

An Artist-Designed Playground for MLK Park

Community meetings coming in spring 2013

In early 2013 our community will be invited to help design a new playground for Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park. The current playground, which was installed in 1993, will be replaced with new equipment to celebrate and honor Dr. King and African American history, which has been a guiding theme for the park.

To bring this theme to life within the playground design, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) intends to include an artist on the design team. This is a new approach to playground design for the MPRB. The artist will work collaboratively with the community, project consultant and MPRB staff throughout the design process. Elements of a playground may include customized play equipment, or stand-alone artworks that double as play equipment and meet current safety and accessibility standards. This enhanced design process is anticipated to produce a one-of-a-kind play experience, to challenge children and to help tell a story of our collective history.

The MPRB has allocated \$225,000 for the playground project in its 2013 budget. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Council, with the help of Kingfield Neighborhood Association, neighbors and local businesses, is actively fundraising to add an additional \$55,000 to the project budget. KFNA has already raised over \$5000 for the playground at this year's summer events including the 36th & Grand Block Party and Celebrate 38!

Community meetings for the playground are anticipated to begin the first week of March and will continue through the early summer. If planning and weather permit, construction will start in late 2013, with a grand opening in 2014.

You are invited to be involved in the planning of the playground or receive updates on the project! To get involved, please visit the project's web page at www.minneapolisparks.org/default.asp?PageID=1359 and sign up for updates, or contact Jennifer Ringold at email: jringold@minneapolisparks.org, phone: 612-230-6464.

If you would like to donate to the playground or the park, please visit www.peopleforparks.net/projects.html or make checks out to People for Parks, memo line "MLK Park" and mail them to People For Parks; PO Box 24901; Minneapolis MN 55424.

¡BIENVENIDOS AL VECINDARIO DE KINGFIELD!

A partir de ahora vamos a tener una sección del boletín de noticias en español porque reconocemos que tenemos una gran población de vecinos que hablan española y queremos ser incluyentes de las noticias y eventos promovidos en este boletín, también queremos recordar a la comunidad que todos son bienvenidos a los eventos del vecindario Kingfield.

Queremos informarles que ahora tenemos dos miembros de la asociación de vecinos que son fluido en español y estarán encantado de traducir todo el material en español. También vamos a trabajar con nuestros negocios latinos locales para que nos permitan distribuir el boletín de noticias traducidas a todos ustedes.

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta, sugerencia o ideas sobre cómo podría mejorar el vecindario o si desea saber cómo involucrarse con la asociación de vecinos no dude en ponerse en contacto con Henry Jiménez.

Por correo electrónico: Henry@kingfield.org
Por teléfono celular: (702) 808 7844

TRANSLATION

Welcome to Kingfield neighborhood!

From now on we will be having a section of the newsletter in Spanish, because we recognize that we have a large population of Spanish speaking neighbors and want to be inclusive of the news and events promoted in this newsletter, to remind the community that everyone is welcome to all Kingfield neighborhood events.

I want to take the time to inform you that we now have two board members who are fluent in Spanish and will be happy to translate all of the material in Spanish. We will also work with our local Latino businesses to allow us to distribute the translated newsletter to you all.

If you have any questions, suggestions or ideas on how the neighborhood could improve, or if you want to know how to get involved with your neighborhood association, feel free to contact Henry Jimenez at Henry@kingfield.org or (702) 808-7844.

Standing Up for Kingfield

KFNA stands for the Kingfield Neighborhood Association, not only as an acronym, but also actually, really, KFNA stands (and stands-up for!) the Kingfield Neighborhood in everything we do. Whether claiming a seat at the table when decisions are made regarding policies and practices that affect our community, or being organized and prepared to accept grant funding to offer Kingfield neighbors exciting programs in the areas of the arts, environment, housing and business renovation, or fighting for a voice for our neighborhood residents, KFNA always has what is best for the Kingfield neighborhood in our hearts.

