



Kingfield News

December 2004

www.kingfield.org

a quarterly publication

State supports opening I-35W bus lane to cars

State transportation officials will likely recommend that buses share a new lane on I-35W with multiple-passenger vehicles between Lakeville and downtown Minneapolis, according to a study scheduled for release in December.

The new lane would run along the median, free of any concrete barrier separating the lane from general-purpose lanes. In the study, the Minnesota Department of Transportation claims that such a configuration will allow buses to travel at the posted speed, and in the process dismissed one option which would have erected a barrier to separate the bus-lane and prevent single-passenger vehicles from entering it.

The state has not committed any

funds to the proposed bus-rapid transit, although current designs call for stations in the median at 46th Street and Lake Street. Passengers would reach the freeway overpass via elevators or stairs.

At a Sept. 29 public meeting at Martin Luther King Park, state officials discussed draft plans for bus-rapid transit on I-35W, which are receiving bipartisan support in the state legislature. Some meeting attendees expressed doubt that a shared lane would allow buses to travel at the posted speed limit. Others advocated for building light-rail transit on the median rather than bus-rapid transit, noting the success of the current Hiawatha light-rail line. The Metropolitan Council, however, removed light-rail plans on I-35W from

its 20-year planning document.

The future of bus-rapid transit is further complicated by the Minneapolis City Council's Sept. 3 vote to reject State of Minnesota plans to reconfigure Crosstown Hwy. 62 unless funding is provided for bus-rapid transit on I-35W. City council members argued that without funding for mass transit on the corridor, road-widening alone will fail to meet the crush of cars flooding the state's busiest highway. Under current designs, Crosstown Hwy. 62 would expand in some stretches from six lanes to as many as 13. A mediation panel is trying to address the city's concerns.

Engineers forecast that road construction and traffic delays on I-35W will last as long as eight years, with the Crosstown project set to begin in 2006 and finish in 2010. The 35W Access Project, which runs immediately north of the Crosstown project, is scheduled to begin construction no earlier than 2009 and will also last four years. The combined cost of the two projects is \$460 million.

Meanwhile, no lawyer has agreed to represent KFNA interests concerning expansion plans on I-35W. The KFNA board voted in July to seek free legal representation in the neighborhood's ongoing struggle to stop plans to build new freeway entrance and exit ramps from I-35W at 38th Street. KFNA will continue pursuing legal help.

-Sean Wherley



Joanna Hallstrom, KFNA's new Project Organizer

Hallstrom joins KFNA staff

Joanna S. Hallstrom wanted to become more involved in Kingfield, and since September she has had that opportunity serving as KFNA's new Project Organizer.

KFNA's board hired Hallstrom to handle a range of projects, including the garage sale, farmer's market, Kingfield Festival, and providing assistance to KFNA's Redevelopment, and Newsletter Committees. She succeeds Liz Gibson-Gasset, who left KFNA to devote more time to the fois gras, or duck, farm she owns with her husband in Caledonia, Minn.

Hallstrom and her husband Pete moved to Kingfield in 2002 and were immediately impressed with the neighborhood's involvement and activity.

"[Kingfield] fit our values and it has motivated both of us to get involved," said Hallstrom. "I am excited about the initiative Kingfield neighborhood residents have taken to proactively shape their surroundings for good."

In addition to providing support to the organization, Hallstrom hopes to engage more residents.

"I want to help KFNA build on this momentum so that we can continue to grow a strong, healthy, and connected community," she said.

Hallstrom, who will work 20 hours per week, joins fellow staff members Sarah Linnes-Robinson, NRP Project Coordinator, and Nancy Hansen, Bookkeeper.

Prior to joining KFNA, Hallstrom spent six years working for Richfield-based World Relief Minnesota, where she oversaw refugee resettlement programs. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1997 from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, where she focused on urban ministry.

-Sean Wherley



The 35W Access Project is scheduled to begin construction no earlier than 2009

Nicollet Avenue Lighting Petition Nears Finish

KFNA is nearing its goal in garnering public support for the street lighting project slated on Nicollet Avenue between 36th Street and 40th Street.

