3 Easy Ways To Celebrate Earth Day On April 23rd
(It's as easy as 1-2-3!)

Celebrating Earth Day in Kingfield:
1. Clean up your park and surroundings.
2. Get educated about organics recycling, and
3. Bring your broken treasures to the Kingfield Fix-It Clinic!

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is again hosting an Earth Day Clean Up, and it’s easy to get involved— no pre-registration is required! Come to MLK Park on Saturday, April 23rd, between 9:30 AM and 12 noon, and check in at the registration table. A site coordinator will provide you with gloves (if you need them, or you may want to bring your own) and bags, and will instruct you on where to pick up and where to leave trash. Since the inception of the annual Earth Day Clean Up in 1995, volunteers have removed more than 140,000 pounds of garbage from Minneapolis parks and neighborhoods!

This same day, Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling staff will be on-site from 11 AM to 2 PM to answer your questions and help sort items into garbage, recycling, and organics recycling containers. They will have organics displays, as well as free stickers and kitchen pals to those who sign up to participate in the organics program! They’ll also be able to help you determine what other materials you can divert for recycling through drop-off programs from your home.

Lastly, from 12 noon to 4 PM… Rooster won’t roast? Lamp won’t light? Pants need mending? The Fix-It Clinic helps residents return broken household appliances and clothing to usable condition. With free help from skilled volunteers, residents get assistance with disassembling, troubleshooting, and fixing their items, while learning new skills and gaining empowerment.

Fix-It events take place monthly at different locations around Hennepin County, and are family friendly and extremely fun. Since their start in September 2012, Fix-It Clinics have diverted 18,574 pounds of material from the trash. (Hennepin County reported 20,000 tons of trash was disposed of in 2014.) Because of these tremendous results, the Fix-It program was a finalist for a 2013 Environmental Initiative award. Repair IS part of the solution!

Volunteer fixers are always needed. Volunteers have skills in soldering, electronics and electrical repair, computer repair, sewing, or general tinkering, and have a strong desire to help people.

For more information and a schedule of upcoming Fix-It Clinics, go to http://hennepin.us/x30fixclinic.

Nancy Lo, who coordinates the clinics, told us “I really think the main value is that people are leaving with the confidence to try and see if something can be fixed.” She talked about a resident who brought in an antique radio that, having been dropped, no longer worked. “He watched the whole process, getting to see the inside of the radio and how they got it working again using the spring of a ballpoint pen,’’ Lo said. Later, when the radio again stopped working, he felt like he knew enough to open it up and nose around. That time the problem simply was a loose speaker wire, which he easily fixed. “But if he hadn’t worked on it before, he wouldn’t be as wise,” Lo said. “We gave him the confidence.”

Let The Rummaging Begin!

Get ready for the 18th Annual Kingfield Rummage Sale, to be held on Saturday, May 21, from 9 AM to 2 PM. Want to hold a sale? For a small participation fee—$10 per household or $25 for an entire block—KFNA will help promote your sale. As always, KFNA will print and distribute rummage sale maps in the neighborhood and online, as well as spread word of the sales through signage and social media.

If you’re shopping the sales, you’ll want to plan your route: Stop in at Bakery Carli, Curran’s Restaurant, ColorWheel Gallery, Nicoll Ace Hardware, or Royal Grounds on the day of the sale to pick up a map, or check out kingfield.org the day before.

Registration is being held online this year and can be found here: kingfield.org/category/rummage-sale. Registration is due by 9 PM on Monday, May 16th. If you have any questions regarding the event or registration, please email KFNA@rummage-sale@gmail.com.

A BIG THANK YOU to our neighbors who are creating the map and helping with marketing and distribution. It saves KFNA quite a bit of money to have citizen-led events like this sale.

Fingers crossed for great weather and great finds!

Niccol Public Art Takes Flight

It’s spring, and birds are popping up on Nicollet—bird sculptures that is. As part of the City of Minneapolis’ Art in Public Places program, Twin Cities artists Ben Janssens and Marjorie Pittz, with input from a neighborhood public art committee, designed art for the 16-block stretch of reconstructed Nicollet from Lake Street to 40th Street. Gateway sculptures with an avian theme can be seen at 40th and 36th streets, and sculptural bird stools and benches are being installed at six locations this spring.