Please look for our end of the year letter which outlines what we have accomplished this year, and asks for your financial support for your most local nonprofit. You can also learn more about us and support the work that KFNA does at our website at www.kingfield.org or at our online donation page at www.razoo.com/story/Kingfield-Neighborhood-Association . If you are trying to find a way to engage in your community, we welcome your call or an email itemizing your interests or questions at info@kingfield.org or 612.823.5980.

Thank you from KFNA!

GLASS MOSAIC QUILTING, OH MY!

The Mosaic Quilting Project is a new hands-on community art project which is being executed jointly by the Southwest Senior Center and the Kingfield Neighborhood Association. The finished artwork, ten 4-foot by 4-foot glass-tiled mosaics, will be attached to the exterior south-facing wall of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park. The images are interpretations of traditional textile patterns from cultural communities that are in our neighborhood and use our park. The goal of the Mosaic Quilting Project is to demonstrate, through visual art, the diversity of cultures in our community and celebrate their shared public space at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park.



The project arose out of conversations in the community following the racially charged off-leash dog park arguments. As a way of moving through these arguments and finding some common ground to improve the park, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Legacy Council was born, as was a group self-titled Building Bridges. Both of these groups intentionally involve members of different ages and races, as well as involving residents on both sides of 35W. In both these groups, stories of quilting as an African American art form were repeatedly mentioned.

KFNA took these stories and looked for ways to increase involvement and connections to MLK Park. Following the lead of the Legacy Council, the project was expanded beyond just African American images, and was broadened to include textile images of the demographics that are in our community and use Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park, including African, Hmong, Native American, European, and Latino. The resulting project is the Mosaic Quilting Project, which to date has already involved over 175 people, ages 4-92, in six community workshops. At the time of this newsletter, at least five additional workshops are scheduled. We also have a Workshop and a Community Cultural Celebration planned for Saturday, January 26, 1-3PM at MLK Park. Come and create art with us!

While the dictionary says the primary definition of a mosaic is simply a picture made usually of colored pieces of inlaid stone or glass, the alternate definition speaks even more strongly to the hoped-for outcome of the project.

Filling Empty Bowls in Kingfield on February 7, 2013



Mark your calendar for Kingfield's second annual Empty Bowls event, a benefit for hungry and homeless youth in our community. Just as last year, all profits from this event will be donated to Nicollet Square, 3700 Nicollet, which provides an affordable home and support system for 42 formerly homeless youth.

The concept of Empty Bowls is simple: Attendees make a donation (suggested at \$20 per bowl), select a beautiful handmade bowl donated by a local pottery artist, enjoy a hearty meal of soup prepared by volunteers, and then keep their bowl as a reminder that many of our neighbors are in need of food and housing. Last year's Empty Bowls netted close to \$4,000 to support the programs of Nicollet Square. Our goal is to raise \$6,000 for Nicollet Square in 2013.

We are now looking for:

- Volunteers to help organize the event
- Donations of pottery bowls
- Donations of bread, rice, coffee, and sweets to round out the meal

Please contact Sarah Linnes-Robinson at sarah@kingfield.org or 612.823.5980 if you are interested in getting involved with this great community event. We will be meeting in early January for the next planning meeting.

There's magic in bringing neighbors together to share a meal for a good cause. We hope you'll join us!

– Sarah Milligan-Toffler, Kingfield Neighbor and Representative on the Nicollet Square Advisory Council

A Teen's Perspective on Empty Bowls

– By Jacob Toffler

I wasn't sure what to expect when my mom asked me to help volunteer at last year's Empty Bowls event, but I



From the KFNA President

Dear Kingfield Neighbors,

One of KFNA's goals for the upcoming year is to draw more neighbors to our monthly board meetings, so we are making a slight change to our meeting format. We have invited guest speakers to make presentations on topics of interest to the neighborhood. Each meeting will start with a 20-minute presentation, followed by 10 minutes of an open forum where community members can tell the board what is on their minds. It will be a time to connect and learn, and I'd love to see you there.