As of press time, KFNA had 86 percent of the support needed for Phase 2 of the Nicollet Avenue Lighting Improvement Project. Signatures are needed from property owners representing 65 percent of the project boundary area. This past summer KFNA contacted 60 property owners on Nicollet Avenue between 36th Street and 40th Street to get their support for the project. Once the necessary signatures are gathered, the

petition will be submitted to the Minneapolis Public Works Department, and then on to the City Council for a public hearing.

The largest property owner in the project boundary is waiting to gain approval from its out-of-state financial decision makers. If it signs the petition, KFNA will be able to immediately submit the petition to city officials. If not, KFNA will make a final attempt to contact all remaining uncommitted property owners to support the project before the petition deadline expires.

-Rachel Foran

Lyndale Ave. reconstruction meeting is Dec. 8

Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman and Minneapolis City Councilmember Dan Niziolek will discuss plans for Lyndale Avenue's reconstruction at the Dec. 8 KFNA Board meeting, held at Martin Luther King Park at 7 p.m.

Preliminary plans, based on the Lyndale Avenue Task Force recommendations developed by neighbors in the 1990s, were presented at public meetings in 2003.

County and city officials have further developed the construction plans and want to work with neighbors to coordinate construction planning, answer questions, and discuss streetscape options. Reconstruction is set to begin in the next couple of years.

For more information, call Kerri Pearce Ruch, aide to Gail Dorfman, at (612) 348-3080.

-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 Office
3754 Pleasant Avenue 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 Avenue So. The following residents are serving on the **KFNA Board of Directors** for the 2004-2005 term:

Thor Anderson.....821.1046
Rosemary Dolata827.4936
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:
Joanna S. Hallstrom.....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.



Free internet access available to public

The "digital divide" is alive and well in Minneapolis, but sites in and around Kingfield are doing their part to end this technology gap.

According to a 2002 survey by the Pew Internet & American Life Project, only 38 percent of U.S. households with incomes of less than \$30,000 have Internet access. For those without Internet access, it is often more difficult to find and apply for jobs, communicate with elected officials or a child's teacher, and remain informed of what is happening in the community.

To alleviate this problem, a handful of government and non-profit entities in or near Kingfield provide free Internet access to the public.

Martin Luther King Park provides five computers with Internet access. The computers are open to the public Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The computer room is closed Sunday.

Hosmer Public Library offers 13 computers with Internet access, and provides classes related to the Internet

and software like Microsoft Excel and Word. Use is limited to 60 minutes, and a library card is needed to access five of the terminals. Library hours are Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. The library is closed Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.



Students work on the computers at Martin Luther King Park

Southwest Senior Center provides three computers with Internet access, which may be used only by adults 55 and older. The center's hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; it is closed Saturday and Sunday.

Washburn Public Library offers eight computers with Internet access, including one exclusively for children. A library card is required to access the terminals. Library hours are Monday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6

p.m. The library is closed Sunday.

For more information, call or visit the following locations.

Martin Luther King Park
4055 Nicollet Ave. S
(612) 370-4908

Hosmer Public Library
347 E. 36th St.
(612) 630-6950

Southwest Senior Center
3612 Bryant Ave. S.
(612) 822-3194

Washburn Public Library
5244 Lyndale Ave. S.
(612) 630-6500

-Sean Wherley

Lingual Melting Pot

Can you name the three most commonly spoken languages in the Kingfield area? One of them may surprise you.

The Modern Language Association, or MLA, maintains a website that shows languages spoken in the United States according to the most recent Census data. An interesting and useful feature of this site is the option of retrieving an alphabetical list of all languages spoken in a zip code. This list can be sorted further by rank and number of speakers, as well as by age group.

Kingfield is almost entirely in the 55409 zip code, where English and Spanish are the top two languages spoken (17,155 and 1,188 speakers, respectively), with French ranking a distant third, with 230 speakers. Rounding out the top five are combined

African languages (189 speakers) and Vietnamese (152 speakers).

According to MLA data, 2,647 people in the 55409 zip code speak a language other than English, or about 13.5 percent. By comparison, the top five languages in Minnesota are English, Spanish, Hmong, German, and combined African languages. Non-English speakers make up about 8.5 percent of the state's population.

While Spanish speakers represent about one-fifteenth of Kingfield residents, that percentage increases among younger populations. According to 55409 zip code data, school-age English speakers number 2,619, and Spanish speakers 317, or more than one-tenth of the school-age population.

