Development Update for 40th & Lyndale

In the early 2000’s two Super America (SA) convenience stores were located across the street from each other at this intersection, due to the purchase of 7-11 stores by Super America. The residential property directly south of the vacant Super America was purchased by the company, and the duplex on that property was razed, leaving a vacant lot. It was 50s era at that time to build a larger convenience store at that location. Abandoning that plan in 2006, Super America instead closed the station, leaving a vacant building.

A joint neighborhood group formed in 2005, made up of Kingfield and East Harriet Representatives, whose mission was to help the 40th & Lyndale business node meet its full potential. This group, called the 40th & Lyndale Task Force, received funding from the city of Minneapolis’ Great Streets Program to create a design for the node to meet Great Street standards while balancing the needs and desires of the nearby neighbors and the neighborhoods at large.

The 40th & Lyndale Task Force held a community forum in which more than 60 residents and business owners, including Super America, participated. At this forum, participants expressed a strong interest in amenities that fell under the Walkable Small Retail and Food category. Residents expressed the desire to make the intersection feel like an attractive small town, using 46th and Bryant, 50th & Xerxes and France Avenue as examples. Residents said they wanted community gathering places and stores they could walk to that also would fit into the fabric of a residential neighborhood.

Since 2006, other development has occurred around this vacant site. Lyndale Avenue has been reconfigured from four to two lanes, with expanded greenway and pedestrian level height. Additionally, the RiverLake Greenway, an expanded pedestrian/bikeway that connects the Chain of Lakes to the Mississippi River has been completed. These changes have helped transform this section of Lyndale back to a neighborhood avenue in the spirit of a Community Corridor as it is currently classified by the City. According to the 40th & Lyndale Task Force’s application to the City in 2006, the vacant commercial building and empty lot in marked contrast to the vitality of Lyndale Avenue as a neighborhood corridor and “this intersection as a community gathering point for residents of the two neighborhoods is significant,” the task force wrote.

After years of looking at a vacant convenience store and inaction from an unmotivated seller, KFNA learned this spring that a purchase agreement for the site had been signed by a reputable local restaurateur, Paul Dzubnar, owner of the Green Mill franchise. His initial plan for the site met many of the goals identified by the 40th & Lyndale Task Force and various neighbors, including a build-out to the SA site to fit in with the physical characteristics of the neighborhood instead of featuring a parking lot on this highly visible corner — due to the owner’s inability to construct a new building on the site.

Questions regarding the development can be directed to my office by calling 612.673.2208 or emailing Elizabeth.Glidden@minneapolismn.gov.

– Elizabeth Glidden
Eighth Ward Council Member

Garden Dinners on July 27 and Sept 21, for eating!

Why was the mushroom invited to the Kingfield Garden Tour?

Because he is a fungus.

All the rain and cool weather this spring have been a boon for more than just the water tables. If you haven’t noticed, mushrooms are all over the place this spring and summer: in the lawn and garden, as well as in two dozen hanging “tubes” at the Kingfield Community Garden! The tall wooden structures at the back of the garden hold the tubes of growing mushrooms for native wild oyster mushrooms. This back location is perfect for the mushroom farm, as it stays cool and shaded throughout the day. The mushrooms will be featured in both the upcoming Kingfield Community Garden Tour on July 11, for viewing, as well as the upcoming Garden Dinners on July 27 and Sept 21, for eating!

All proceeds from the garden tour will directly support the Kingfield Community Gardens. For additional information or questions, contact KFNA at info@kingfield.org or www.kingfield.org / 612-823-5580.

Community Unity Against Crime

Celebrate National Night Out!

National Night Out is about more than just turning on your porch lights, it is a chance to connect with neighbors and celebrate your neighborhood. When asked why she enjoys her block’s annual National Night Out (NNO) party, Kingfield block leader Ann Birch says, “To me, NNO is a celebration of what we’ve become. Over the years, our connections have evolved. NNO has led to flammers parties, phone alert updates, progressive dinner parties, a book club, gay marriage celebrations, and our own Facebook page where we seek referrals (plumbers, painters, etc.), and ‘Odd versus Even’ snowball fights!”

The 30th Annual Minneapolis National Night Out will be Tuesday, August 6, 2013. August may seem distant, but when it comes to having a fabulous block party, early planning and registration is a must! The registration process has never been easier as the city no longer requires that you list all neighbors who support a block party. This change makes the process to register take only a minute, and helps the city know where to send the block event packets.

If you want to block your street, you can do so free through July 24. After July 24, any application must be submitted in person at the KFNA table at the Kingfield Farmers Market on either July 14 or 21, and we will work with Joe’s to select the amazing food and design the ingredients.

