LEARN HOW TO GROW VEGETABLES!

Gardening Basics Offered in English and Spanish!

Take a vegetable gardening class taught in Spanish at Sabathani Community Garden this summer. Monthly Saturday classes are taught by University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners in Hennepin County and translated into Spanish by Kingfield neighbor Manfreda Paulk. Call 612-547-6910 to register.

Gardening Classes in English are also available on five consecutive Tuesdays beginning April 9, 6:30 PM at MLK Park. Contact KFNA to see if there is still room in the class by calling 612-523-5980, or emailing info@kingfield.org.

In an effort to connect with the community and provide access to safety information as well as local police officers, KFNAs Crime Prevention and Safety committee (CPaS) steps out of the park building each spring and takes its meetings to the streets!

On May 21, CPaS will celebrate the return of the season with a small reception for KFNAs new Project Organizer, Cheryl DeGroff, at 6:30 PM at the Nicollet entrance of King Park. This will be followed by a graffiti and trash pickup in the area.

In June 18 the committee will move further out to host a block party in the neighborhood. Where exactly? Well, it is up to you!

You want the traveling block party to come to your street, complete with popcorn, wieners, sidewalk chalk, friendly police officers, and who knows what else, just send a note to Cheryl@kingfield.org about why CPaS should visit your spot this summer. (Alternatively you may mail your request to KFNA, 3754 Pleasant Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55409.)

KFNA Welcomes Cheryl DeGroff as Our Project Organizer!

Cheryl is a retired police officer from Florida who worked for local and state law enforcement. Cheryl joined KFNAs Capital Campaign to begin renovations on the space. On February 22nd, KFNA hosted So Alive, a fundraising dance party for The Aliveness Project, who are slated to move into their new home at 3808 Nicollet Avenue later this year. The organization purchased the Nicollet Avenue building, but needed to raise additional funds through their Capital Campaign to begin renovations on the space.

KFNA helped put together a mosaic of Kingfield families and neighbors and asked for a Kingfield-only potluck party. The event will include the melodious sounds of Kingfield musician Benjamin Padilla. On Monday, April 22, at 6:30 PM we welcome you to join the KFNA Board and your neighbors at Butter, 3700 Nicollet, for a block party in the neighborhood. Where exactly? Well, it is up to you!

If you want the traveling block party to come to your street, complete with popcorn, wieners, sidewalk chalk, friendly police officers, and who knows what else, just send a note to Cheryl@kingfield.org about why CPaS should visit your spot this summer. (Alternatively you may mail your request to KFNA, 3754 Pleasant Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55409.)

You can reach Cheryl at 612-547-6910 for more information.

KFNAs Annual Meeting is taking a page from its own playbook and moving out into the neighborhood this year! Historically the meeting takes place on a beautiful spring evening, and people are a bitLate May: A street clean-up into the park building and miss the first lick of sunshine, so this year we are holding the Annual Meeting inside the big-windowed, bright new space of the lovely Butter Bakery Café.

On Monday, April 22, at 6:30 PM we welcome you to join the KFNA Board and your neighbors at Butter, 3700 Nicollet, for a Kingfield-only potluck party. The event will include the melodious sounds of Kingfield musician Benjamin Padilla, delicious treats brought by Butter themselves, and information from KFNA on activities and events from the year past and for the year to come.

Also at this meeting we will welcome six new board members, elected by you, the public. You can even be one of those board members if you want—learn more by attending the Board recruitment party one week earlier (see sidebar story). If you can’t make this pre-party, don’t worry—you may contact Executive Director Sarah Linquist- Robinson anytime at sarah@kingfield.org or 612.823.5980 and she will be happy to chat with you about board needs and responsibilities. Or, simply nominate yourself at the Annual Meeting while you are there! Each KFNA Board member serves a two-year term.

We hope to see you at Butter on April 22 and wander by the week before the meeting to watch (and help create!) the growing community-window-art we are envisioning as well!
From the KFNA President

Dear Kingfield Neighbors,

For the last four years, KFNA has published its monthly newsletter as a way to reach everyone, but it was recently determined that this format was no longer sustainable. After much neighborhood uncertainty, debate, sometimes heated argument, and a lot of soul searching, the board has decided to end this publication.

The Kingfield Neighborhood Association—and its monthly newsletter—has served as a broadcast for neighborhood-wide announcements, as a research tool for exploring neighborhood history, and as a forum for community discussion. The board was not sanguine about this decision and did not make it lightly, as we recognize that it will have an impact on the fabric of our community.

The board thanks everyone who has contributed to this publication—editors, designers, writers, and readers. The newsletter will continue, in one form or another, because the community is dependent on it.

If you would like to submit a column for consideration in the future please contact us at jr@kingfield.org.