For information, or to run a data search, visit www.mla.org/census_data.
-Martha Ingram

Agencies urged to apply for grants

One of KFNA's best Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) ideas is providing funds to groups serving Kingfield residents.

KFNA Social Service Grants have been used to help seniors, youth, and populations in need throughout the neighborhood. Most recently, KFNA

Social Service Grants were issued to Hosmer Library for cultural and community programming, and to two local teen centers, the Morris Miller Youth Center, in the Sabathani Center at 310 E. 38th St., and the Underground, 405 W. Lake St., for after-school activities and operating expenses.

Agencies currently serving Kingfield youth, seniors, or minority populations (whether by race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation), are encouraged to apply for a grant by viewing the program guidelines at www.kingfield.org or calling the KFNA office at (612) 823-5980.

-Sarah Linnes-Robinson

TRUST Family Center at Judson

Among the many social service providers available to Kingfield residents, is the newly reorganized TRUST Family Center at Judson Memorial Baptist Church, 4101 Harriet Ave. S.

In March 2003, TRUST adopted the counseling service of the Judson Family Center. TRUST is a 30-year-old collaboration of 18 congregations that provide human services across denominations or neighborhoods.

TRUST Family Center offers psychologists, social workers, and marriage and family counselors for

individual, family, and group counseling. Workshops, in-services, and speakers are also available. Many types of insurance are accepted.

During this past fall, TRUST Family Center began offering an educational series called Second Thursdays. Presentations will be held at various TRUST church sites the second Thursday of each month through 2005. Each session is free and open to the public.

Dr. Hal Schippits will present "Creating family holiday rituals," Dec. 9 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the

Lutheran Church of Christ the Redeemer, 5440 Penn Ave. S. Schippits will emphasize the positive ways to build family rituals, which research has shown is an important ingredient to holding families together.

Future topics include parenting teens, grief and loss, communication, and humor.

For more information about Second Thursdays, counseling, or other TRUST services, contact Nancy Biele at (612) 827-6159 or visit www.trustinc.org.

-Joanna S. Hallstrom

Help KFNA build a better Kingfield

Kingfield Neighborhood Association provides an array of projects and activities that keep the neighborhood safe, attractive, engaged, and vibrant. To continue the strong programming provided to you and your neighbors, we need your financial support.

In November, you received a letter from KFNA asking for your help to continue projects like the annual garage sale, Kingfield Festival at King Park, this quarterly newspaper, emergency home repair funding, and many more activities.

City funding to KFNA and other neighborhood groups will end in 2009. After that point, KFNA must find its own funding to ensure a professional and successful organization. It is crucial that we as neighbors take ownership of KFNA and immediately invest in it to protect it from imminent funding cuts.

Help keep Kingfield a strong and vibrant community. You can help by returning the reply envelope enclosed in last month's letter or mail your tax-deductible contribution to:

KFNA
3754 Pleasant Ave. S. #101,
Minneapolis, MN 55409

If you have questions, contact KFNA at (612) 823-5980.

-Sean Wherley

38th and Grand witnesses business changes...

In the last couple of years, substantial business development has occurred at the corner of 38th Street and Grand Avenue. More recently, numerous murals were added to business facades near the corner, lending a unique look and feel to the district.

Unfortunately, one of the newest businesses, Lucky Girl Gourmet Grocery, 3800 Grand Ave. S., closed its doors in September, leaving one of the neighborhood's prime retail spaces vacant. Building owner Keith Poppe is seeking businesses interested in renting the 1,700 square-foot space. In addition to the floor space, there is a 400-square-foot basement, and 600 square-feet of storage. To inquire about renting the space, contact Poppe at (612) 250-8278.

Northeast of the corner, at 3757 Grand Ave. S., sits a vacant office



Joanne Jongsma and Kristin Abhalter created the dynamic mural on the North facade of the former Lucky Girl Grocery site at 3800 Grand Ave. S.

building formerly occupied by Grand Dental. Longtime Kingfield resident William Stiles, who purchased the space, has not decided whether to use the office for his own business venture or sell it. Either way, he intends to spend the next few months improving the interior. Stiles has no plans to rent the space, preferring to sell the building to a local entrepreneur. People interested in discussing the future of the building should call Stiles at (612) 703-2940.

