DO YOU CHOOSE TO WALK OR BIKE?
Then you are a part of Bike Walk Move!

Over the summer months you may have seen the Bike Walk Move table at the Kingfield Farmers Market, or seen ads on Metro Transit buses featuring Kingfield residents, or you came out to play on the RiverLakeGreenway for the June celebration, or perhaps a volunteer knocked on your door to ask if you would complete a survey about biking and walking.

What's going on? These all are part of a campaign called Bike Walk Move, designed to raise awareness about new bicycling and walking options in the Twin Cities. Kingfield has been one of the focal points of the campaign, in part because of the new routes that intersect the neighborhood: the RiverLakeGreenway (an east-west route along 45th and 42nd Streets from Lake Harriet to the West River Parkway bike path), new bike lanes on 38th Avenue and Blaisdell Avenue (extending from the RiverLakeGreenway into downtown Minneapolis), and just west of the Kingfield neighborhood, the new Bryant Avenue Bike Boulevard, which extends from 56th Street to Loring Park.

The goal of Bike Walk Move is to let residents know about these new ways of getting around—and to get people to try them out. The celebration of the 38th & Blaisdell bike lanes (story page 3) will be part of October Bike Walk Week, Oct 2-9, 2011. For more information about the campaign, visit www.bikewalkmove.org. The campaign is a part of a major investment in bicycling and walking from a federal pilot program administered by Bike Walk Twin Cities, a program of Transit-Oriented Communities.

CELEBRATE 38TH STREET!

38th Street has connected our communities for over a century—let’s use it once again for us to Celebrate 38th! Activities are in the works at 38th & Grand and 38th & Nicollet. Come enjoy music, dance, food, fun, special sales, prizes, and surprises with your neighbors on 38th Street from 11 am – 1 PM.

The party will get started at 38th & Nicollet, 11 am – 1 PM, with food and entertainment provided by Nicollet ACE Hardware and others, topped off with Sebastian Joe’s Nicollet Pothole ice cream scooped courtesy of the Lander Group. Get fancy with face painting and temporary tattoos by Elements of Creativity, and feather extensions by BANGbang. The party will move west to 38th & Grand, where there will be food, drinks, special sales, music, and activities continuing until 4PM celebrating many new businesses to the corner including Bigs Studio at 3800 Grand.

Get all the details at http://kingfield.org/celebrate-38th/ and make your plans to Celebrate 38th Street on Saturday, September 24th!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EATING FOR ART:

DOUGLAS WILLIAMS NOTED THAT WALKING YOUR PLASTIC AROUND THE BLOCK REGULARLY, WITH LOTS OF PEOPLE DOING IT, CREATES A PRESENCE, JUST LIKE WALKING YOUR DOG. IT GETS PEOPLE OUT NOTICING THINGS, AND IS A GOOD CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY.

Hannah has been maintaining her block-based plastics recycling station for about two years. “It started for one block,” she says, “but we are attracting people who know I do this from other blocks nearby.” It takes 3-5 people about 2 hours every other week to collect the plastics, store the sorted filled bags, and then drive them to one of the collection sites. She keeps doing it because, she says, “Besides making our blocks safer, collecting your own plastic increases your awareness of the volume of waste we create that is indestructible. That is important to me.”

Now in its 5th year, Eating for Art brings local restaurants together to raise money for arts programming and public art projects in the Kingfield and Lyndale neighborhoods. When community members told her about the project, she started doing it, pairing local establishments, the restaurants in return will commit a percentage of their day’s sales to KPNA and LNA for community-based arts programming in each neighborhood.

This year, Eating for Art will be raising funds to support public art along the reconstructed Nicollet Avenue. While the City of Minneapolis has generously committed $160,000 for this project, we know how expensive public art can be as part of big infrastructure projects. We also know the strong desire people have for the reconstructed Nicollet Avenue to be a beautiful environment that reflects the spirit and soul of our neighborhoods, along the entire length of the corridor.

Gather your friends on September 22nd, and go Eating for Art. Enjoy morning coffee at Anodyne, then stroll to Butter for a mid-morning treat. Have lunch on the patio at Vic's 1959 Café and take the whole family to dinner at The Chop House Restaurant, or drop into The Lowbrow or Blackbird for a late night beer and an appetizer.