Tour de Kingfield

Are you new to gardening and want to get ideas? Are you obsessed by gardening and want to spend more time in a garden, any garden? Or are you just plain nosy and want to see what other people are doing in their backyards? All of these is good reasons to attend the 4th Annual Kingfield Neighborhood Garden Tour, Thursday July 11, 2013, from 6 to 9 pm, rain or shine. The Garden Tour has been a high point of the Kingfield summer season for the past four years.

Advance tickets are available for $10.00 at the KFNA table at the Sunday Kingfield Farmers Market. You could even win a ticket from one of our Kingfield Garden Tour Sponsors — Erik Brown, of Erik Brown Homes! Tickets also may be purchased beginning at 5:45 PM the evening of the tour at your start location, $25/lyndale. At this garden you also will pick up your map for this year’s self-guided tour. From there you can follow the map in any order that you wish, traveling through the neighborhood and stopping at the designated gardens at your own pace.

Park in the vicinity and walk from garden to garden, or consider riding into the neighborhood for a greener experience. Tour-goers will have the opportunity to visit a variety of private gardens owned and nurtured by passionate gardeners, who will be able to answer questions. Expect to take home some great tips and ideas from homeowners who work within the confines of city lots in our challenging Minnesota climate.

The tour concludes with a celebration of community and gardening at Kingfield’s Pleasant Community Garden, 39th and Pleasant, next to the Center for Performing Arts. The garden party will feature music as well as delicious snacks and beverages provided by Butler Bakery Café, Anodyne Coffeehouse, and other local restaurants. Gardeners who will be on hand with a gift you gift from Nicollet Ace Hardware Special door prizes for tour attendees will be provided by Nicollet Ace Hardware. With select Lots of Quaint Businesses, a Kingfield home-based business, will be at the final celebration offering free chair massages in case you need to work out some kinks after the walking tour!

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Missed the Kingfield Garage Sale?

Participating in the Kingfield Garage Sale gave me a dead-
line for going through things
that had accumulated over the winter in our closets and bookcases, and my son's toys. The sale also gave us a way to pass these things on. If you missed the sale but still have some excess stuff lying around, here are a few tips for de-cluttering your home.

Whether you are clearing out a junk drawer, basement, or bedroom, consider how you want to use that space. Don't think about it too hard – you can consider each item later. Give the space a quick clean. Since you are not planning on clearing out the space on a regular basis, take the time to get rid of the cleaning products and vacuum.

Now comes the challenging part – putting things back in the freshly cleaned space. (It's also the fun part, where you get to see progress!) For each piece, consider the following:

• When in the last time you used it?
• What would you do if you didn't have it and needed it?
• Does the item fit your vision for how you will use the space? Things that you don't use or need can go into boxes marked "donation", "trash", "recycle", and "goes elsewhere." As you get a sense of what belongs in the space and what does not, you can arrange things by how often you use them.

• Put one arm up and one arm down to find your "prime storage space." This might be shelves or cabinets that you can reach without needing to use a stool or bend down. Put the items you use daily there.
• Items that are used once a week can go in places that take a little more effort to access.
• Call 311 cell phone application. At the end of the cleanup, volunteers had assisted with the identification and removal of over 25 incidents of graffiti.

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• What would you do if you didn't have it and needed it?
• Does the item fit your vision for how you will use the space? Things that you don't use or need can go

Happy organizing!
– Christine Davies, Kingfield-based Professional Organizer www.think-organized.com

14th Annual MLK Park Ice Cream Social

Thursday, July 18, 6:30-8:30pm
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park • 4055 Nicollet Ave. S.

Summer is in full swing! On July 18, join fellow Kingfield neighbors for a delightful evening with music, face painting, art crafts, an environmental table, and a Minneapolis Institute of Arts table. Grilled hot dogs, root beer floats and other goodies will be for sale at affordable prices. This outdoor event is a great chance to enjoy the park and have ice cream with your neighbors. Be sure to mark your calendars!

Interested in lending a helping hand? Please send an email to Cherry@Kingfield.org.

KFNA Crime Prevention and Safety (CPAs) Committee Activities

In May, the CPA Committee organized a graffiti cleanup. An inspection for graffiti within a two-block radius of MLK Park had revealed graffiti, and volunteers surveyed the locations that had been identified, and attempted to remove the graffiti from street signs, garbage cans, and electric box wraps. Each location was photographed (including graffiti on concrete surfaces that could not be removed by the volunteers) and submitted to the City via the 311-cell phone application. At the end of the cleanup, volunteers had assisted with the identification and removal of over 25 incidents of graffiti.