With kind regards,
– Scott Bordon, KFNA President

Kingfield’s Pleasant Community Garden

The Kingfield neighborhood association leases the land just north of the Center for Performing Arts (CPA) for a community garden. Now in its fourth year, KFNA rents individual plots for $40 a season, plus one hour per month of service to the communal garden on the site or towards gardening events. We reserve 20% of the plots for CPA tenants (either studio or hourly). Applications for fall plots are due by April 10, 2013. If more applicants are available than plots, a lottery will take place. There is a mandatory garden meeting on the evening of April 30 for those who receive garden plots. You can find the application and garden procedures at kingfield.org/green/community-gardens/community-gardens-information-applications.html

Additional donations of wine and beer were made by Kings Wine Bar, Lake Wine & Spirits, Summit Brewing, Cat and Dog, and Fiddle Tree. The Fiddle Tree staff and my neighbors all pitched in on a “Get So Alive” fundraiser to buy So Alive at their annual benefit. So Alive, Solomon’s Porch at 46th Street and Haight, graciously donated their facility to us. Kingfield neighbors, Todd Salzeder provided sound support and gear, including the fog machine and laser on the dance floor, and arranged the DJ crew in Solomon’s Upper Sanctuary. Neighbors and volunteers provided their skills to design the posters and artwork for So Alive. Veto’s 19th Street provided the liquor license, allowing us to sell beer and wine. Dozens of others stepped up in volunteering—dozens of people whom they serve.

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The response from all of the attendees was phenomenal—especially on the dance floor, where a giant sea of bodies moved and shook like you wouldn’t believe. The event exceeded the planning committee’s estimates of 300 people, and we’re sure to have more than 600 people this year, where they will continue to meet the needs of the 1700 people whom they serve.

To all of the volunteers who helped make this benefit party a success, and to all of the people who came out for a night of dancing, I cannot thank you enough. KFNA is excited to welcome The Aliveness Project to Kingfield, and we look forward to seeing all of the activity in the coming months as they prepare their new home.

– Scott Mueller, aka djstompone & KFNA Board Member

The New Playground at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Park: Planning Update

Community meetings for planning our new playground are happening this spring! The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and KFNA have been negotiating agreements with representatives from the Kingfield Neighborhood Association and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Council, in the process of selecting a landscape architecture firm to design the playground and, at the time of this writing, final interviews are taking place.

The planners then hope to hire an artist and schedule community meetings later this month. The artist will work collaboratively with the community, project consultant and MPRB staff throughout the design process, to help bring civil rights and/or African American history to life within the playground design. The artist will be paid through a grant from the National Park Service, and the playground is designed to be accessible to all members of the community.

Keep informed about the progress of this playground project. Visit the project’s web page at http://www.minneapolisparks.org/calendardates; updates are also available to be involved in the planning of the playground! Contact Jennifer King at email: jking@minneapolisparks.org, phone: 612-230-6464.

If you would like to donate to the playground or the park, please visit www.minneapolisparks.org/tools/get-involved-ways-to-donate.html. You are also invited to be involved in the planning of the playground! Contact Jennifer King at email: jking@minneapolisparks.org, phone: 612-230-6464.

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– Scott Mueller, aka djstompone & KFNA Board Member

JUDSON STREET FEST: A 10-Year Tradition, Growing Bigger and Stronger Every Year

On Saturday, May 18, KFNA will be a major part of the Judson Street Fest, on the corner of 11st Street and Harriet Avenue South. The Judson Street Fest is in its 10th year. It is an event which has as its goals to build connections within the community, to raise some money, and to have fun.

This year the festival will be in charge of the giant inflatables and outdoor games, and will have the duck tape. For bands part of the event.

Money raised at those activities will go to the new playground that will be built at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park in the coming year. Both KFNA and Judson Baptist Church are excited about this opportunity to raise the needed funds for this new play space!

In addition to Kingfield’s parts of the Street Fest, there will be music on the street corner and inside the church throughout the day, vendors, a silent auction, a plant sale, food and beverages by Kings (from the 46th & Grand restaurant), a Meals on Wheels service project, indoor games and activities, and so much more.

The Street Fest is an event for people of all ages. It is kid-friendly and adult-enjoyable. Plan to be there on Saturday, May 18, between 11 AM and 8 PM. KFNA kid-focused activities will be in the 11 AM to 5 PM time frame, so be sure to stop by them.

Watch for more details on the weekly KFNA email list as May 18 approaches. If you aren’t on the email list join it by visiting www.kingfield.org and signing up on the left-hand side of the page. Mark your calendar now for the festival, however, for we expect it will be a fun day for all!
MSP FairSkies Coalition Presents Airport Noise Updates to Kingfield

The Nicollet Avenue Reconstruction Project will continue this year between 35th Street and 44th Street. Minneapolis Water has installed temporary street lighting and will be removing the existing street lighting soon. The street lighting will be reinstated following the road work.

It’s anticipated that the road contractor, Thomas and Sons, will begin work in late April or early May. This year’s work will be done in two phases: south of the 38th St. intersection through the 39th St. intersection, then south of the 38th St. intersection through the 40th St. intersection.