-Thor Anderson

... and new murals



Mary Therese Peterson's inviting park scene graces the North facade of Fairy Godmother



Tammy Ortegon's animated streetscape is located on the West facade of Peter Pan Drycleaners

Making sense of our clutter

If you are tired of ducking around your collection of ancient magazines, wincing at your closet full of fashions from the early 1990s, or fearing that the dust-bunnies under your bed have colonized, a local business is ready to assist you.

The owners of Nook & Cranny, Clare Riordan and Rhoda Bloch, describe their business as a concierge service. When asked to elaborate, Riordan specified that customers buy increments of time, which can be used for house cleaning, removing clutter, organizing, auto detailing, house watching, pet sitting, grocery shopping – in short, "anything that's legal."

In addition, Nook & Cranny partners with companies which provide window

washing, landscaping, and other services. Riordan and Bloch started the company nearly three years ago, when both were waitresses waiting for their big acting break. The business mushroomed, and the two now employ "a really great group of people," according to Riordan.

Nook & Cranny, of 1023 Washington Ave. S., has connections to Kingfield in the form of loyal clients and raffled its services this past summer at the Kingfield Festival to two Kingfield residents, Elly Giese and Brad Schneider. To learn more, call (612) 823-2018 or visit www.nookcranny.com.

-Martha Ingram

Discount clothing shop opens

Heroine Huynh likes to think of her store, the Clearance Rack, 3801 Nicollet Ave. S., as a small-scale version of T.J. Max or Marshall's.

Huynh buys surplus new clothing from a variety of wholesale sources, and then sells any three clothing items for \$10. In addition to shirts and pants, the store sells accessories such as bags, hats, and jewelry. Sections are devoted to women, children, and men. While the styles are not specific to a particular culture or ethnic group, the store's inventory changes weekly with each new shipment. The store also features a fitting room.

Huynh, who as a child moved with her family from Vietnam to Minnesota, had worked in retail management for many years prior to opening her own business last year. Along with the help of her husband, Neeson Vang, Huynh developed a business plan which targets low-income shoppers from the Lake Street and Chicago Avenue areas.

An enthusiastic bargain shopper, Huynh considers her prices to be competitive with even the used

clothing stores in the area.

One of the perks of visiting the Clearance Rack is meeting Huynh's two daughters: five-year-old Mindy and five-month-old Neesa. Keeping her daughters occupied at the store allows the family to forgo daycare and share quality time before Mindy begins kindergarten next year.

Store hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information call (612) 822-0324.

-Thor Anderson



Clearance Rack owners Neeson Vang, Heroine Huynh and children

Three Businesses Relocate in Kingfield

Three businesses have recently relocated in Kingfield.

Mulroy's Body Shop, formerly at 4325 Nicollet Ave. S., has moved to 3920 Nicollet Ave. S, former home of the Super Shuttle. Owned by Pat and Donna Mulroy, the shop has expanded its operations by increasing shop space threefold with plans to increase the number of employees from 8 to 11 in the next six months. They are now using a new state-of-the-art paint booth which uses water-based paints and cuts emissions by 50 percent. This process uses wind and air to dry the paint, not heat. Mulroy said that it is an important goal of his to be a clean business. Mulroy's parking lot will be the new site of the Kingfield Farmer's Market starting in June 2005.

Mulroy's former building has been sold to the picture framing business Frame-Ups, which is presently located at 3005 Lyndale Ave. S. Frame-Ups, a complete custom picture framing shop

operating in Minneapolis for 16 years, plans to open at its new location in January 2005. In addition to making picture frames, the business also cut mats for pictures using a computerized mat cutter which offers several choices of cut edge types. Shop hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Frame-Ups is occupying half of the building and leasing the other half to Young's Flowers, which relocated from its former location at 3554 Bryant Ave. S. With 50 years of experience, Young's is a full service florist offering FTD and Teleflora wire services, and local delivery. They offer a variety of cut flowers, silk and dried arrangements, and gift items for weddings, funerals, and proms. Store hours are Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

-Mary Vanderford



Mulroy's parking lot will be the new site of the Kingfield Farmer's Market starting in June 2005

Area Food Shelves Cutting Services

A survey of local food shelves indicates that funding cuts are making life more difficult for their clients.

Incarnation Catholic Church, 3817



Pleasant Ave. S, traditionally passed out Thanksgiving baskets at its food shelf that included a turkey and all the trimmings. Last year, 160 baskets were given away; this year no baskets will be distributed due to funding cuts.