These benches and stools on Nicoll are not yet complete, however; as part of the design the birds’ wings have been left blank, for community members to fill in. Mosaic artist Lori Greene has been working with students at Ramsey Middle School to create designs for the wings, and she will be running two community workshops where participants will transform these designs into colorful mosaic wings. See more information in the box to the right, including how to sign up!
From The KFNA President

In the midst of primary and caucus season Kingfield has elected four new board members. Please welcome Lesa Hudak, Ashley Siljenberg, Madelyn Sundberg, and Aaron Shaffer to the Kingfield board. Also reelected to the board for a third term is Scott Mueller. Each of these folks will serve a two-year term, along with the eight other current board members who will complete one more year of service to KFNA.

These new board members were elected at the KFNA annual meeting in February, which was both fun and productive. Our neighborhood association relies on volunteer board members to bring ideas, expertise, and hard work to the many different and exciting events each month.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our two dedicated staff, Sarah Linnès-Robinson and Cheryl DeGroff, who support the board in all of its endeavors. KFNA is gearing up for an event-filled spring, much of which you will read about in this edition of the newsletter. One of the newest, and quite popular, events we are looking forward to is PorchFest. We are hoping to have a bigger event this year, so if you have a porch or similar space and would like to participate, please let us know. This was a lot of fun last year, and this year we want to draw as many people out to chat with their neighbors as possible. Thanks for reading, and have a great spring.

— David Fenley, KFNA President

THE 33RD ANNUAL MINNEAPOLIS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IS TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2016

National Night Out is an annual event, nationwide and local, that encourages residents to get out in the community, hold block parties, and to get to know their neighbors as a way to encourage crime prevention. It’s a great way to promote community-police partnerships and enjoy a Minnesota summer evening surrounded by friends and family to not mention the great Sebastian Joe’s ice cream deliveries from KFNA board members to all registered block parties! As in many past years, Minneapolis was ranked #1 among all U.S. cities over 250,000 population in 2015 with more than 1,500 events registered. Was yours one of them? We hope so! Please save the date for this year: NNO is set for Tuesday, August 2, 2016. To register your block now, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn/no/nno_mailing.

AARON SHAFFER: I was appointed to the Dean Parkway/ Cedar Lake Community Advisory Committee by Betsy Hodges (then council member, not mayor) and spent time figuring out ways to realign Dean Parkway and sections of the Cedar Lake trail to make them safer and more pedestrian and bike friendly. I was able to use my biking “expertise” to suggest some ideas that ended up being implemented (the off-street, 1/8-mile section of trail connecting Dean Park to the Kenilworth trail). Now, every time I ride that section and see others safely riding off-street, it makes me quite happy!

I’m someone who likes to come up with ideas and back them up through action. Also, safety is a major issue for me. I feel quite safe, for the most part, in our neighborhood, and don’t have any plans to come in and change anything, but my background as chair of the Midtown Greenway Coalition’s Safety & Trail Watch committee could help us notice things that could make the neighborhood safer. My initial membership on the board will likely be spent learning people and ideas, rather than trying to rock the boat.

LESA HUDAK: My favorite community activity is the weekly PorchFest. I do it with my porch neighbors. We have a friendly porch and can help each other. We’ve enjoyed who showed up last year and will welcome others. I’m sure it’s a lot of work, but it’s a lot of fun, and it’s a great event to see what’s going on in your community.

[To the KFNA board] I bring a passion for sharing my neighborhood with others and wanting to do same. I can’t wait to see what others will do, and what stories will come out of the neighborhood. I hope to see you all out and about this year, and want to share it with other people.

Do You Have A Blooming Boulevard?

Nothing makes a walk down the street more pleasant than the color, texture, and fragrance of a beautiful boulevard garden. Boulevards, the area between the curb and the street, are perfect spots to show off gardening skills, showcase vibrant plants, and add beauty. Gardening on boulevards can be challenging – hot, dry, and subject to road-salt stress and snow piles.

This year’s July 14th Kingfield Garden Tour would like to showcase some of our many blooming boulevards! Want to share your secrets to success? Have a neighbor that is the envy of the block with a boulevard that inspires pass-bys to stop and stare? Nominate your favorite boulevard garden by contacting Cheryl@Kingfield.org. Be sure to check the KFNA website for exciting updates!

