and condemnation of a tree can be done on both public and private land. If the tree marked for removal is on a boulevard, the city pays for its removal and leaves information for the nearby resident, explaining how they can request a replacement tree.

If the tree is on private property, the property owner is notified that he or she has 20 days to remove it, or, the Park Board will remove the tree and charge the homeowner. The homeowner is welcome to hire a private company to remove the tree, or have the Park Board provide the service, but it is critical for the tree to come down quickly to help stop the disease's spread.

In addition to treating newly infected trees, the Elm Watch Project focuses on education. KFNA distributes fliers to the houses on each block where a tree is being therapeutically treated. The aim is to notify residents that a tree on their block is infected with Dutch Elm Disease, and to explain how to stop the spread of the disease.

Since the beetles only reproduce in dead wood, it is very important to keep trees healthy and free from stress. This especially applies to tree roots, which must avoid being cut during landscaping or construction.

Monitoring the elms is equally important. Yellowing branches, dropping leaves at times other than fall, and brown streaking on the wood underneath the bark are all signs of Dutch Elm Disease. People who see any of these indicators, whether on a private or public boulevard tree, should con-

tact the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Forestry Department for a free consultation at (612) 370-4900. The Park Board provides this service because it understands how quickly the disease spreads. By rapidly identifying, removing, or treating diseased trees, the city may help save other elms.

If you have questions regarding the Elm Watch Project, or other "urban forest" issues, contact Sarah Linnes-Robinson of KFNA at (612) 823-5980.
-Sarah Linnes-Robinson

Kingfield News

continued from page 1

The committee recommends that Kingfield be featured in the newspaper six times per year, or every two months, with the option of encouraging other neighborhood organizations in southwest Minneapolis to participate. With several neighborhoods participating, Southwest Journal readers could expect a consistent layout and presentation of neighborhood issues in every edition. Kingfield neighbors would be provided an annual schedule of the Kingfield-specific editions. Given the limited space available under the new model, the committee must find new ways to deliver news to the neighborhood and avoid repeating articles that appeared earlier in the Southwest Journal.

Another challenge faced by the committee is to ensure that Kingfield neighbors are not left out of circulation. Currently, Southwest Journal delivers to 2,808 addresses in Kingfield, and Kingfield News mails to 3,500 in the same area.

The proposed partnership is only one model which needs to be examined before the KFNA board can make a decision. Kingfield neighbors with suggestions or comments about this process should contact the KNFA office at (612) 823-5980.

-Thor Anderson

Pawlenty & environmental review slow 35W Access Project

Tim Pawlenty is not a fan of large, publicly-financed transit projects. When he served in the legislature, he opposed plans to build the Hiawatha light-rail transit line and the Northstar commuter rail from St. Cloud to Minneapolis. Now, as governor, Pawlenty has continued his resistance to similar ventures, objecting to the size and scope of the 35W Access Project.

Meeting with project coordinators in May, Pawlenty expressed his desire to reduce the state's funding for the project, which would construct two freeway ramps at Lake Street and move existing ramps at 35th and 36th Street south to 38th Street. Rather than do all of it at once, project coordinators floated the idea of building the project in at least two phases: two ramps at Lake Street by 2006; and four ramps at 38th Street by 2015.

An advisory committee to the project, comprised of business and neighborhood representatives, has not voted on the phase-in recommendation. It is unclear whether the Pawlenty administration will ultimately opt for the phase-in schedule. Kingfield has long opposed the project

because of its cost, taking of homes, uncertain economic benefits, and disruption to residents on 38th Street.

Despite resident concerns about the existing ramp configuration and traffic flow at 35th and 36th Streets, under a phase-in scheme, no money would be provided to correct the situation until the ramps at 38th Street are completed in 2015.

The next stage in the project is completing an environmental review. Under federal law, projects which receive federal funds – as the Access Project does – must be assessed for their impact on the air, water, and residents in the area. The initial draft has been submitted to state officials for their review, and public hearings to examine the study's findings will likely be scheduled for the fall.

To learn more about the 35W Access Project or the public hearings, contact Sean Wherley, Kingfield's representative to the advisory committee. He may be reached at (612) 825-4952.