These are just a few of the neighborhood restaurants participating in Eating for Art this year. For a complete listing, please check the KPNA website closer to the date.

EATING FOR ART LOCATIONS:

NCOLETT AVE

RIPPING UDAPE

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PROPOSED ROADWAY CHANGES AND ENGINEERING RATIONALE:

• Roadway width will be reduced from 50-52 feet, providing one-way 11-foot drive lanes and 11-foot parking lanes. A width of 11 feet is common on many similar streets including sections of 46th Street, 42nd Street, and Bloomington Avenue—all of which have bus and heavy vehicle traffic, as well as many small businesses just like Nicollet. Studies show that narrower streets encourage slower driving and require drivers to pay more attention to the road.

• Boulevards of 5 feet will be added, a critical improvement for pedestrians, transit users, residential and commercial property owners. Boulevards at 5 feet provide the right amount of space for storing streetscape-outside-sidewalk area and support healthy tree growth. Boulevards also provide space for snow storage, improving winter sidewalk safety.

• Sidewalks remain 6 feet, as per city policy, but with the addition of 5-foot boulevards, pedestrians will have comfortable space for strollers and wheelchairs.

Plastics Recycling Stations for Environment and Crime Prevention

At a meeting hosted by the KPNA Crime Prevention & Safety Committee back in March, discussion turned to plastics and recycling issues. Longtime Kingfield resident Hannah Mitchell presented her block’s plastic recycling program, which she started with a drop-off alley location at her home for plastics not collected by the City. Hannah and others at the meeting decided to see if the Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA) would support interested neighbors in setting up additional stations, through the Community Initiated Grant program.

What does plastic have to do with crime prevention? Police representatives at the meeting noted that walking your plastics around the block regularly, with lots of people doing it, creates a presence, just like walking your dog. It gets people out noticing things, and is a good crime prevention strategy.

Hannah has been maintaining her block-based plastics recycling station for about two years. “It started for one block,” she says, “but we are attracting people who know I do it.”

Remember, the more you eat, the better your neighborhood will look!

38th Street was part of October Bike Walk Week, Oct 2-9. For a complete listing, please check the KFNA website closer to the date.

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Remember, the more you eat, the better your neighborhood will look!
From the KFNA President

(greetings, Kingfield Neighbors. On National Night Out (August 2) KFNA Board Members had the pleasure of visiting 55 block parties throughout the neighborhood, scooping ice cream along the way. Thank you to everyone who organized and attended events. (Is your block not organized? Contact Sarah Gleason to volunteer to be a block leader, sarah@kingfield.org 612.823.5808.)

One reason we scoop ice cream is we want to hear from you. What did I hear? Well, quite a bit of laughter (might have been the home brew on Garfield Avenue), but some serious talk too. One longtime resident told me that current property taxes were especially hard on him and his wife. Other residents are concerned about a redesigned Nicollet Avenue. Still others asked how to get involved (thank you!) A recurring theme was that neighbors are important in each others lives and relationships make blocks strong and help make Kingfield a great place to live.

My favorite encounter of the night involved a woman out for a walk with her children. She had never heard of National Night Out when she came across a party. A woman from the neighborhood approached and told her the event was about neighborhood safety. She was excited that the night could be so fun and she wanted to participate!

A few words on walking and biking—simple acts that also help strengthen our community and improve safety. National Night Out is on the books with a group of neighbors headed to Kingfield’s community school, Lyndale Elementary. If you can, I encourage you to walk or bike your child to school that day, or try walking or biking to your place of work or school. For other ideas on how to get involved in Kingfield, please visit KingfieldRec.com/bike.

Gardens Are Growing...

In just its second year, the Kingfield Community Garden “outgrew” its original space. Even though the Pleasant Community Gardeners agreed to divide their plots in two this year, there was still a waiting list of those looking for land. Thus the Kingfield Garden Group began to search for additional garden space.

• Moonshine in Kingfield?

Just on the edge of Kingfield at 46th & Nicollet there stands a relic of prohibition: a moonshine shed. This eclectic piece of architecture is popularly known as Sam’s Moonshine Shack, named for one of Kingfield’s newest potential community garden sites. The site will ideally hold 6 to 9 garden plots, plus a space for hosting gatherings for summer 2011.

