A Variety of Gardening Options for Neighbors This Year

PLEASANT GARDENING IN 2012

The Pleasant Community Garden (located next to the Center for Performing Arts on 38th and Pleasant) has openings for up to 7 new gardeners this season. This established community garden welcomes back several of the original gardeners to ensure the garden maintains its beautiful balance of personal plots and public space. In addition to the personal 5x10 vegetable plots, the garden includes a peaceful circle of perennials, perfect for parents to relax while their children participate in dance or music classes at the Center for Performing Arts, or for walkers to pause beside as they stroll through the neighborhood in the evening.

This year Gardeners are expanding on the idea of building community at the garden by planning to lead a number of green activities and classes including: Monthly Farming, Yoga in the Garden, Color Theory and Flowers, Garden Dinners, and many more! Stay tuned via the Kingfield eNews (you can sign up at www.kingfield.org) and in the summer edition of this newsletter for class times and details! First up on the schedule is the Community Garden Plant & Bake Sale, on June 9th from 4-6 PM at the garden, 3574 Pleasant. Come pick up a few new plants for your own garden as well as a homemade treat, and support the mission of the Kingfield Community Garden Group to create a network of gardeners and gardens throughout the neighborhood!

KFNA is actively working to confirm additional community garden space in the neighborhood, so don’t be discouraged by the low number of plots available—if we receive permission to garden the additional land, we will be accepting more than seven new gardeners to our garden network this year.

VEGETABLE GARDENING CLASS SERIES BEGINNING APRIL 10

Do you want to grow your own food, but don’t know how to start? In collaboration with the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and the U of M Extension Master Gardener Program—Hennepin County, KFNA is offering a FREE 5-week class series on Vegetable Gardening Basics. The classes are comprised of presentations and hands-on demonstrations; there is space for 30 neighbors in this class series.

It’s more than just book-knowledge: 14 registrants for this class who attended 4 of the 5 classes will also receive a free 10 ft. by 10 ft. garden plot for the 2012 growing season at the Sabathani Community Garden at 310 East 38th Street! And if you receive a plot this year, you are first in line for any open permanent plots (10 ft. by 20 ft.) in the Sabathani Community Garden next year.

Classes are on Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30 PM, beginning April 10 and running through May 8th at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park, 4055 Nicollet Avenue South. Topics to be covered (order subject to change):

• Planning a garden
• Growing vegetables (2 classes)
• Designing your garden
• Maintaining a garden

These classes are provided free as a resource for our community. Costs are covered by the sponsors, but we ask for total commitment in attendance from the participants.

NEW MURAL

Coming Spring 2012: Put Your Brush To It!

Thanks to a graffiti prevention grant from the City of Minneapolis Solid Waste and Recycling, the Kingfield Neighborhood will be seeing a new mural begin on the sound wall of 40th Street and Stevens Avenue. The mural will be painted and then installed on the section just north of the pedestrian bridge and will serve as a gateway into the neighborhood. Kingfield is excited to welcome local artists Greta McClain and Shvia Ibaia to our community!

A series of painting workshops will be held inside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center this spring, with some teen-focused dates and other dates open to the larger community. Teen painting workshops will be held on Fridays, April 27 and May 11, from 6-8 PM. Community painting workshops will be on Saturdays, April 28 and May 12, from 1-3PM. You do not need to RSVP—just plan to attend!

Meet the artists and review the mural design at the Kingfield Annual Meeting on Monday, April 16 at 6:30PM, AND at the Earth Day Clean-up on Saturday April 21, 11AM-Noon. Come get inspired to create art! An unveiling party will be scheduled for early June—stay tuned to the Kingfield eNews for details! If you aren’t on the eNews mailing list, sign up at www.kingfield.org

1st Annual Kingfield Empty Bowls Draws Over 200 People

Try the lentil soup. It’s got a little kick,” coaxed an exuberant “Chef Jeff” at the first annual Kingfield Empty Bowls fundraising event.

In all, more than 200 people turned out on a cold evening in February to raise awareness and funds to help hungry and homeless youth in our community. The Kingfield Empty Bowls event was the brainchild of KFNA Executive Director Sarah Lannes-Robinson. She was inspired by the success of our neighbors in Powderhorn, who started holding an annual Kingfield Empty Bowls event five years ago, an event she attends annually because her children beg each fall to go. In fact, one of the founders of Powderhorn Empty Bowls, Michael Zosso, was an invaluable resource in the planning of our first Kingfield event, as well as contributor of 64 beautiful handmade bowls!

The event concept is simple: Attendees selected beautiful handmade bowls donated by local ceramic artists, enjoyed a hearty meal of soup prepared by volunteers and residents of Nicollet Square, and then kept their bowls as a reminder that many of our neighbors are in need of food and housing. Local restaurants got in on the action too, providing bread, rice, coffee, and sweets to round out the meal. The event netted more than $3,500 to support current and future programs of Nicollet Square.