This November I had the pleasure of attending the Washburn High School Fall Arts Gala. Washburn has a growing music, theatre and dance program, and the Gala showcased many talented Kingfield youth. Parents, alumni, students, and staff have formed the Washburn Arts Council and are raising funds for a new wireless audio system. If you would like to donate or learn more about the arts at Washburn, please contact Nancy Lee, Director of Vocal Music and Musical Theater, nancy.lee@mpls.k12.mn.us. With Thanksgiving upon us, I am thankful for the model of equity, inclusion, and excellence provided by Washburn High School and the other schools in the community pathway, Ramsey Middle and Lyndale Elementary.

I am also thankful for the local businesses that make our neighborhood vibrant, connected, and walkable. Soon I will be walking with my family to buy a Christmas tree at Petersen Flowers. We will pull it home in a sled on a snowy day and feel like we've just stepped out of a Norman Rockwell painting. This vitality does not happen by accident, so this holiday season I hope you will support many of our great Kingfield businesses. The Nicollet East Harriet Business Association provides a thorough directory of Kingfield businesses as well as others in southwest Minneapolis on the Experience Southwest website <http://www.experiencesouthwest.com/>.

As I write this column, it has begun to snow, providing an opportunity for physical activity and "good deeds" too. Let's keep Kingfield walkable this winter, clearing the sidewalks of snow and ice. And if our neighbors can't shovel their walks, let's help them. If you are unable to clear your walk and your neighbor has not yet lent a hand, send me an email scott@kingfield.org. I'll come over with snow shoveling-lover and fellow board member Scott Mueller, and we'll do it for you.

With kind regards,
– *Scott Bordon, KFNA President*

Kingfield Running Team

Summertime and the living is easy—and for the Kingfield Running Team it was a great summer for running! We had quite small numbers yet a really nice time. We were able to get a small grant for team shirts, and would like to thank Allina Health Partners for picking us this year from their grant applications. We also would like to thank everyone who came out, and invite everyone to join future runs.



Starting December 1st we will be back with more group runs and continue to run through the winter. For a full group run schedule, please check us out at www.kingfieldrunningteam.blogspot.com, or contact Kingfield resident Adam Majewski at 612-516-4943 with any questions.

– *Adam Majewski*



The Mid-Winter Home Office Escape (if only for an evening!)

Work from home? Need to stretch those legs on these long cold winter days? Come meet other neighbors who also work from their homes in Kingfield neighborhood!

Monday, January 28 • 5:30-7 PM
The Lowbrow at 4244 Nicollet

KFNA and several home-based business owners have come together to host this event. Our intention is to gain a deeper understanding of the needs of home-based businesses and to generate ideas about how we can together strengthen our neighborhood, the local economy, and our Kingfield network of smaller, entrepreneurial businesses as well as build relationships between neighbors! Come, share your ideas, and hear others during this important home-based business development launch. Whether you own your own business or work for someone else, if you're working from your Kingfield home, we want you to join us!

Registration is limited. Visit the Facebook Event at tinyurl.com/KFNABWorkFromHomeParty to learn more and register or contact sarah@kingfield.org or 612.823.5980 if you do not use Facebook. We will post a pre-event survey soon to gather your initial information on needs and ideas. Please watch for it.

Suggested \$5-10 per person donation accepted at the event. Tasty food provided by KFNA. Cash bar available by The Lowbrow. Dress code? No fuzzy slippers permitted!



About the Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA)

The Kingfield neighborhood runs from 36th to 46th Streets, between Lyndale Ave S and 35W.