KFNA is a member of MN Green, an organization run by the MN State Horticultural Society that collects and distributes donations from nurseries to public garden spaces. Luckily at the same time that we were interested in our site, another moonshine shack site was available, a large donation from MN Green came up. A few members of the Pleasant Garden decided to use this year as a test run for the Moonshine Shack concept. “I encourage all interested parties to come to a planning meeting to determine what they might grow to donate to local food shelves and hold a harvest celebration,” says Sarah Linnes-Robinson at KFNA at 612-823-5980 or sarah@kingfield.org

• Blaisdell Community Garden

An empty—and undeniable—lot sits at 3016 Blaisdell, between two encroaching library buildings. With a waiting list for community green space, this lot presents another opportunity to expand our community garden network.

Earlier this spring, neighborhood garden supporters met with the adjacent building owners and several neighbors to discuss creating a community garden. The site was suggested by one of Kingfield’s neighbors who was supportive of the idea, more work needs to be done to create a workable site. The City of Minneapolis is looking to turn this site into a neighborhood park, and the community garden is needed to bring neighbors from the surrounding blocks together so that they may contribute in creating the management model for the garden, planning, and care guidelines, as well as help in the physical creation.

Additionally, more research needs to be done on ownership options. The City of Minneapolis owns the site and has given the KFNA the first right to purchase the land. Options for ownership and management are being explored, including placing the land in a “green land trust,” which would then allow KFNA to organize a community garden on the site but assure it would remain green into the future if KFNA does not continue the management.

Meanwhile, donated perennials from MN Green were planted on the slope to prevent erosion and volunteers will continue planting through the winter, with the goal of opening the garden to the community in the spring of 2012. If you are interested in helping please contact Sarah Linnes-Robinson at KFNA at 612-823-5980 or sarah@kingfield.org. We’d love to get more people involved and make this truly a community effort!

— Scott Bordon, KFNA President

Can Crime Prevention Be Fun? You Bet!

Earlier this year, members of the KFNA Crime Prevention & Safety (CPSa) Committee cooked up a great new idea. What if they had their meetings standing up? What if they had their meetings outside? And what if they held those meetings in different parts of the neighborhood, so they could reach more people? It was a new recipe for making Kingfield safer and more connected. Each monthly “crime prevention party” had its own theme, flavor, and every one has been a success. Diverse groups of neighbors were supportive of the idea, more work needs to be done to create a workable site. The City of Minneapolis is looking to turn this site into a neighborhood park, and the community garden is needed to bring neighbors from the surrounding blocks together so that they may contribute in creating the management model for the garden, planning, and care guidelines, as well as help in the physical creation.

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— Marnie Peichel, Kingfield Garden Group member

New Businesses Investing in 38th and Nicollet!

When you visit the American Grill you’ll find it’s a family affair. Ana Dhawan and her two sisters, Zaara Amur and Raj Mehrotra, opened up their new take-out restaurant in Kingfield space. Zaara had previously worked at a restaurant that needed a translator, set out to share her perspective on other cultures through cooking. American Grill serves a variety of entrees including chicken, gyros, fish, Italian beef sandwiches, hamburgers, polpette, and souvlakis. All entrees are cooked to order using fresh ingredients, AND they deliver! • American Grill 3732 Nicollet 612-827-3222

Nobody understands your hair? The folks at BANGbang Salon and Creative Space will listen. “We want to be a neighborhood salon,” says owner Ashley Haley, a Kingfield resident, “somewhere where everyone will feel comfortable.” BANGbang offers men’s, women’s, and children’s haircuts, coloring, styling, waxing, and extensions. The salon carries handmade jewelry by local artist Lauren Noal, and a variety of hair care products from Bumble and Bumble and Shea Uemura. The salon space is also available for rent for your next wedding party or beauty brunch. • BANGbang Salon & Creative Space 11 West 38th Street 612.823.2264 bangbangmpls.com

Nicollet Avenue Repaving Update

• Nicollet Avenue will be widened at select intersections for data-driven reasons. Lake—31st will be widened for efficiency reasons. The vehicle volume: 36th Street will be widened to allow implementation of a turn lane now 38th Street will be widened to accommodate truck traffic, turn movements, and allow potential for a future turn lane.