But Kingfield Empty Bowls was about more than raising money; and the event advanced progress toward a number of our community goals: Community Building. Empty Bowls was a great way for Kingfield neighbors to come together in the middle of winter and share a meal for enjoyment, get to know each other, and share food with those in need.

KFNA sponsored Empty Bowls fundraising event.
Hello, neighbors. Many of you do everyday things to make Kingfield a great neighborhood. Maybe you plant a garden. Maybe you participate in your block club and look out for your neighbors; maybe you shovel more than your own walk. Perhaps you run a local business, or commit to shopping at one. Perhaps you play your guitar on the stoop in the evenings for all who happen by. You all could be part of a larger group, a neighborhood group.

A great park makes a neighborhood stronger; I’d like to thank the people who are serving on the Everved Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Advisory Council. Stemming from work to honor Dr. King and Civil Rights History at King Park, they are building new relationships and planning for park improvements, including a new playground. Please read the article related to the playground project also on this page and thank Legacy Ad. Council volunteers.

Good schools make a neighborhood stronger: Kingfield neighbors continue to make our neighborhood better with the simple act of walking to Kingfield’s community school—Lyndale Elementary School. The Lyndale Walking Bus was recognized in a campaign featuring grassroots efforts to make our community better through physical activity. You can visit the Making It Better website to see those healthy Kingfield parents and students in action.

From the KFNA President

Sarah Linnes-Robinson
KFNA Board Member and Representative to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Council

Ramsey Middle School

The Board of Education has approved a start-up budget, in addition to the standard per student allocation, which will allow the new middle school to provide a full complement of coursework—including languages, electives, English Language Learner and autism programs, and after-school activities. A family network has been established to allow families to participate in the new school development. To be involved, call 612.688.0450 or email Cindy Reuther at reuthercl@aol.com.

KFNA STAFF
Executive Director: Sarah Limmus-Robinson 612.823.5980
...tenants will be provided at the end of the season, after the Garden Coordinator verifies the final cleanup of your plot; • 5% of the plots will be reserved for low-income residents for 50% of the full fee; • Those not selected will have their application fee returned. • Gardeners who do not attend the meeting will need to send a representative to an organizing meeting early in April at a date to be determined. Non-attendance at this initial organizing meeting could result in plot forfeiture. • Exchange for their personal plot, every gardener is required to perform monthly services as determined by the Board of Directors. Participants at the initial organizing meeting, as well as participants in pre- and post-season clean-up commitments. • 20% of the remaining personal plots are reserved for tenant applications received by the due date; the remaining personal plots are open to any Kingfield resident. Persons not in these preferred categories may apply for personal plots but will be placed in a second round lottery, if one is necessary. • Pleasant Gardeners have the option to retain a plot from year to year. school diploma or GED since they earned their diplomas or certification, or are working toward that goal.

Vegetable Gardening Class
continued from page 1

Application forms for the Vegetable Gardening Basics Class can be found on the website of the Kingfield Community Garden at www.kingfield.org. For the best chance of being permitted to attend the class series, submit your completed registration form before Monday March 26, 2012 to KPNA, 3754 Pleasant Avenue South, #101, Minneapolis, MN 55409. Registrations will be accepted until the class is full. Anyone who lives in the geographic area of Lake to Highway 62 and Lyndale to Hawthwa is eligible to attend this class.

A Kingfield Night Out
Kingfield's Empty Bowls event on February 9th made for a wonderfully full evening. Excited to participate and hoping to inspire others to join me, I decided to “sweeten” the deal with an extra ingredient. The plans for Nicollet Square, as we have learned to do in unstable conditions don’t always work in their new stability, and the ways they may have learned to survive leaves a garage door open or a bike unlocked, a neighbor...
**Community Singing:** A Long Tradition in Minneapolis Parks, Including Our Own

From 1919 to 1956, for more than 50 nights each summer, thousands of Minneapolitans walked, hiked, and drove to their closest park to sing together.

Community singing became popular during World War I and continued after the war. People sang at meetings, parties, conventions, community celebrations, and revivals. Singing was a way to connect—and it still is.

Some of the very first park community sings were held in our own Martin Luther King Park—then Nicollત Field—in the summer of 1939. Lucile Holdih, one of our city's busiest musicians, led the singing and planted the seeds for a decades-long tradition.

Now Minnesota Community Sings, co-founded by Kingfield resident Betty Tisel along with Mary Preus and Rett Heske, is bringing a taste of that splendid singing history back to our parks. Minnesota Community Sings, a.k.a. MNsings, in leading a series of park community singing with the support of the MN State Arts Board and the Minnesota Legacy Amendment.

The next scheduled sing will be Saturday, April 21, at King Park at noon. Song sheets provided. No auditions! Everyone welcomes—all ages, all voices! Please join the fun, and become part of this long tradition.

