Raising Dough

Have you heard that KFNA is building an outdoor community oven? We hope you have! After a couple of years of planning and rapid producing bowls, Butternut Village hosted the annual potlucks, and more.

Kingfield’s outdoor oven design was prepared for us by Mike Faust, who has built numerous other ovens in the Twin Cities in partnerships with nonprofits. He is now working on developing a consortium of outdoor ovens to share ideas and grow community connections around hearths throughout the metro area. He has been a cheerful and supportive resource to our volunteer effort.

Our own was constructed over a period of 11 community build-a-days, utilizing 60 hours to laying brick in mid-December, fortifying our walls to withstand the force of a typical Minnesota snowfall. In the new year, volunteers will begin testing the oven at bread temperatures with the expectation of being able to contribute bread to our own Kingfield Empty Bowls event on February 4th! We will then put the roof on and complete the chimney in the spring, a necessary addition for the firing temperature needed for a pizza, and hope to host our inaugural community event in May! Keep an eye out for the specific date in the spring Kingfield News and in the weekly eNews as we get closer.

If you are inspired to donate to the Kingfield Community Outdoor Oven campaign, we invite you to visit the project on GoFundMe at www.gofundme.com/kfnaoutdooroven.

Kingfield News

IS IT SPRINGTIME YET?

Soon everyone’s thoughts will turn to green grass, flowers, and the amazing vegetables we can grow in our area. Don’t have a garden of your own? The Kingfield Pleasant Community Garden might be just the spot for you!

Located next to the Center for Performing Arts at 38th and Pleasant, the community garden is a perfect place to strengthen our community through shared garden experiences. Applications for plots will be available in March, so be sure to visit our Facebook page for more details: www.facebook.com/Kingfield-Community-Gardens, or our website at kingfield.org.

Avid gardeners may also want to keep in mind that we have a wonderful Kingfield Garden Tour every year, where you could have a chance to show off your green thumb and your yard! This year’s tour will celebrate the beautiful and diverse gardening on the boulevards and in front yards of our neighborhood. Please contact Cheryl at Cheryl@kfna.org or 612-823-5980 if you would like more information about being on the tour!

KINGFIELD EMPTY BOWLS SUPPORTORS:

Blackbird Café • Butter Bakery Café • Café Ena • Five Watt Coffee • Grand Café • Kings Wine Bar • La Fresca • Laune Bread • Nighthawks • Rincon 38 • Royal Grounds • Sun Street Breads • The Lowbrow • Victor’s 1959 Café

••• SAVE THE DATE •••

KINGFIELD EMPTY BOWLS
Thursday, February 4, 4-8PM
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park
[4055 Nicollet Avenue]

A fun evening of art, great food, and lots of lively conversation!

Contact Sarah Limes-Robinson at sarah@kfna.org or 612-823-5980 if you are interested in getting involved #kingfieldemptybowls

Kingfield Empty Bowls: Stopping hunger and homelessness, one bowl at a time!

On Thursday, February 4th, Kingfield Neighborhood Association will host the fifth annual Kingfield Empty Bowls event, and we would love to see you there! Empty Bowls is a single day event that combines art, food, local businesses, nonprofits, and lots and lots of neighbors raising awareness and funds to combat hunger in our neighborhood.

Your support of this event will again benefit Nicollet Square, a project of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative that provides affordable housing and a supportive environment for youth who have experienced long-term homelessness, or who have been in the foster care system. Last year we were able to donate more than $7,000 to Nicollet Square through this single evening event!

The concept of Kingfield Empty Bowls is simple: Make a donation (suggested at $20 per person/bowl), select a beautiful handmade bowl donated by a local pottery artist, and enjoy a hearty meal of soup and bread, much of which is donated by our fabulous Kingfield restaurants. Diners bring their bowls home with them, to keep as a daily reminder that many of our neighbors are in need of food and housing.

The Empty Bowls planning team has been working busily to secure beautiful handmade bowls, and the community is answering the call. Besides direct artist donations of finished pottery, KFNA hosted two pottery “throwdowns” this year in partnership with Fire on the Greenway (FOTG), a local pottery studio of 15 independent potters. You might have seen the trio of wheels set up on the street during Nicollet Open Streets; two were filled by professionals, who spent their time rapidly producing bowls, but the third was open for anyone to try their hand at creating a bowl for the event. KFNA also hosted a 6-wheel, 6-hour throwdown at their studio in November, where they quickly threw another 180 beautiful and varied bowls for our event. The bowls created at these two events have been used at a number of community Paint-A-Bowl events already this fall, to give everyone a chance to be a part of what makes Kingfield Empty Bowls so special—a community working together, each in our own way, to take care of our own!

KFNA would like to thank everyone who has already donated bowls, and remind others that it’s not too late if you would still like to contribute! You may drop off finished bowls through January 31 at the Color Wheel Gallery, located at 46th & Grand, next door to Café Ena. Bowls ideally will be soup-sized and must be created with a food-safe glaze. If you need KFNA to pick up a donation, please contact us at 612-823-5980 or info@kingfield.org.