A New Season of KINGFIELD FARMERS MARKET Opens May 22, 2016

At the Kingfield Farmers Market we’re looking forward to a spring, summer, and fall filled with fresh produce, meats, cheese, eggs, and breads—along with fermented foods, canned goods, live music every week, and more! The Kingfield Farmers Market was launched in 2001 in cooperation with the Kingfield Neighborhood Association. What began as a pickup truck full of vegetables parked at Aardvyn Coffeehouse has since grown into a bustling market with 30 vendors every week and thousands of customers attending every Sunday. The Market is produce-focused, offering a wide variety of fruits and vegetables along with prepared foods, coffee, handmade crafts, music, kid’s activities and more. And while you’re there, be sure to stop by the KFNA table to learn about all the great goings-on in your neighborhood!

The Market is in need of extra hands for help with market set up and tear down. Volunteer an hour of your time here and there, or on a regular schedule—it’s up to you! Email info@neighborhoodrootsmn.org for more information and to sign up.

The Kingfield Farmers Market is located at 4310 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis and takes place every Sunday from 8:30 AM to 1 PM. The 2016 outdoor season runs May 22nd through October 30th. See you at the market!

REWARD YOUR BLOCK FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR!

Every summer, KFNA’s Crime Prevention and Safety committees (CPAs) steps out of the park building and takes its meetings to the streets! Where, exactly? Well, it is up to you! If you want the traveling block party to come to your street, complete with Popicles, lemonade, sidewalk chalk, friendly police officers, and who knows what else, just send a note to Cheryl@kingfield.org about why CPA should reward your block for good behavior this summer.

THANK YOU 2016 KFNA BUSINESS SPONSORS: Butter Bakery Café | Gee Teez | Nicollet Ace Hardware New Movement Pilates

KFNA NEWS SPRING 2016 - 3

This year’s Kingfield Empty Bowls event blew past events out of the water, topping last year’s attendance by over 300 people! What a joyful gathering of community it was, sharing a meal and working together to support Nicollet Square and support youth seeking to create a home in our neighborhood. Neighbors from across the city and across faith communities all came to get the meaningful experience of this event—to come, to gather, to donate freely and happily, to enjoy a delicious heart- and stomach-warming meal of soups and breads, and then to sit and enjoy each other’s company. The gym (LAND lobby-AND Arts and Crafts room) were full to the brim for most of the four-hour event!

Thanks to the generosity of our numerous volunteers and donors (including all the restaurants and bakeries listed below) and the primary funder—we at the Kingfield Neighborhood Association who donate the organizing time throughout the year to this event—we were able to write a check to Nicollet Square this year for almost $10,000! This funding is given as a gift to Nicollet Square as discretionary spending, so they can decide what to spend the money on and use it where it is needed most. A gift like this is a huge boon to a nonprofit, which often gets grants and funding with strings tied to them that limit their use.

We at KNAF want to extend a big thank you to our volunteer planning team who gave generously of their time for six months to plan Kingfield Empty Bowls-downs and paint-a-bowls, met monthly on key event logistics, created posters and marketing materials, and contacted donors. It is the team’s commitment that made this event possible. If you are interested in serving on the planning team next year, please contact us at info@kingfield.org and ask to have you name added to the contact list.

OUR 2016 BOWL FILLERS: Blackbird Café • Buegge’s • Bull Run Coffee • Butter Bakery Café • Café Ena Curran’s Restaurant • Five Watt Coffee • Grand Café • Kings Wine Bar • Kowalski’s • Kyatchi • La Fresca Laune Bread • The Lowbrow • Nighthawks • Patisserie 46 • Pat’s Tap • Rincon 38 • Royal Grounds • Rustica Seward Co-op • Sourdough Breads • Victor’s 1959 Café

HELP REDUCE CRIME IN OUR ‘HOOD

Working as a team, neighbors can deter crime and improve the quality of life on their block. Block Leads help coordinate information to their neighbors, and can receive important crime alerts from the Police Department. The Kingfield neighborhood is fortunate in that most of our blocks already have amazing folks that are willing to take on the role of Block Lead, but we have a few blocks that are leaderless. If you live or work on one of these blocks, let us know if you would like to get involved:

