ENJOYING OUR MAIN STREET BY PED & PEDAL

Nicollet Open Streets returns on Sunday, September 18th: from Kmart to 46th Street, between 11AM and 5PM. It’s a celebration for our street, with activities, music, food, and more! So put on your walking shoes— the street will be closed to motorized transportation—and see what’s great about our neighborhoods from a different perspective.

Now organized by a three-neighborhood partnership of Kingfield, Lyndale, and Whitmer, Nicollet Open Streets has grown into our largest annual festival. Last year this event brought out over 100 businesses and nonprofit organizations and more than 11,500 people. To get ready for this year, KFNA, LNA, and the Whitter Alliance have been working for months with the Minneapolis Bike Coalition, as well as with local businesses and nonprofits, to bring the best of our neighborhoods to you. It really will be even bigger and better!

Activities for the day will include physical and mental health stations by lots of great partners (Wellness Minneapolis, AARP, Blue Cross Blue Shield, The Aliveness Project, Isuroon, Yoga Sanctuary, and more); live music at a half-dozen stages organized by our partnering music sponsors (Five Watt Coffee, Butter Bakery Café with KFAI, Roadrunner Records, LOCUS Architecture, Driftwood Char Bar, Hola Arepa, and Ramen Kazama); numerous cultural performing arts groups (including Green Dragon Kung Fu with their traditional lion dance, Mu Performing Arts with Taiko drumming, and the Aztec dancing of Acuarela Criolla e Internacional); plus, of course, great street food and drinks served up by many of our fabulous restaurants. Be sure to visit the “Nicollet Open Streets 2016” Facebook Event to see the full lineup of all the bands on all the stages, as well as all the special performances.

Also not to be missed: the petting zoo at Nicollet Ace Hardware, Kid Speed and a mini-course by InnerCity Tennis, archery at MLK Park, the MG Museum curated by Quality Coaches, performances by the Theater of Public Policy, a touring Somali Museum, a climbing wall by Vertical Endeavors, a Pop-up Park in the Kmart parking lot, and an appearance by the new Minneapolis Public Schools superintendent Ed Graff (see sidebar).

Returning this year will be an art fair along the 3400 block of Nicollet, with 10-by-10-foot spaces rented to artists for $30. We hope to reflect our community’s love of art while providing local artists an opportunity to showcase their work. Applications are available at kingfield.org, and should be submitted with payment to arya@lyndale.org.

More than 120 volunteers will be needed on September 18th to help with all aspects of the event—crews to set up, intersection monitors, info booth sitters, neighborhood representatives, photographers, roving ambassadors (and cleaners), and volunteer leaders. If you’re interested in volunteering, contact Artya at the Lyndale Neighborhood Association, who is coordinating volunteers for the day of the event. E-mail or call at arya@lyndale.org or 612-824-9402 x14.

As we get ready for another Nicollet Open Streets, KFNA would like to give a special shout out to those local businesses that are taking it step further and have made donations of cash to the event; their contributions help cover the cost of port-a-potties, promotions, and also support the months of work that KFNA, LNA, and the Whitter Alliance put into organizing the event. Our Event Sponsors have offered significant financial backing to make this event possible; Neighborhood Sponsors often provide funding as well, but are really increasing the fun with their in-kind contributions, including musical staging, bands, and hands-on activities. Be sure to tell these local businesses “thank you” when you visit them in the coming weeks, or when you see them at Nicollet Open Streets!

Our Outdoor Oven Opening Celebration!

Thursday, September 29 at 6:30 to 9 PM • Kingfield’s Pleasant Community Garden

On the grounds of the Center for Performing Arts • 3754 Pleasant Ave. S.

The oven will be hot, literally 800 degrees of hot, and we will be baking pizza for neighbors to sample. Wander on down and enjoy a slice at this first official oven event! Feel free to pack your own reusable plate, utensils, and beverage, or we will have compostable tableware for those who need it.

Questions? Want to volunteer and learn how to work the oven? Contact Sarah, Executive Director of the Kingfield Neighborhood Association, at 612.823.5980 or sarah@kingfield.org.

Wheels will spin and clay will fly:

Get ready for the 2nd Annual Kingfield Empty Bowls Throwdown!

Saturday, Oct. 15th

In partnership with Uptown Clay located at 2845 Harriet Ave S

Experienced ceramic artists, come join the fun! Uptown Clay (formerly Fire on the Greenway) is providing the space, wheels, and clay for this single-day throwdown. The goal is to make 120 bowls for the February Kingfield Empty Bowls event, a fundraiser held in February to benefit Nicollet Square, a supportive place for formerly homeless youth. (See their story on page 3.)