For more information, go to MNsings' web site at mnsings.com

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**Kingfield Babysitting Co-op**

Going back over twenty years, the Kingfield Babysitting Co-op was an integral childcare, friendship-making, community building system in our neighborhood. Based primarily on a coupon system with small annual dues, the 20-some families watched out for each other’s children and felt parents connect. The co-op fell into disuse about three years ago and that final line-up of families has always felt a little sad about its demise.

Former President Sara Strzok is welcome to the next wave of Kingfield children and secure flexible childcare—contact Sara sarasatnrk@yahoo.com. A brief meeting for interested parents will be held at Butter at 6:30 PM on Wednesday March 21.

**CONTEMPL8 T-SHIRTS**

Printing t-shirts since 2001 through his home-based Minneapolis business, CONTEMPL8 T-SHIRTS owner Christopher Loch has opened a retail location in Kingfield at 4302 Nicollet Avenue South—next door to Roadrunner Records, and across the street from Anotyone Coffeehouse. CONTEMPL8 T-SHIRTS will print your own designs onto t-shirts, hoodies, baby onesies and more.

While specializing in bamboo shirts, organic cotton shirts, and recycled shirts as well as fair trade items, Loch and his staff will work with you to find the least expensive, still eco-friendly option as well. CONTEMPL8 T-SHIRTS only uses water-based ink for all of their printing. "Water-based ink costs more and it is harder to work with," Loch says. But, he adds, "it is worth it," and he doesn't charge extra for it. In addition to being more eco-friendly, Loch says that water-based ink provides better colors, quality and longevity.

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Visit the store at 4302 Nicollet Ave S (612-870-7000) and online at CONTEMPL8.NET.

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**Event Committee:**

- dr. ML King Legacy Council
- Crime Prevention & Safety Committee
- redevelopment Committee

**www.kingfield.org**  A quarterly publication

**KFNA COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

- 3rd Tuesday @ 7 PM
- 4th Monday @ 6:30 PM

**KFNA COMMUNITY SINGING**

**Sat. Apr. 28**

King Park at noon. Song sheets provided. No auditions!

Everyone welcomes—all ages, all voices. Please join the fun, and become part of this long tradition.

Visit www.mnsings.com for more information about the participating restaurants.

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**Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 9-Mar. 26</td>
<td>Petting zoo, egg scramble, cookie decorating, a craft, entertainment (Mr. Fun Show), and more.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 21</td>
<td>MN Community Sing • Noon at MLK Park (outdoors)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 28</td>
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<td>Apr. 26</td>
<td>Dining Out for Life 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>Kingfield Community Garden Plant &amp; Bake Sale</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 23</td>
<td>Carver Community Garden Plant &amp; Bake Sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 23</td>
<td>Eden Prairie Community Garden Plant &amp; Bake Sale</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>Keys to the City: Hope &amp; Healing at Como Park</td>
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<td>July 21</td>
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**“DIRTY WORK”**

*The Story of Elsie’s Farm*

A film by artist and filmmaker Deb Wallwork

Many Kingfield residents have to think hard to remember the time when there was no Kingfield Farmers’ Market in the neighborhood—before the bunting market filled their weekly need for both fresh produce and spontaneous community connections. But before all it began, there were Don Roberts and Joni Cash, longtime Ist Ave S Kingfield residents, and a pair with a dream of selling fresh vegetables in their own community. In 2000, Don approached the Kingfield Neighborhood Association, explained his vision, and KNA asked how we could help make it a reality. Don and Joni’s tables outside Anotyone—

With the support of owner Teresa Lien—were the roots of what we now know as the Kingfield Farmers’ Market!

Don and his partner Joni moved out of Kingfield to invest in their dream. They purchased Elsie’s Farm in Ridgeland, Wisconsin, and began operating it along a fairly revolutionary business model at the time, a concept called Community Supported Agriculture. Deb Wallwork’s film, *Dirty Work*, follows the life of Elsie’s Farm for a year, and includes shots of our bedding market in the Time Warner parking lot on the 4200 block of Nicollet Ave S. Not just about growing vegetables, this film is also about growing a community. The roots of Elsie’s Farm are in Kingfield and in our weekly market, growing and nurturing our community on a weekly basis.

We invite you to see the film, reconnect with or meet the stars of the film, Don Roberts and Joni Cash, and also the filmmaker, Deb Wallwork.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 19**

Solomon’s Porch, 100 West 46th Street

Community Reception at 6:30 PM

Film starts at 7:15 PM

Entrance is a suggested donation of $5/person or $15/family

Goそon! Email info@kingfield.org or call 612 823 5980

All profits from this event will be donated to the Aliveness Project, a Kingfield nonprofit that runs both a daily meal program and a food shelf for people living with HIV/AIDS. No one will be turned away from attending the film, and in our weekly market, growing and nurturing our community on a weekly basis.

This event is made possible through the partnership of Solomon’s Porch.