- 3900 Blaisdell
- 4100 Lyndale
- 4100 Nicollet
- 4300 Nicollet
- 4400 Lyndale
- 4400 Nicollet
- 4500 Nicollet

Want to know more about what Block Leads do and all of the great resources that are available to help them? Sign up for the 5th Precinct Block Leader Training being held Monday, April 25th, from 6 to 7 PM in the 5th Precinct Community Room. Email our Crime Prevention Specialist for more information: Jennifer.Waisanen@minneapolismn.gov.

KINGFIELD MUSICIANS FIND HOME IN A COMMUNITY BAND

Sara Church and Gloria Kittock were each led by a love of music and performing—and by a small advertisement in the community paper—to join a community band. It has been just the place for the two longtime Kingfield residents to share their talents and make new like-minded friends.

“During my last five years of teaching in a public school,” says Sara, a retired art teacher, “I organized an ad hoc holiday band of staff members who still had instruments lying around. We would practice for about 10 minutes, and then play for about 15, as children were coming into school. It was so much fun that when my last two years were getting even more stressful, I sought outside activities that had nothing to do with my teaching art or being a visual artist.

Sara continues, “After over 40 years of not having my flute serviced, it absolutely demanded it my last year, and it was from Schmitt Music repair that I learned there were several community bands in the metro area. One day I found an appeal in the Southwest Journal to join a band and was delighted that rehearsals fell on the first evening of the school week. I have been playing in the Crosstown Community Band ever since—about two years.”

Gloria, also originally a flute player, explains, “I’ve played flute since middle school and have kept it up through my adult life, but hadn’t anywhere to play for a couple of years when I noticed an ad in the Southwest Journal for the Crosstown Community Band (XTB). One rehearsal and I was sold on this small and friendly group. A little over a year ago I switched to saxophone, which I hadn’t played in over 10 years, and found the XTB to be a welcoming place to brush up on my chops.”

Perhaps you have a musical interest, and a once-beloved instrument gathering dust. A community band might be for you! If you need more encouragement, Gloria tells us, “Research shows that making your own music can lower your blood pressure, reduce stress, and lessen anxiety and depression. So c’mon Kingfielders, dust off your instruments and join the fun!”

For more information: crosstowncommunityband.org.

Did you know the Kingfield bees have been busy all winter? They have been protecting their queen, trying to survive the cold weather on the roof of the Center for Performing Arts, and are getting ready to help pollinate your plants this spring!

As the seasons and beekeepers change, the Kingfield Neighborhood Association would like to give a special note of thanks to our 2015 Kingfield Beekeeper, Amy Roland. Amy was instrumental in helping us set up the first hive, tending to the girls throughout our first year, and posting exciting photos of their progress on our Facebook page. It took almost three years, but with Amy’s steadfast commitment and tenacious desire to bring honeybees to Kingfield, we have now had our first successful year with our little pollinators! This year, Amy is passing the torch on to our new 2016 Kingfield Beekeeper, Doug Alecii.

As we welcome him to the project, Kingfield News had a quick Q & A with Doug.

Q. How long have you been tending to bees?
A. I took the U of M short course in 2000 and again in 2001, and have been beekeeping ever since.

Q. What made you want to start working with honeybees?
A. I met a neighbor beekeeper at the LCS (Lake Country School) Land School in 1998. He took me out to his hives and I got very excited about keeping bees at the Land School...and getting my JH science students involved in the process!

Q. What is your interest in helping our Kingfield honeybees?
A. Lake Country is so close and the students have been seeing honeybees in the schoolyard. It seemed like a natural to help me tend the bees and involve the LCS community in whatever way I could...not to mention giving back to the Kingfield neighborhood.

Q. Got a favorite bee story or experience?
A. I’ve done beekeeping with 5- to 10-year-old children dressed in adult bee suits with cuffs rolled up...it is quite a sight! My biggest challenge has been with the small hive beetle [a destructive pest]. I’m ordering bees from California now instead of Georgia, because they are less of a problem in California.