• An option discussed but rejected was adding bumpouts at intersections. While typical benefits of bumpouts include street narrowing and providing a safe crossing for pedestrians, bumpouts can also reduce on-street parking and impact snow removal.

• Additional safety improvements for pedestrians will be added to Nicollet, including countdown timers at every signaled intersection.

• Unneeded and unnecessary lanes onto Nicollet will be eliminated, improving pedestrian safety and adding on-street parking.

NEXT STEPS:

City Council approval in early September will establish the overall roadway design, including locations of bus stops and traffic signals. Significant design work still is needed, however, and the project team will continue to work with individual property owners, residents, KFNA, NEIBHA (Nicollet-East Harriet Business Association), and the project steering committee to discuss specific issues such as access, encroachments, utility services, and other design details.

• Sept-Oct: Development of detailed design plans. Key decisions will include necessary utility relocations/impacts, and drainage considerations; how construction will be phased and staged; design and locations of streetscape, lighting, art, stormwater features, and other amenities.

• Late Oct: Community meeting to review construction plans. Date TBD. Check www.kfng.org for project updates.

• Winter: MOMT review of construction plans and contractor bidding.

• February 2012: Community meeting to review construction staging, access.

• April 2012: Start of construction

All comments regarding the Nicollet Avenue Repaving Project should be directed to the project consultants Jessica.Laabs@kimley-horn.com or 651-643-0437.

About the Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA)

The Kingfield neighborhood runs from 30th to 45th Streets, between Lyndale Avenue and 35W.

KFNA Office Location:
The Center for Performing Arts Room 101 • 3754 Pleasant Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55419

Phone 612.823.5810
E-mail info@kingfield.org
Website www.kfng.org

2011-12 KFNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Scott Bordon, President scott@kingfield.org
Pamela Taylor, Vice President pam@kingfield.org
Joely Lynn Sandra James, Treasurer joelylynnsandr@gmail.com
Brook Lemm-Tabor, Secretary brook@kingfield.org

Arthur Knowles arthur@cumcast.net
Chris Fur chris@madison.com
John Barber john@kingfield.org
Mark Brandwein mark@kingfield.org
Marshall Onsrud marshall@kingfield.org
Randy Nunn anders@kingfield.org
Randy Nunn anders@kingfield.org
Tamera Etnes tamera@kingfield.org
Veronica Perez veronicap@asl.net

KFNA STAFF
Executive Director Sarah Linnnes-Robinson 612.823.5810

KINGFIELD NEWS
If you are interested in writing, editing, designing, or taking photographs for the Kingfield News, call KPNA at 612.823.5808 or email info@kingfield.org
Celebrating Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at MLK Park

This past spring, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board approved and funded the Phase I recommendations presented by the Right to Play Minnesota, a new group established to assure that Dr. King is honored at the Kingfield park named for him. These recommendations were developed through six community meetings, and included the mowing and restoration of the “Freedom Form #2” sculpture by Daniel L. Johnson (also known as “Black Liberation Freedom Sculpture”), initially dedicated and donated in 1970, as well as the installation of accompanying landscaping and a name plaque.

“Freedom Form #2” was moved to its new location to coincide with an August 28th celebration in Washington, DC at the MLK Memorial. On this date, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Committee also held a community celebration, featuring speakers, musical entertainment, storytelling, spoken word, reenactments, and the opportunity to meet the sculptor. Landscaping and other immediate site improvements will take place this fall and spring.

Possible future projects of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Committee (that have been identified by the group, but are neither funded nor prioritized) may include:

- Civil rights related art and history installations
- Gardens
- Playground equipment
- Social justice programming

To serve on the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Committee, or to get involved with planning of any of the projects listed above, please contact Committee Co-Chair Sandra Richardson at strichardson@comcast.net or park staff Carmen Wilson, Community Service Area (CSA) Team Leader, at cwilson@minneapolisparks.org or 612-398-8177. The Legacy Committee normally meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 6:30 – 8:00 PM at the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Park, 4055 Nicollet Avenue South.