- Additional information regarding the project can be found on the project website at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/all/WCMS1P-102134.
- During the project, if you have questions or concerns regarding immediate issues, you can call the on-site project inspector, Bob Schmidt, at 651-308-3805.
- For general questions regarding the project, call the Project Engineer, Beverly Warnaka, at 612-673-7562.

MSP FairSkies Coalition Presents Airport Noise Updates to Kingfield

Thursday, May 2, 7 PM • Martin Luther King Park Building

Is your backyard getting louder and louder due to jet traffic noise? Does it sometimes seem like an endless stream of noisy, low-flying jets right over the top of your house?

If your answer is yes to these questions, you will not want to miss the presentation by the newly formed coalition of neighbors, MSP FairSkies, taking a hard, long look at the airport expansion and all it means to you.

We will be addressing two major converging MSP Airport issues we feel will impact life in South Minneapolis:

1. A major expansion of MSP including more and more jets overhead.
2. A dramatic change in take-offs and landings RNAV (area navigation-highways in the sky), which puts a jet freeway right over Kingfield. (See: Star Tribune November 4, 2012, “New airport flight patterns shift noise.”)

MSP FairSkies is beginning to formulate what is acceptable noise and jet traffic overhead, and we want you to be a part of the response to the airport. Other cities around the country have set limits and noise quotas with their jet traffic. We need to do the same. We plan a 60-minute presentation, with plenty of time for discussion. We will show the inconsistencies in the airport plans, and mostly the inadequate sharing of information with us, the neighborhoods imposed upon. This doesn’t need to be airport vs. homes.

- Dawn Amundson, FXNAs FairSkies Representative • 3853 Pleasant Avenue

Free Kids’ ArtStart Classes at Martin Luther King Park

This winter and spring, ArtStart, a Twin Cities award-winning arts organization, has been offering free art classes at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park. The next class will be Gee’s Bend Quilts, taught by artist Robin Gotsug on four Saturdays: April 15, 22, 29 and May 6, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

Gee’s Bend, also known as Boykin, is a small isolated community in Southern Alabama named after Joseph Gee, a cotton plantation owner who settled there in 1816. The town is situated in a large bend of the Alabama River, thus the name Gee’s Bend.

The majority of Gee’s Bend residents are African Americans, most of them descendants of slaves who were brought there to work on the plantation. For over two centuries the women in the community have created quilts from whatever materials they had at hand such as scraps of old clothes, cotton sacks, and old linens. Along the way, these women developed a bold, distinctive improvisational style that has been compared to 20th century abstract art and jazz music. Their vibrant, creative patterns caught national attention during the civil right movement and then again in the 1990s when the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston organized an exhibition of 70 quilt masterpieces.

ArtStart Robin Gotsug has been teaching Gee’s Bend Quilting classes for six years and is passionate about sharing this art form with young people. During class kids will pick a Gee’s Bend quilt and learn about her life and quilting style. Kids then create a design and sew their own quilt square. Robin’s dream is to travel to Gee’s Bend, to quilt and learn from the amazing women there, and then share her experience with kids in the Twin Cities.

Please join us at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park as we learn about and celebrate this great American art form, Gee’s Bend Quilts.
Second Kingfield Empty Bowls Event: Twice As Successful As the First!

Kingfield’s February 2013 Empty Bowls Event raised over $5000 for Nicollet Square, a home for formerly homeless youth in Kingfield, as well as over $500 for MLK Park to support events of this magnitude. As one of more than 30 volunteers helping out on the day of the event, it was heartwarming to see the community come together to support such a worthwhile program.

Empty Bowls is a hunger awareness project that began over 20 years ago in Michigan and has spread to an international effort. Our Kingfield event brought more than 450 residents and friends to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park for an evening of soup and ceramics. Leading up to the event, local artisans, pottery schools, and high school students from Washburn High School and St. Paul Academy were busy creating over 400 gorgeous handmade pottery bowls just for the event. Four residents of Nicollet Square spent time on the day before the meal preparing soup with Dan Swenson-Klatt at Butler. In addition to Butler, chefs at Anodyne, Cafe Ena, and Corner Table created their famous trademark soups, supplemented with warm rice from Victor’s 1959 Café.

As guests entered the recreation center, they stepped into a room filled with exquisite works of art. As a volunteer, it was wonderful to watch people, young and not-so-young, pick just the right bowl for their evening’s fare. Once selected and washed, the bowls were carefully carried into the dining area for a choice of soups, tasty warm bread from Patisserie 46 and Sun Street Breads, and focaccia from Grand Café. Ending with sweet treats from Curran’s, King’s, and The Lowbrow, families and singles gathered around communal tables, some meeting their neighbors for the first time.

After such a successful second year, you can be sure that we will carry on this tradition by gathering the community together again next February. We hope to continue to raise awareness of and fight against hunger and homelessness in our neighborhood, and to bring together the kindhearted residents of Kingfield for another evening of community and charity.

– Cheryl DeGroff