In June, the neighbors in the 4300 block of Garfield Ave S hosted this summer's first Traveling Block Party. Amy Lavender, Crime Prevention Specialist from MPD's 5th Precinct, provided information about crime trends in the area, bike safety, and summertime community safety. Neighbors demonstrated unicycle and juggling skills and offered entertaining tips for those in attendance. Many thanks to Mr. Bill Miller for offering to have the meeting on his block! To nominate your block for a Traveling Block Party, email Cherry@Kingfield.org and tell us why your block is special. If selected, you will work with KFNA to choose a date in July or August and select a theme, and KFNA will assist you in lining up resources and advertisement to the event your neighbors.

In September the KFNA Crime Prevention and Safety Committee will host a special event focused on the Minneapolis Police Department's K-9 Program and the K9 EnVent Project, whose goal is to supply bulletproof protective vests for all of MPD's police dogs. Stay tuned for more details about this important event! If you are interested in helping, please contact Cherry at Cherry@Kingfield.org.

KFNA Staff
Sarah Linneman-Robinson, Executive Director Cheryl DeGroff, Project Organizer

KINGFIELD NEWS
If you are interested in writing, editing, designing, or taking photographs for the Kingfield News, call email KFNA.
Meet the New Members of the KFNA Board

In April, KFNA held its Annual Meeting and Election, where neighbors elected six new directors (pictured on the left) to the KFNA board along with two alternates. Many of those elected had taken the time to attend a KFNA board meeting or a recruitment party earlier in the season so they understood the commitment to the organization and spoke eloquently about what they wanted to bring to the table as volunteers. A lawyer, two (TFAs, students of public policy, a workplace consultant who works from her home, an advocate and organizer for homeless youth, and two bakers now complement our board's other talented directors!

We are featuring two new board members here...he be on the lookout for at events and be sure to say “hi,” and thank them for their service to your neighborhood!

Mark Waller (Front row, 2nd from left) I am the new Treasurer on the KFNA board. I have lived in Kingfield for a year with my wife, two dogs, and with a baby boy due in September. (As a result I have been on the lookout for future neighborhood babysitters)! I decided to run for a board position because I love being involved in the community that I live in, and because I wanted to utilize the skills I built as a CPA in the non-profit industry in a different environment. In my free time, I run marathons—I will be running the Twin Cities Marathon for the third time this fall — and play drums in a band with my wife, Brigitte, who plays keyboards and sings.

Jenny Lock (Front row, 3rd from left) I wanted to live in Kingfield for many years, but didn’t think it would ever happen. In April of 2011, I drove down 1st Avenue and noticed a little green house for sale. I set up a showing one week, a second showing the next week followed by a home inspection, and put in an offer the third week! It was the first and only house I looked at. I love being a homeowner and am learning all sorts of handy skills. I think that my work with youth and experience in conflict resolution will bring fresh perspectives to the board. I am eager to meet more neighbors and learn more about what makes Kingfield great. Something that most people don’t know about me (and probably wouldn’t guess) is that I love to go Salsa dancing!

Meet the New Members of the KFNA Board

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is excited to announce the beginning of the community engagement for a new playground at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park. Please plan to participate in the first community meeting for the playground on July 30, 2013, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, at the park. Participants will learn about the project, and share stories and ideas that help shape the future design. Also, a community survey is available in English and Spanish until July 18 at www.minneapolisparks.org/current-projects (select Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park, PlayGround) or by calling the MPRB’s customer service center at 612-230-4490 for a paper copy. Completed paper surveys can be mailed to, or dropped off at, Minneapolis and Recreation Board, Attn: Jennifer Ringold, 2117 W. 42nd St., Minneapolis, MN 55411. You can also contact Jennifer for project updates at jringold@minneapolis-parks.org, or 612-230-6464.

Donate! To donate to the playground please visit http://www.peopleforparks.net/projects.html or make checks out to People for line “MLK Park” and mail them to People For Parks; PO Box 24901; Minneapolis, MN 55424.

— Jennifer Ringold, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board

Under Construction along Nicollet Avenue

Van Geffen enjoys trucks, and ice cream, outside Butter Bakery Cafe

Since May 1 the reconstruction of Nicollet Avenue has provided a bit of disruption to motorists traveling through the neighborhood. For the businesses within the construction zone, the disruption has been more significant. While each business has faced its own specific challenges, we have also found common bonds and support for each other. For example, we all love new layers of gravel and asphalt. New road surface. The ground (and floor) has vibrated under our feet many times as the road was torn up and then later as the new layers of gravel and asphalt were tamped down.

The project is nearing the end of its first phase. Then 37th Street will be reopened, and work will progress from 38th to 40th Street. With hopes of finishing the full stretch by early September.

The phrase “under construction” got me thinking. There have been some great finds under the old roadway, including a stretch of rain and wooden ties, granite paving, and various assorted pipes. There is always the looming backhoe that you wouldn’t want to be under. A new sewer has been installed underground, with many a trench dug and filled under the new road surface. The ground (and floor) has vibrated under our feet many times as the road was torn up and then later as the new layers of gravel and asphalt were tamped down.