KFNA Office Location:

The Center for Performing Arts • Room 101
3754 Pleasant Ave S • Minneapolis, MN 55409

Phone 612.823.5980
E-mail info@kingfield.org
Website www.kingfield.org

The KFNA Board meets the 2nd Wed. of the month at 7 pm at Martin Luther King Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave S

2012-13 KFNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Scott Bordon, *President* scott@kingfield.org
Bryan Thorton, *Vice President* bryan@kingfield.org
Hetal Dalal, *Secretary* hetal@kingfield.org
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Henry Jimenez henry@kingfield.org
Julie Mueller julie@kingfield.org
Jim Kumon jim@kingfield.org

KFNA STAFF:

Sarah Linnes-Robinson, *Executive Director*

KINGFIELD NEWS

If you are interested in writing, editing, designing, or taking photographs for the *Kingfield News*, call or email KFNA.

Election Day Reflection

On Election Day, KFNA board members and Kingfield neighbors braved the outdoors to greet our voting neighbors. Starting at 6:30 AM and until 8:00 PM, KFNA volunteers were on hand to thank voters and give them a hot cup of coffee. This was an opportunity for KFNA to inform, educate and excite the neighbors we serve.

Minnesota always has a large voter turnout, and given the two amendment ballot initiatives, plus the President, U.S. Senate seat, and state and local officials on the ballot, we knew that turnout was going to be high. Furthermore, due to redistricting, we knew that the entire Kingfield neighborhood (and our neighborhood only) would be voting at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park. We were excited about the efficient means of engaging with so many of our neighbors, and for the opportunity to thank them for voting. But most importantly, we just wanted to talk to our neighbors.



We wanted to get people signed up for the KFNA weekly email newsletter, and make them aware of two initiatives we were particularly excited about: Solarize Kingfield (Phase 2)—a group buy discount for homes converting to solar electricity; and the mosaic tile art project that will become a permanent outdoor installation at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park. The enthusiasm for these two initiatives was positive and abundant.

Election rules decreed that we had to be set up at least 100 feet away from the building where polling took place, but we still were in a spot visible to voters coming and going. We had a fire going the entire day. An election judge came out and thanked us for our presence (which was

reassuring, because we were afraid that an election judge would order us to leave).

The coffee and treats were donated from area cafes and bakeries—a big thank you to Anodyne, Butter, Curran's, Sun Street Bakery and Victor's 1959 Café for their kind donations. Please thank them for supporting us when you next visit them.

For me, the highlight was meeting a young voter who had moved to Kingfield just two days prior. Understandably, she knew nothing about KFNA, but that all changed after

we had a chance to talk with her. One Kingfield neighbor saw we were low on firewood and offered to cut a bunch of logs for us to use. He came back 45 minutes later with a boxful of firewood (which we burned to stay warm!) Another Kingfield neighbor stopped by after voting and gave us some hand warmers to use.

I had such an energy buzz from engaging with our neighbors that it kept me going the 13-plus hours

that I was there. My mind was not dwelling on election outcomes, but rather on the neighbors themselves. Our effort really felt like National Night Out all over again—albeit with many more layers of clothes!

This neighborhood outreach effort couldn't have come together without the support of our volunteers and our donors, and those who stopped to talk with us made it all worthwhile. We're already thinking about ways to tweak our presence next time, so be on the lookout for the KFNA tent outside the next election!

– *Scott Mueller • KFNA Board Member*

Filling Empty Bowls • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was pleasantly surprised! There were lots of friends and neighbors there and it felt good to raise money for a good cause. The event also has some other important benefits:

- **Community Building.** Empty Bowls is a great way for neighbors to come together and share a meal.
- **Teaching Healthful Cooking and Eating.** Volunteers spend the day preparing soup and in the process, they learn to combine healthful ingredients to make a delicious meal.
- **Highlighting the talents of artists.** Local ceramic artists donate bowls for the event. Last year some bowls were made by professional pottery artists, and others were made and donated by high school students, including some from my school, Washburn High School. I can't wait to see the bowls that are donated for our second annual event.

Empty Bowls is a great way for teens to get involved in their community. I hope to see you there!