-Sean Wherley

Kingfield confronts more lenient gun law

Following passage in May of a Minnesota law making it easier to carry a handgun in public places, Kingfield businesses face whether to post signs banning guns. The law allows establishments to ban guns on their premises if an appropriate sign is posted near entrances.

An informal poll of four Kingfield business owners found that three plan to post signs banning guns, and one is undecided. A Brueggers' Bagels employee, who identified himself as Harrison, said he would like his employer to post a sign. "I'm working here, and I don't want to get shot," he said.

Kingfield resident Mary Vanderford is distributing "Repeal Conceal" bumper stickers through her church, Lyndale United Church of Christ. The church is working with other groups to have the law repealed. Citing the Annals of Emergency Medicine, Vanderford said that many don't know that becoming a gun owner doubles their chances of being killed by a gun.

One Kingfield family lost a son to gun violence this spring - 19-year-old college student and Incarnation Church member Tom Olson, who was killed at a party. Olson's mother told the Star Tribune that it is important to get guns off the street.

Meanwhile, the feeling of safety offered by carrying a gun is largely fantasy, Vanderford said. For example, the New York City council member shot to death in July was carrying a gun. "We need fewer guns out in public, not more," she said.

Opponents of the conceal-and-carry law have said that carrying a gun changes the behavior of otherwise law-abiding people for the worse. Opponents cite Texas statistics that showed 5,314 gun permit holders were arrested from 1996-2001 for crimes such as murder, sexual assault, and impersonating a police officer. State Sen. Pat Pariseau, sponsor of the Minnesota law, said permit holders have never caused problems.

The primary source of information on the proponents' side is John Lott of the American Enterprise Institute, who indicated that a survey shows carrying guns deters crime. Lott is embroiled in controversy about the survey, because at first he attributed it to the Los Angeles Times and other sources, before later admitting he conducted the survey. In February, City Pages identified Lott's source of funding as the parent company of Winchester, the largest ammunition manufacturer in the United States.

Opponents say that having more guns in public raises the chances of accidents, like the incident several years ago when a diner at a Mankato restaurant was wounded when another patron dropped his gun.

The law was opposed by all major law enforcement organizations in Minnesota and the Minnesota Medical Association.

*-Heather Martens
Kingfield board vice president
opposed passage of the gun law*

YouthLine partners with Kingfield seniors

In May, students from Clara Barton Open School and Martin Luther King Park's Youthline Outreach Program did a little spring cleaning in the neighborhood; but not at their own homes.

Surveys collected in 2002 by the Southwest Senior Center, with help from a Kingfield Social Service Grant, indicated that many seniors enjoy living in Kingfield but occasionally need help with house cleaning and maintenance. In response, 13 south Minneapolis students, ages 11 to 16, volunteered May 17 at four senior citizens' homes in Kingfield. Youth did everything from mowing grass and cleaning basements to tilling a garden.

Marshall Wylie, Martin Luther King Park's Youth Program Specialist, helped supervise the day's activities. He was impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of participating kids. Kingfield's seniors, he noted, greatly appreciated the help they received



tackling difficult home improvement projects, while the youth left with the satisfaction of a job well done.

"Many of these students, particularly those in our Youthline Outreach Program, do not even live in the Kingfield neighborhood," said Wylie. "Yet they were excited about helping out others in need and expressed an

interest in setting up similar work-days this fall."

Both groups also bridged the gap between generations by sharing stories, laughter, and a gorgeous spring day. If you are a senior in Kingfield and would like to participate in a future clean-up day, please contact the KFNA office at (612) 823-5980.

-Liz Gibson-Gasset

Lawsuit dims Nicollet lighting project

Ever wonder when the new pedestrian lighting on Nicollet Avenue, from 36th Street to 40th Street, will be installed? Its completion would mark the end of a two-phase project which first brought ornamental lighting to Nicollet Avenue between 40th Street and 46th Street in 2001.

The city has been reconsidering the neighborhood petitioning process by which changes to city streetlights are made. Unfortunately, according to City Council Member Scott Benson's office, a different lighting petition is currently tied up in litigation.