To support Doug and the Kingfield honeybees, please remember to look for them this summer at the Farmer’s Market and was delighted that rehearsals fell on the first evening of the school week. I have been playing in the Crosstown Community Band ever since—about two years.”

Glória, also originally a flute player, explains, “I’ve played flute since middle school and have kept it up through my adult life, but hadn’t anywhere to play for a couple of years when I noticed an ad in the Southwest Journal for the Crosstown Community Band (XTB). One rehearsal and I was sold on this small and friendly group. A little over a year ago I switched to saxophone, which I hadn’t played in over 10 years, and found the XTB to be a welcoming place to brush up on my chops.”

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New Business = New Movement!

New Movement is a boutique Pilates and Movement studio right here in Kingfield, specializing in small group Pilates equipment classes and solo (private) or semi-priv Pilates sessions. The studio is fully equipped with Balanced Body Pilates equipment including four reformers, three chairs, one trapze table, and one spine corrector. Each piece of equipment provides hundreds of variations on specific Pilates exercises.

Pilates is a movement practice that requires the practitioner to stabilize (strengthen) one or more joints of the body while mobilizing (moving) one or more different joints at the same time. If it sounds complicated, you are right. That is why Pilates teachers spend hundreds of hours learning human anatomy, the Pilates repertoire, and the proper modifications for specialty populations.

New Movement has five talented and eclectic instructors on staff. Some are dancers, some are athletes, one is an attorney, and all of them have a drive to teach people. Each instructor will enhance their everyday activities and overall health.

They advertise classes for pre- and postnatal mothers, people with osteoporosis, and students with back pain. They also teach Pilates and adaptive yoga for neurological conditions such as multiple sclerosis and Parkinson’s.

New Movement Pilates studio is located at the corner of Nicollet Avenue and 38th Street, above the Blackbird Café. Stop in for more information, or visit online at www.newmovementpilates.com.
SUMMER IN THE PARK

The warm weather brings in the baseball, softball, and tennis seasons to MLK Park. Registration is done in person; birth verification is required, so stop by the park during business hours. Summer program registration opened March 9th and space is limited for camps and classes.

Lacrosse, fishing, ceramics, archery, survival, Inspyre, farming, tennis, battlebots, Minecraft, basketball, soccer, T-ball, arts, and science. Does any of that interest your family? If so, I encourage you to check out what’s happening in the parks and keep your family busy this summer. To register go to www.minneapolisparks.org /find an activity/ browse and register.

If you would like an electronic brochure with hot links, please email king@minneapolisparks.org and I will send one directly to you. Thanks, and enjoy the weather.

— Peter Jaeger, MLK Park Director

A “Toast” (of Toast!) To Nicollet Ace Hardware!

Thanks to Julene and her staff at Nicollet Ace Hardware for their recent dough-raising efforts! In December, customers were offered the chance to donate money for the new Kingfield Community Outdoor Oven and sign their own “brick” to show their support. The store matched the customers’ donations and raised $200 to help with the building of our oven! This, partnered with over $2,500 raised to date, gives us a warm toasty feeling that neighbors are excited for this new community amenity! There is still plenty of time to donate to the oven: either visit the Go Fund Me site at www.gofundme.com/KFNAOutdoorOven or plan to attend one of the dough-raising events this year and make a direct donation to KFNA!

The oven construction will continue once all threats of snow have passed and we hope for some test-bakes with target audiences in April or May…sort of a soft-opening model! Keep your eyes open for the weekly Kingfield eNews for the gala oven opening later this summer! If you have questions, contact KFNA Executive Director Sarah Linnes-Robinson at sarah@kingfield.org or 612.823.5980.

Save The Date For Nicollet Open Streets: Sunday, Sept. 18, 2016!

Nicollet Open Streets returns this year, bigger and better than ever! KFNA and LNA welcome our newest partner to the event, the Whittier Neighborhood! Thanks to them, this year’s event will cover from 46th street ACROSS Lake Street into the K-Mart parking lot. Once again, Nicollet Avenue will be closed to motorized transportation from 11 AM to 5 PM, and this will offer time for neighbors to celebrate our main street with activities, music, food, and more! Put on your walking shoes and see what’s great about the Kingfield, Lyndale, & Whittier neighborhoods from a different perspective!

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