CELEBRATE THE NEW BLAISDELL AND 1ST AVENUE BIKE LANES!

Join your neighbors on Sunday, October 9, to celebrate the new Blaisdell and 1st Avenue bike lanes, and ride the loop! Activities include group rides, music, food, and entertainment from many of the great businesses and organizations along the way! Visit celebration stations (including one at MLK, one near the Midtown Greenway, and one near downtown) for games, prizes, food, and entertainment at each station along the way! At this time all the celebration details are not determined, but we promise a great time! Check the Kingfield website at www.kingfield.org for details as they become available.

The new north-south bike route, including southbound lanes on Blaisdell and northbound on 1st Avenue, runs from the Operations Center Parking Lot to 40th Street, where it intersects the RiverLake Greenway, a great east-west bicycle route. The project received a $150,000 federal grant from Bike Walk Twin Cities (also known as the Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program), which is funding more than 75 miles of new bike lanes and sidewalks, plus several innovative programming projects. The City of Minneapolis Bike Walk Ambassadors, and the Shirley Bike Depot Community Partners Bike Library. Find out more at www.bikewalkmove.org.

Contact Mackenste Turner at 612.333.3419 or mackenste.turner@ci.minneapolis.mn.us if you would like to be involved in planning for the celebration.

InnerCity Tennis: Free Saturday Tennis Program

On most Saturday afternoons, you will find my son Mark, age 5, running his heart out at the InnerCity Tennis program in the tennis courts at MLK Park. We go on 40th and 1st. This is truly one of the best programs we’ve found for him, and what’s even better, it’s free.

Mark’s age group does relays and skill building for 90 minutes, while practicing turn-taking, team spirit, and cleaning up, all under the kind guidance of dozens of volunteers. One of my favorite aspects of the program is “Character Assets,” which are taught by example regularly: respect, responsibility, integrity, perseverance, enthusiasm, teamwork, and service. Each session concludes with a piece of fruit and a bottle of water. All tennis racquets, balls, and equipment are provided.

After spending our Saturday afternoons at tennis, I am always happy to report that Mark goes to bed early and then takes a 3-hour nap on Sundays. I can’t guarantee you’ll get a nap, but I will promise that you’ll have a lot of fun. For you look for! –Amy Reisor, Mark’s mom

Dog Park Process Zeroing In On Possible Sites

Following the controversy over the establishment of an off-leash dog park in South Minneapolis, the Kingfield Neighborhood Organization (KFNA), and the Kingfield Dog Park Task Force member. It also includes representation from our neighbors to the east from Bryant, Central, and the Sabathani Community Center.

Over the course of the past few months we have had many suggestions to possible locations and much discussion as how good and/or bad these suggestions would be for both the off-leash dog park (OLDP) and how they would impact current uses and the neighborhoods that are nearby. After much discussion and investigation, the list of possible sites has been narrowed down to three. Maps of these sites are available at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board website: www.minneapolisparks.org/default.aspx.

Site I: Lyndale Farmstead Park • South of the Operations Center and along Kings Highway

This proposed site is located in Lyndale Farmstead Park. Its northern boundary would be the operations center wall and it would be within the turf and tree area along Kings Highway. This site would be west of the path that runs diagonally from the athletic fields to the southwest corner of the park behind the Theodore Wirth Home and Administration Building.

Site 2: Minnehaha Creek • Along the South side of Minnehaha Creek east of Pleasant Avenue

This proposed site is on the south side of Minnehaha Creek. It extends from Pleasant Avenue east to the base of the hill where Minnehaha Parkway splits. The trail within this area would be realigned as part of the project to allow for continuous trail use outside of the proposed site.

Site 3: Lyndale Farmstead Park • Southwest Operations Center Parking Lot

This proposed site is within the Southside Operations Center parking lot within Lyndale Farmstead Park. The stormwater pond within the site would not be accessible to dogs or people.

Individuals may send public comment on the project to Jennifer Stingley at jstingley@minneapolisparks.org or Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, 2117 West 26 Street Road, Minneapolis, MN 55411.
Beginning this fall, folks all over Minneapolis will have something in common: a book. One Minneapolis, One Read will bring the city together by having everyone read the same book, *The Grace of Silence*, by Minneapolis native and National Public Radio host Michele Norris. This memoir describes the experience of the Norrises as the first black family on their block in a south Minneapolis neighborhood. Norris also details her discovery of race-based family secrets.