Until legal issues are resolved, the city Transportation and Public Works Subcommittee cannot proceed with the petitioning process for the Nicollet Avenue lighting. So, despite the fact that Kingfield has set aside NRP dollars to subsidize the project, at 78 percent of its costs, our Nicollet lighting project is on hold until further notice.

We will keep you posted as the situation unfolds. If you have questions about this project, contact the KFNA office at (612) 823-5980.

-Liz Gibson-Gasset

Give to your neighborhood

Now is a good time to do your charitable giving -before the end-of-the-year crunch. This year, consider supporting your neighborhood.

The Kingfield Neighborhood Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to building a strong neighborhood that's a great place to live, work and play. KFNA supports this newsletter and community events like the farmers' market, cabaret and Kingfield-wide garage sale.

KFNA also administers the Neighborhood Revitalization Program for Kingfield. As the money runs out from the NRP program during the next two years (see article page 3), the neighborhood will rely on the contributions of residents to keep its activities going. So remember that charity starts at home. Mail your tax-deductible contribution to: Kingfield Neighborhood Association, 3754 Pleasant Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55409.

-Heather Martens

Cabaret

An estimated 400 people attended the annual Kingfield Cabaret and Ice Cream social, held August 15 at Martin Luther King Park.

The event featured live music, craft tables, art show, and food vendors. Two Minneapolis mounted police officers were present, inviting children to meet and ask questions about their horses. Organizers would like to thank all of the volunteers and businesses for their contributions.



Halloween party to howl at

It may seem too early to think about Halloween, but staff at KFNA and Martin Luther King Park is already planning activities for the annual MLK Halloween Party, Oct. 31 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

As usual, we need your help to make the event a success for area kids. If you can volunteer for a few hours, please call the KFNA office at (612) 823-5980. We'd love to have your assistance running games and handing out treats.

-Liz Gibson-Gasset

Little kids soccer this fall

Soccer for kids, ages four through eight-years-old, will happen again this fall. Each Saturday in September and October (that's eight weeks!), the Little Kids Soccer Program will run from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The place will again be Martin Luther King Park on the grass field along 42nd Street.

This is a fun-focused, low-stress introduction to soccer for little kids and their parents. (Yes, the parents can get out on the field for some of the activity, too!) However, for the older and more skilled kids, we will organize a team or two to play "regular" soccer games against similar-aged teams from other parks. Several parents have already volunteered to organize and drive the older kid team or teams to those games.

Registration for the eight-week fall program is \$15 (fee waiver available upon request). Forms are available



at Martin Luther King Park. Send registration forms by Sept. 1 to KFNA, 3754 Pleasant Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55409. Or, bring forms to the registration table before

the soccer sessions along 42nd Street. For more information, contact Michael Vanderford at (612) 827-3014.

-Michael Vanderford

Kingfield welcomes temp agency, restaurant

Quikk Temps has re-opened at 4534 Nicollet Avenue. They offer staffing support to businesses and temporary placement for workers in a wide range of occupations, including registered nurses, lab technicians, medical records transcription clerks, secretaries, receptionists, file clerks, accounting clerks, data entry, shipping clerks, laborers, janitors, assembly work, movers, and construction. Business hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (612) 827-0002 to set up an appointment.

Pepitos has opened a full-service catering business in the building that formerly housed Kentucky Fried Chicken and more recently Credence Fare, at 4537 Nicollet Avenue. Pepitos Catering complements the other popular Pepitos restaurants in the city, and offers all the same Mexican dishes. They will cook and serve their food in homes or businesses. Catering services are available seven days a week, including evenings.

To arrange for their services, or to inquire about their offerings, contact (612) 824-8226, www.pepitos.net, or walk-in Monday through Friday. There are no retail sales at the Kingfield location.

-by Mary Vanderford

Mural cuts new look for Groomsmen

Art in the City, a youth program at the Center for Performing Arts, created a mural for the Groomsmen, a pet grooming shop located at 38th Street and Grand Avenue. Janie Elias, the group's mentor, is summoning her students' skills and creativity by taking on two more murals in Kingfield this fall. Kingfield Neighborhood Association provided funding for the projects.

- Liz Gibson-Gasset



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