In 2003, Sabathani Community Center, 310 E. 38th St., issued 971 gift cards to families, enabling them to buy a turkey for the holiday. This year, however, they informed families that gift cards will be reduced due to limited resources.

Cornerstone Ministries, of Park Av United Methodist Church at 3400 Park Ave. S., had 300 families sign up for Thanksgiving baskets last year. To meet the demand this year, the church

teamed with Union Gospel Mission to distribute food baskets.

The Aliveness Project, 730 E. 38th St., which serves meals to people with HIV and AIDS still plans to distribute its Thanksgiving dinner; however, its food shelf funding may be eliminated by February 2005.

Each of these organizations provides a vital resource to Kingfield residents. Help keep the shelves stocked through the holidays and winter by donating non-perishable food items to any of these locations. Alternatively, visit www.211unitedway.org or call 211, the United Way's First Call for Help line.

-Joanna S. Hallstrom



Nicollet Housing Coop Seeks Owners

The 29-unit Nicollet Housing Cooperative, 4429 Nicollet Ave. S., had five units available for sale as of press time, including four two-bedroom units, and one single-bedroom unit.

Membership in a housing cooperative has many benefits, says member Gary Hoover, including tax benefits equal to those for traditional homeowners, low purchase and move-in costs (\$2,000 down payment), and reasonable monthly housing expenses. These monthly expenses, which include mortgage payment and coop fees, range from \$750 to \$1,100 per month depending on the size of the unit.

To inquire about the Nicollet Housing Cooperative, contact Jerome Wardein at (612) 825-6188 or wardein@hotmail.com. Or, call Nils Heymann at (612) 821-3067.

-Mary Vanderford

Youth soccer program jumps to new level

This fall, one of KFNA's Neighborhood Revitalization Program projects gained greater stability and a sense of permanence in only the project's third year.

When the neighborhood began discussing its NRP objectives in the 1990s, one goal included establishing youth programs at Martin Luther King Park that would draw children and Kingfield families to the park.

In the summer of 2002, KFNA and Martin Luther King Park co-sponsored a "little-kids" soccer program to provide a fun, family-oriented program for four- through eight-year-olds to learn the basics of soccer. NRP funds were used to acquire equipment and

pay the junior-high- and high-school-aged coaches.

The initial season, running Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in June and July, often drew 60 or more children and their families. Interest in the program soon grew and parents asked about continuing the program through the fall. The program expanded to Saturday mornings in September and October in 2002.

Following a second successful summer and fall program in 2003, Martin Luther King Park Director Brian Cornell suggested that the program expand to indoor play during Tuesday evenings in the winter and spring. Such an arrangement

successfully started in 2004.

KFNA hoped that the park could eventually take "ownership" of the soccer program. Ultimately, the group's goal was realized when the fall 2004 session became the first included in the park's regular scheduled offerings, allowing participants to register through the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

To sign-up for the little-kids winter soccer program, which will likely run Wednesdays in January, February, and March from 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., visit www.minneapolisparcs.org or call (612) 370-4908.

-Mary Vanderford

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www.kingfield.org



Look inside
to meet the
new kid on
the block!

Calendar of Events

Sat. Dec. 4	all day	Arts, Crafts, Tree Sale Lake Country School, 3755 Pleasant Ave. S.
Sat. Dec. 4	all day	Kids Winter Sports: Basketball, Wrestling, Soccer Martin Luther King Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S. to register: www.minneapolisparcs.org
Wed. Dec. 8	7 p.m.	KFNA Board Meeting & Lyndale Reconstruction Discussion Martin Luther King Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S. for more information, call KFNA at (612) 823-5980
Tues. Dec. 16	7:15 p.m.	School Concert Church of the Visitation, 4530 Lyndale Ave. S.
Thurs. Dec. 18	7 p.m.	Sarah Thomsen in Concert Judson Memorial Baptist Church, 4101 Harriet Ave. S.
Mon. Jan. 17	6:30 - 8 p.m.	Martin Luther King Day Celebration Martin Luther King Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S.
Wed. Jan. 19	1 p.m.	Tai Chi, for older adults Martin Luther King Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S. for information, call the Senior Center at (612) 822-3194

For more information on these events, call the hosting location.