The bowls will be plentiful at the event, and so will the food! Once again many of our local restaurants have offered to provide soups, breads, and desserts to Empty Bowls. Please join us in thanking the restaurants that have already pledged their support and list at the right! We know that many more of our incredible community restaurants will be joining these to cook and bake for Empty Bowls as it draws closer.

For more information about being on the tour, please contact Cheryl at Cheryl@kfna.org or 612-823-5980 if you would like more information about being on the tour!
From the KFNA President

We welcome winter because, among other awesome stuff, it brings brilliant light displays around the neighborhood. Empty Bowls, as the opportunity to become a board member of the Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA)

For going for late nights when the snow is falling and there are no cars on the road is one of my favorite wintry things to do. It is a great time to enjoy the impressive light displays that many of our neighbors work so hard to make just right.

Maybe I will bump into you one of these nights.

Empty Bowls has become quite an event over the years, raising lots of money for such a great cause. Please consider joining us on February 4th for some locally made soup and bread enjoyed in hand-thrown and hand-painted bowls that you get to keep; what a deal.

It really is a great time to connect with other Kingfield and Minneapolis residents. (Read more about Empty Bowls in the story on page 1.)

If you’ve ever thought, “Wow, Kingfield is great, and I know how to make it even better,” serving on the KFNA board might be for you. Plenty of positions will be open this year, and we need all of Kingfield representation. Check out our Annual Meeting and Potluck, where current board members will meet you—and if you get there and decide you don’t feel like running for a board position, no problem. Eat some food and vote for who you believe will best represent Kingfield.

Lastly, if you see me shoveling our corner lot (40th & Wentworth) this winter, stop by and say hello; I welcome the distraction. Thanks for reading, and have some neighborhood fun this season.

— Dan Fenley, KFNA President

KINGFIELD

**SOUTHWEST MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY: Kingfield Responds**

This summer a survey was circulated through the Southwest Minneapolis community asking about the quality and placement of community involvement in the nine neighborhoods included in the study. More than 400 residents participated, including 101 members of the Kingfield community whom I would like to take this opportunity to thank for donating their time to my study. The results of the survey will be used in my thesis on the creation of Kingfield’s character. Residents were asked to describe the character of the Kingfield neighborhood in three words, leading to a list of more than 100 different words (shown in the word cloud graphic; on page 3); the four most frequently utilized words were “friendly,” “diverse,” “walkable,” and “vibrant.” When asked what they would change about Kingfield neighborhood if they could change one thing, respondents came up with a list of 27 different changes they would make. The most frequent answers were to increase the number of parks and open space, increase the number of family-friendly events (21%), increasing the diversity of neighborhood residents (14%), and increasing the sense of community through more neighborhood events (11%).

Participants were given the opportunity to choose three places in the neighborhood that they would preserve for future generations of Kingfield residents, which led to the identification of 53 places important to maintaining the character of the neighborhood. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park was mentioned by 50 percent of respondents, while the character of the neighborhood showed a greater diversity of education level and living arrangements than those from surrounding Southwest Minneapolis communities.

The general consensus was that the way the neighborhood feels is more important than the way it looks (a viewpoint shared by residents throughout Minneapolis). Additionally, Kingfield participants indicated that restaurants, people, parks, and businesses are the most important elements in the creation of Kingfield’s character. Residents were asked what they would change about Kingfield neighborhood if they could change one thing, respondents came up with a list of 27 different changes they would make. The most frequent answers were to increase the number of parks and open space, increase the number of family-friendly events (21%), increasing the diversity of neighborhood residents (14%), and increasing the sense of community through more neighborhood events (11%).

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Icy Sidewalks? It’s Snow Joke!

Snow and ice are upon us, and we need everyone’s cooperation to keep our sidewalks and streets clear of ice and snow. Many of our neighbors still rely on walking or riding their bicycles to work, school, and we need each other to be there for safe passage. Emergency response vehicles (like police, fire and paramedics) need clear driving lanes to access all residents. The only way we can achieve clear driving lanes this winter is by having our streets fully plowed carb to curb.

Minneapolis ordinance requires that sidewalks be cleared completely of snow and ice not later than 8 AM the following day in family homes and are available on City website. The only way we can achieve clear driving lanes this winter is by having our streets fully plowed carb to curb.

If you find a neighbor’s sidewalk that hasn’t been cleared, please check on them to see if they’re able to complete it on their own. If they aren’t able, work with them to find ways to get the snowfall cleared. Perhaps you and other neighbors can all pitch in to get the job done, or an eager young neighbor can be hired to shovel for you. If you still don’t see positive results after those efforts, you can report the snow/solid icy sidewalk to the City of Minneapolis online or by calling 311.

Free sand for sidewalks is available 24/7 from the City (you must bring your own shovel and pallet). The closest sand station to Kingfield is on West 60th Street between Lyndale and Harriet. Sand won’t harm the environment like salt can, and it’s a lot kinder on the paws of four-legged friends than salt.