The idea for a community read was inspired by Building Bridges, a group of residents in south Minneapolis neighborhoods whose mission is to understand how race and racism impact our communities. Instead of walking away from difficult discussions on a recent racially-polarizing local issue involving an off-leash dog park, these neighbors wanted to find a way to promote better understanding. You can also stay up to date on Building Bridges activities by “liking” the group on Facebook! http://www.facebook.com/buildingbridgesmpls

SPECIAL ONE READ EVENTS INCLUDE:

• Author Michele Norris Speaks About *The Grace of Silence*
  October 5, Guthrie Theater.

For information on all these events please visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/oneminneapolisoneread.asp.

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**Solarize Kingfield**

**In Minneapolis**

We help businesses and institutions interested in installing up to 40kW solar electric systems to simplify the process and reduce the cost of adding solar. The goal of the program is to make solar more accessible to commercial property owners and more viable to neighborhood residents. KFNA’s objective is to remove the barriers to solar installations for small local businesses and non-profit organizations in and near Kingfield, to help them save money and energy and strengthen their investment in the community. This work is supported by a grant from the City of Minneapolis.

We started working with two pilot sites in late 2010, one of which is moving toward commitment to a solar PV installation this year. We have also been working since 2010 with a group of local solar installers to find ways to simplify the process. Our partnering solar PV installers are Solarflow Energy, Applied Energy Innovations, Sundial Solar, and Innovative Power Systems. Partnering installers are locally based and have significant local experience, and have been willing to invest their time and expertise in this project. It is our hope that by working closely with these partnering installers, the City of Minneapolis, and other key actors, we can build local systems and capacity, and shape public policy, to enable the growth of solar energy in Minneapolis and our state.

After identifying a number of buildings in the neighborhood with solar potential, we invited their owners to a workshop in May, organized with Eureka Recycling, the City of Minneapolis, and other key resources. You can see the presentation from that workshop at http://kingfield.org/solarize-kingfield/

If you own a non-homesteaded building in or near Kingfield (commercial, nonprofit, or institution) and are interested in exploring a solar electric installation, let us know by emailing your building’s address and your contact information to sarah@kingfield.org. As soon as possible. If, based upon aerial photography, your property is felt to have good solar potential, Solarize Kingfield will pay for the solar assessment (typically $250-$400) AND reimburse the cost of the required roof scan ($100-$250, depending on building size) for participating building owners. If you decide to pursue solar as a power option, Solarize Kingfield can also help pay up to 50% of the solar installer’s structural engineering assessment. However, these actions MUST occur before October 15, 2011, to be eligible.

Cost: For a solar electric system, the cost depends on the size of the system and the ease of installation. Before incentives and tax credits, typical costs range from $6.50-$8.00 per watt. Incentives can cover more than 60% of the cost in some cases. Profitable business can see installation costs recouped in a year or two. Solarize Kingfield will also help pay up to 50% of the solar installer’s structural engineering assessment. For the first meeting, please read *The Grace of Silence*, by Michele Norris. This memoir describes the experience of the Norrises as the first black family on their block in a south Minneapolis neighborhood. Norris also details her discovery of race-based family secrets.

Thank you 2011 KFNA Business Sponsors for all their support! Check out this year’s list of corporate and community sponsors!

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Call for Proposals

**Rice Media News**

Deadline for consideration: November 1, 2011

Rice Media News is now accepting pitches for articles on the following topics:

- Youth sports
- Community events
- Local government
- Arts and theater
- Local food
- Local politics
- Local history
- Local news
- Local travel

Please submit your proposal to editor@ricepublications.net

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**Calendar of Events**

Minneapolis, Minnesota

• Oct. 18: YWCA luncheon. It’s Time to Talk Forums on Race, with keynote speaker Linda Chavez, Minneapolis Convention Center
• Oct. 22: Family History Fair, Minneapolis Central Library
• Nov. 25: National Day of Listening

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**Kingfield News**

October 2011

For information on all these events please visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/down/todays_events.asp.