We have been under the watchful eye of Rev Warnika from the city, who has done a fantastic job of keeping us up to date, listening to our concerns, fielding our questions, and showing us that she understands that she works for us and is connected to city services.

“Under” can also refer to underperformance: not being able to meet sales goals and income forecasts due to the disruption, although even the weather can do some pretty good damage to those numbers. And yes, we’ve all been under a bit of stress trying to figure out ways to manage cash flow during the construction.

But the biggest “under” would be underestimating the level of support from neighbors and friends who have made efforts to help us move up to the lower traffic levels at Nicollet Avenue businesses. All of us along the avenue feel very grateful to those who are walking and biking over, setting up meetings, and bringing in friends who might otherwise get nervous about venturing into the construction zone. As we share the challenges of the disruption, we keep each other hopeful for what Nicollet Avenue will become in the years ahead.

— Dan Swenson-Klatt, Owner, Butter Bakery Café

GARDEN TO TABLE DINNER

A special KFNA Community Garden Fundraising Event to help start new gardening projects in Kingfield! July 27th & Sept 21st, 6-8 PM

For the second year you can enjoy a four-course meal at Kingfield’s Pleasant Community Gardens, made with ingredients grown in our garden. Dinner is prepared and served by Suzie Lillyblad, Kingfield’s Community Garden Coordinator, with the help of other community garden volunteers. The cost is $55 per person, with a limit of 12 people per evening. The dinner is catered to ObjectId the sunroom overlooking the garden at the Center for Performing Arts.

Funds raised by these dinners support our mushroom farm, bee hive, and bread oven explorations! To reserve a space at the Garden Dinner, please email info@kingfield.org, tell us your name, contact information, which of the two dates you choose to attend, and how many seats you will need. When we confirm with you, we will make arrangements for payment. $40 of the cost is a donation to KFNA that may be tax deductible as the law allows. Find Kingfield Community Gardens on Facebook to see a sample menu and photos of last year’s events.

— Heather Dodge

CREATING A CONTEMPLATIVE SITE FOR FREEDOM FORM NO. 2

Through a grant from the Regional Arts Council, the Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center (CAFAC) has been commissioned by the park board and MLK Legacy Committee to create a meditative environment for the sculpture Freedom Form No. 2. Designed by artist Daniel LaRue Johnson and originally dedicated in 1970, the sculpture was one of the first major public memorials to Rev. Dr. King Jr. after his assassination, and it was recently relocated to its original site in the park.

This summer, the Legacy Committee will engage the community through events in which residents will be asked to consider three different thought-provoking questions. The Fire Arts Center then will create Cue-Ten (weather resistant steel) surrounds for three new granite stone benches. Each surround will have a laser cut stencil design highlighting one of the questions, as well as the community’s answers, stamped into copper sheeting.

CAFAC is thrilled to be involved in this project and looks forward to hearing your thoughts and contemplations throughout the summer.

— Dan Swenson-Klatt, Owner, Butter Bakery Café
The Carrot Initiative Partners with Seward Community Co-op

A year and a half ago, the Carrot Initiative (CT) embarked on a mission to bring a much-needed full-service grocery store focused on healthy food options to the greater West Powderhorn community. Since that time, we learned many things, among them what a “food desert” is, and the fact that 75% of the dollars our residents spend on groceries are spent outside of our own community. We met amazing people in a variety of neighborhood organizations and built partnerships with people in the healthy living community.

The Carrot Initiative is very excited to announce that it has partnered with Seward Community Co-op. Even more exciting is that Seward Co-op is considering opening a second location right in our community’s food desert at 38th St and 3rd Ave! Carrot Initiative and Seward Co-op plan to engage the community in discussions around this potential store site and the needs of the people living here. There is still much work ahead and we encourage you to be involved and join us to help make it a success.

We want to do our best to answer the community’s questions and concerns about this project so we’ve put together a Frequently Asked Questions on our website. If you have questions or concerns that are not answered, we welcome your feedback and feel free to contact carrotinitiative@gmail.com. UI is also planning on spending a Sunday at the Kingfield Farmers Market soon to meet you face-to-face, so watch the Kingfield eNews for an announcement of the date!

The dog park entrance is located along Dupont Avenue South (King’s Highway) between West 38th and West 40th Streets. Parking for the dog park is on-street on West 38th and West 40th Streets or Bryant Avenue. Please note that there is no parking allowed on King’s Highway between 38th and 40th Streets or in the Park Board’s operations center parking lot which accommodates the Park Board’s large trucks and mobile equipment and is locked during nonbusiness hours.

If you have something you would like to contribute to the Grand Opening Celebration, please contact Jackie Lee Stone at eventsbyjls@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!