Don’t know how to throw? Come anyway, and watch wheels spin and the clay fly! There will be things to nibble and sip, and a chance to chat with the artists about their work while browsing the studio as they get ready for their annual holiday sale coming December 2-4.

Ceramic artists: To reserve a wheel for a throwing shift on Saturday, October 15th, send a request to Jon Loer at jloer@aol.com and a copy to Benjamin Krikava at bkrkikava@hotmail.com. Questions can be directed to Benjamin at 612.327.5274.

If you are a ceramic artist and cannot join the throwdown but still want to donate bowls, we are happy to accept your donation and arrange a pickup. For donations and more answers to questions about the Kingfield Empty Bowls event or the throwdown, please contact KFNA’s Executive Director, Sarah Linnes-Robinson, at 612.823.5980 or sarah@kingfield.org.

Rolling Out the Red Carpet in Kingfield

The Kingfield Neighborhood Association has taken on the role of the old-fashioned Welcome Wagon! (Does anyone even remember those?!) Within a few months of purchasing a home in the neighborhood, KFNA board members are delivering a welcome packet with coupons from many of our local businesses, as well as a great binder with important phone numbers and a list of ways to connect with the neighborhood.

Not so new to the neighborhood, but would like a packet? Just send us an e-mail (info@kingfield.org) with your name and address, and we will schedule someone to bring it to your home.

Are you a Kingfield business that would like to provide coupons for new neighbors? It’s not too late! Kits are printed monthly, so create your own welcome coupon and e-mail it to Cheryl@Kingfield.org.
Criminal Concerns?

With the increase in communication through social media, many of you are hearing about crime much more than you may have heard about incidents in the past. The good news: Crime is not up in Kingfield. The bad news: We still have friends and neighbors who are being victimized by criminals who look for opportunities to take things that don’t belong to them.

Although we no longer have a monthly Kingfield Crime Prevention and Security Meeting, we can always pull together resources to help anyone or any block that would like assistance, including free home security surveys conducted by our precinct’s Crime Prevention Specialists. Also representatives from the 5th Precinct attend board meetings quarterly, to update the community on crime trends and to answer questions. In fact, on Oct. 12th at the regular board meeting, you will have a chance to meet and hear from the new 5th Precinct inspector, Kathy Wiane.

Fall Highlights at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park

Fall athletics and programs are underway, and although space is limited, you can stop by the park to see if we have space for your child on a team. This season we have offered combined efforts with McRae in offering athletic programs for both parks. Coaches are excited for the new format; together we will be offering comprehensive quality athletic programs for both recreation centers. This new relationship is starting with Football and Soccer programs for young kids 3 to 14. Stop by the park if you are interested in volunteering. We have lots of youth programs to check out this school year, from 4th clubs, archery and cooking classes, to ceramic programs for the entire family, age 1 to adults.

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

KFNA Office Location: The Center for Performing Arts • Room 101
3754 Pleasant Ave. S. • Minneapolis, MN 55409
Facebook: Kingfield Neighborhood Association
Twitter: @kingfieldKFNA
Phone: 612.823.5980
E-mail: info@kingfield.org
Website: www.kingfield.org

The KFNA Board meets the 2nd Wed. of the month at 7 PM at Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S.

2016 KFNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

David Fenley, President
Dane Emanuel, Vice President
Lisa Huska, Treasurer
Matt Klausner, Secretary
Anita Shaffer
Andrew Christiansen
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Ashley Sjogren
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Cheryl Wiegard

KFNA STAFF

Sarah Limes-Robinson, Executive Director
Cheryl DeKift, Project Organizer

KFNA NEWS

You’re being notified in writing, editing, designing, or taking photographs for the Kingfield News, call or email KFNA.

On the lookout for KFNA on Election Day! (Volunteers needed!)

You’ve been living under a rock if you’re not aware it’s election season. We encourage you to vote on Tuesday, November 8th, when polls will be open from 7 AM to 8 PM statewide. Kingfield Neighborhood Association is once again excited to carry on its Election Day tradition of greeting Kingfield voters throughout the whole day with coffee, tea, treats, conversation and a warm fire, and we’d love to see you on either side of the table—stop by before or after voting, or volunteer to help!