If you own a vehicle, it’s important that you understand how the parking restrictions of Minneapolis Snow Emergencies work. Full details can be found online at http://minneapolismn.gov/snow_snow_specifics. It’s important to understand that Minneapolis Snow Emergencies have three phases, meaning you may have to move your vehicle more than once in a single 24-hour period. Take a look at the color of your surrounding street signs. If they’re blue, they are Snow Emergency Routes and will be plowed overnight on Day 1. If you are brown or green, they’re non-Snow Emergency Routes and will be plowed during Day 2 or Day 3.

Take advantage of the many ways to be informed about Snow Emergencies—including email alerts, text alerts, phone alerts, Facebook, and Twitter. Please share status updates on Snow Emergencies with your friends so all can be informed and avoid a costly ticket and tow.

Going on vacation (even if it’s just for one night) and leaving your car behind, parked on the street? You’re best off leaving your keys with a trusted neighbor and asking them to move your car if a Snow Emergency is declared. Show shoveling your walk and see a car illegally parked? Be a polite pal and knock on the neighbor’s door—advising them to move their car will help them avoid a ticket and tow.

My favorite thing about heavy snowfalls in Minneapolis is seeing so many of my neighbors outside reconnecting and helping each other out! Let’s make this a great and safe winter for all in Kingfield! — Scott Mueller, KFNA Board Member

Winter Play for Young & Not-So-Young at MLK Park

Winter programming starts in January at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, with basketball and wrestling competition firing up the first week of the new year. Then on January 18th at 6:30 PM we will host the annual MLK Day Celebration. Don’t forget that the park is also a great place to host a birthday party, baby shower, or any event your home cannot fit; check the park for details and prices.

With so many wonderful programs at all your area parks this winter, I encourage you to stop by the building for a brochure or look online at www.minneapolisparks.org. Complete electronic brochures are located under the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center page. Some winter program highlights from MLK Park are listed here, from the website click on the button under Activities, “Browse and Register.” All classes are for youth unless otherwise indicated; check website for start and end dates.

— Peter Jaeger, MLK Park Director

Vegetable Gardening Classes are back!

Do you want to grow your own vegetables? Come to the Vegetable Growing Basics classes this coming at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center, 4055 Nicollet Avenue South. Classes are on Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8 PM on April 5, April 12, April 19, April 26, and May 3. Classes are free and open to adults.

Hennepin County Master Gardeners will teach you how to plan and start a vegetable garden and how to take care of your vegetables until harvest time. Each participant will create a design for their own garden space. Classes will include activities to provide hands-on practice before you start your own garden.

Garden at home or at the park, which has a community garden space dedicated to them. Meet your neighbors and share gardening tips as we work the community garden together. Master Gardeners will be available at the park throughout the summer to answer questions that come up as your garden grows.

To register for the class, go to www.minneapolisparks.org. Or, phone at park 612-370-4908. Be sure to state that you are registering for “Vegetable Growing Basics.” You will need to give your name, address, phone number, and email address, if you have one.

The class is sponsored by The Minneapolis Park Board, The Hennepin County Neighborhood Association, Minnesota State Horticultural Society, and the University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener Program in Hennepin County.

For vegetable gardening classes in Spanish, sign up at Sabathani Community Garden. These classes, also taught by Master Gardeners, will meet one a month from April through September. Call the Sabathani Garden line at 612-547-6110 and leave your name.

— Mollie Dean, Master Gardener
CPAS Year in Review

2015 was a busy year for the KFNA Crime Prevention and Safety Committee (CPAS). More than just hearing from the Police Department about crime trends and statistics, the group created fun and interesting activities to help their neighbors reduce their chances of becoming victims of crime.

In April, we kicked off a Block Walking initiative, to encourage residents to walk with each other through the neighborhood as a way of meeting more neighbors and also to be another set of eyes and ears for safety issues and concerns. The group that covers the south end of Kingfield still meets weekly at Bruegger’s Bagels and have become fast friends! In May we celebrated the Block Leaders, thanking them for their continuing efforts to keep everyone connected and informed. July found us out in the hood with a traveling meeting, at the corner of 38th and Nicollet, helping those blocks get organized and make contacts with MPD for resources important to them. If you missed the September meeting, you didn’t get to see all of the amazing goings-on at the Emergency Communications Center, where communications specialists impressively handled 911 calls and dispatched police and firefighters where they were needed.

So, regarding those statistics...is crime getting worse in Kingfield? Although numbers do not tell the whole story, here are some stats to think about: 2015, from January to October, had 4 more robberies but 2 fewer aggravated assaults than the same time period of 2014. We had a spike in burglaries in August this year, but other than that, the number of burglaries compared to last year is the same.

Want more than just numbers? Come to the monthly CPAS meetings for a chance to see the crime maps that the Police Department uses to manage their resources, and learn the real stories behind the numbers. Although numbers do not tell the whole story, here are some stats to think about: 2015, from January to October, had 4 more robberies but 2 fewer aggravated assaults than the same time period of 2014. We had a spike in burglaries in August this year, but other than that, the number of burglaries compared to last year is the same.

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