Why do we do this? To be where our neighbors are! All of Kingfield—and Kingfield only—votes at MLK Park, and that’s why KFNA’s Election Day presence is so critical to our outreach needs. Of course, we’ll be listening to concerns of our neighbors and talking about what we’re excited about in the coming months.

Hint...if you’re reading this now and don’t get KFNA’s weekly emails, you can sign up at www.kingfield.org.

This newsletter that you’re reading only comes out the months.

This November you have the opportunity to vote for more than just our President, and local contests are often decided by a handful of votes, so your vote can really make a difference. To view and print a sample ballot, go to http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/. You are encouraged to make notes on your sample ballot and bring it with you when you vote.

Outside of Kingfield and not sure where to vote? Want to tell your friends where they should go to vote? Go to pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.

This November you have the opportunity to vote for more than just our President, and local contests are often decided by a handful of votes, so your vote can really make a difference. To view and print a sample ballot, go to http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/. You are encouraged to make notes on your sample ballot and bring it with you when you vote.

This is my favorite event that KFNA organizes because it brings so many of our neighbors together. It’s just like National Night Out—a fun, festive night with more layers of clothing. See you at MLK Park on Tuesday, November 8th, and be sure to stop by one of the KFNA tents!

Interested in volunteering that day? Please sign up for a shift at tinyurl.com/5evoj

—Scott Mueller, KFNA Board Member
MAKING HONEY IS HARD WORK!

While you perhaps enjoyed a relaxing, carefree summer, our Kingfield honeybees were very busy making honey! Thank you to everyone who placed extra flowers and other pollinator-friendly plants in their gardens this year. Our two hives have been thriving, pollinating all of those plants. Did you know that a honeybee visits between 50-100 flowers every time she goes out looking for nectar? Even more staggering, she has to visit two million flowers to create one pound of honey – whoa! So you can see, every plant and flower helps our bees help your garden!

The honeybees made so much honey that we got to remove some from their hives. Close to 50 pounds of it, in fact. Enough honey is left for the bees for them to use during the long winter, but the rest of it is ours to eat. KFNA’s beekeeper, Doug Allecci, is a long-term staff member and the keeper of the hives at the Lake Country Land School. To harvest Kingfield’s honey he brought his teaching skills and equipment to the Center for Performing Arts and worked with a group of 6th graders to teach them how to extract honey from the frames in each of the hives – fun and sticky work! It was a great way to show the kids where our food comes from (even their grown-ups were fascinated)!

The City of Minneapolis, as well as the entire country, is concerned about the health of our pollinator friends. That’s why the City Commissioner’s recently unanimously approved the Minneapolis Pollinator Resolution: hwww.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/WCMS1P-147750. We now have a city policy in place to protect pollinators, however very few residents and businesses are aware of this historic resolution by the city that urges the following key provisions for city-owned and controlled land:

- Committing to not using pesticides, including systemic insecticides;
- Avoiding planting flowering plants that are treated with systemic insecticides;
- Discontinuing the sale of pesticides and plants that are treated with systemic insecticides;
- Planting more pollinator forage, and organic or chemical-free lawn and landscaping practices.

So, as summer begins to fade away and thoughts turn to fall, you can begin thinking about next year’s garden, and ways that you can help our Kingfield honeybees!

PorchFest Reprise

This year’s PorchFest boasted 38 outdoor sites throughout the neighborhood (up from 25 previous year) with 61 musical performances (up from 40 the previous year). About a 50% increase, and attendance at each site rose, too! This year KFNA also was able to offer some PorchFest performers the chance to come back to Kingfield and play during Nicoret Open Streets at both the KFAI and Knarr stages, as well as have their music featured on the radio in KFAI promo pieces for this event. As always, support our local bands; be sure to visit the “Nicollet Open Streets 2016” Facebook Event to see the full lineup of all the bands on all the stages so you can check out their acts!

A big thank you goes out to all of the Porch’est performers and hosts. PorchFest is a truly amazing community event built upon the talent and goodwill of so many Kingfield neighbors. It is a joy to see people so happy to make music, and see them out in the community creating a 100% accessible event where it is all given away for free. If you are interested in playing in next year’s event and are not on our musicians contact list, please email sarah@kingfield.org with “Porch’est Contact List” in the memo line, and we will add you to the artist list for 2017 when opportunities like this become available.

Planning Ahead for Empty Bowls

Kingfield Empty Bowls 2017 will be here before we know it, and we are looking for volunteers to help create another wonderful event! Please let us know if you would like to be part of the team that helps host an event that celebrates our community and supports those less fortunate. All money raised through Kingfield Empty Bowls is donated to Nicoret Square, a project of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative that provides a safe, affordable, and supportive Kingfield housing option for youth who have experienced long-term homelessness or have been in the foster care system.

Volunteers may decide to host a Paint-a-Bowl Party, or work with local potters and pottery studios to create unique bowls for the event. Also needed are volunteers to help with general event planning. (It’s fun, we promise!) Our first planning meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 11th, 7 PM, at MLK Park Recreation Center.

If you are interested in volunteering, please send your contact information to info@Kingfield.org, and we will be sure to find something you can do to help!

SAVE THE DATE: Kingfield Empty Bowls Tuesday, February 9, 2017

Nicollet Square’s Place in Our Neighborhood (and Our Hearts!)

Nicollet Square opened nearly six years ago, at the end of 2010. Given the opportunity to learn about Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative and the young adults who would be served by Nicoret Square, the Kingfield Neighborhood Association and many other neighbors enthusiastically welcomed the original 42 youth who moved into Nicoret Square and the Kingfield neighborhood that December. All exiting long-term homelessness or enrolled in Hennepin County’s Extended Foster Care program, these youth became Kingfield neighbors themselves. Many have gotten jobs in the neighborhood through Nicoret Square’s innovative Work Fast internship program. Our tenants vote and play basketball at MLK Park, they get coffee and lunch (or even work) at Butter Bakery Café, and they attend Nicollet Open Streets and eat ice cream on National Night Out.

Nicollet Square is collaboratively operated by three local nonprofits that provide intensive on site services for tenants. Though youth are between the ages of 16 and 22 at entry, they are able to stay as long as they need until they are ready for their next step in independent living. For most of our tenants, this happens after they’ve lived at Nicoret Square for one to two years. They’ve held stable employment, have learned new independent living skills, have saved some money, and are ready to move into more independent housing. Once our tenants have moved out, they still qualify for after care services, so when they have questions about their new lease, or about financial aid forms, they can call or stop by and get those questions answered. The fact that so many of our former tenants continue to stay in touch is a testament to the high quality relationships they build with their Transition Coaches, their primary support staff from Youthlink.

Our relationship with the Kingfield neighborhood has remained close throughout the years; in fact, each year Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative makes a donation to KFNA for each tenant at Nicoret Square. It’s our way to show that each resident in Nicoret Square appreciates the support of a strong community and a strong neighborhood association, and of course, we are so thankful for KFNA and our neighbors’ Empty Bowls event. We had such a large turnout this past February that we ran out of bowls (maybe next year?), and we continue to be impressed and so grateful for the generosity displayed by our neighbors. Nicoret Square couldn’t have landed in a better neighborhood, and we are so happy to be able to continue to serve young adults exiting long-term homelessness in a safe, clean, and open-minded community.

-Jenny Lock, Services Partnership Manager-Youth Programs
Rain, Rain Go Away … at least when we’re trying to host a Garden Tour!

Although it was a rainy day in the neighborhood, the 2016 Kingfield Community Garden Tour was still a hit. This year’s tour was a bit unusual in that the focus was on boulevards. With more than 20 locations to visit, many attendees selected a few that were of special interest to them and dashed to see these between the raindrops. Many of the gardens included native and pollinator friendly plants. Stops also included treats at the start of the tour from Royal Grounds, cookies at Butter Bakery Café while viewing their container gardens, and an Ice Cream Social at MLK Park.

In addition, folks from The Aliveness Project were on hand at the new donation vegetable garden in the northwest corner of the MLK Park. A veritable jungle this year, this garden helps to provide fresh produce to The Aliveness Project, which offers individual nutrition counseling, a food shelf, and a hot meal program to people with HIV and AIDS. For more information about volunteering with The Aliveness Project, contact Laura Henry: Laura@Aliveness.org.

Special thanks to Nicollet Ace Hardware for providing gifts to all of the gardeners that offered to share their knowledge with the tour attendees, as well as the donation of an incredible wheelbarrow full of gardening tools and delights for the lucky winner of the tour drawing.

Couldn’t make the tour, but would love to see where these amazing boulevard gardens are? Send me an e-mail (Cheryl@Kingfield.org) and I will send you the map. Of course the gardeners won’t be there to give their insight, but it is fun to stroll by to admire their hard work!