CONSIDERING “VOTING NO”

On June 13, 2012, the KFNA Board approved joining the coalition of organizations, churches, synagogues, governmental bodies, and businesses **opposing the two constitutional amendment questions on the November 2012 ballot. Along with other Minneapolis neighborhood associations, we took a stance urging Vote NO on the Marriage Amendment and Vote NO vote on the Voter ID Amendment.**

When the Kingfield Neighborhood Association Board decided to take a stance on the two constitutional amendments on the ballot this November in Minnesota, we did so out of conviction and commitment to our neighborhood and our community.

This was a decision we considered very seriously at the June 2012 board meeting. Our biggest concern was whether we should take a stance on such divisive issues. As an organization whose purpose is the common good of the neighborhood, is it our place to take sides on issues – to take a position that not everyone in the neighborhood agrees with?

After much discussion and consideration, 10 board members voted – with one abstention – to take a stand. We did this because as leaders in the neighborhood, we felt it was appropriate to be public about how we felt these amendments would affect our community. We took a stand to support inclusive communities, in line with our mission as the Kingfield Neighborhood Association.

Some people did contact us and express frustration or objection. Some objected because they explicitly disagreed with the particular stance we took. Other people objected to our taking a stand at all on political issues. As a board we appreciate that people responded and expressed their opinion. As much as anything, we want to hear from Kingfield

residents and are always happy when someone takes the time to communicate with us. Our mandate, as a board, is to do what is best for the neighborhood. This means juggling competing interests, sometimes taking sides on issues and inevitably doing things that sometimes people disagree with.

I spent a couple days this fall at the Kingfield Farmers Market talking about the two constitutional amendments on the ballot. Perhaps you met me there, with neighborhood dynamo Betty Tisel. (Thank you for everything, Betty!) We received overwhelming gratitude and support for our stance. To the extent that people knew the Kingfield Neighborhood Association had taken an official stance, almost everyone was appreciative – frankly I remember only one person who didn’t approve.

Now that the results are in, we know that the residents of Kingfield agreed with the Neighborhood Association by 85-90%. That means seven in eight people expressed the same conviction that we were working to represent. I would say we did a pretty good job of representing Kingfield.

In the end, the results of November’s election simply left the Minnesota constitution the way it is – nothing changed. Hopefully, though, Minnesota has changed. I like to think we are stronger for the conversation and discussion that the two amendments forced us to have, and that our communities and neighborhoods – including Kingfield – have a renewed commitment to welcoming, respecting, celebrating and including everyone.

– Jess Alexander, KFNA Board Member

GREENER KINGFIELD BUSINESSES

Opened this fall by KFNA, the Business Environment Green Incentive Program is intended to encourage local businesses to consider green technologies in an effort to grow public environmental awareness, test new technologies, and green the Kingfield neighborhood. Potential matching funding of up to \$7,500 is available to any commercial (not home-based) business or commercial property owner for their property located in Kingfield. Qualifying projects can include, but are not limited to, a variety of environmentally-conscious site design techniques: green roofs, on-site stormwater management practices, LEED building standards, solar technologies, geothermal heating and other green construction technologies such as water

efficiency, energy efficiency, pervious pavers, composting, or stormwater.

Applications are to be submitted via email to sarah@kingfield.org at any time during the month; questions can be directed here as well or can be directed to Sarah in person by calling 612.823.5980. Projects are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. Final determination on the eligibility of the project is the responsibility of the Kingfield Neighborhood Association Redevelopment Committee, which meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday, 7 PM, at MLK Park, 4055 Nicollet. Full guidelines are available at kingfield.org/business-opportunities.

FEEDING THE DREAM: 2013 Food Drive

Over the past three years, the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB), with generous support from the community, has donated more than 5,000 pounds of non-perishable food items to local food banks. Groveland Food Shelf of Minneapolis will benefit from the 2013 Food Drive. This year during the Food Drive, the MPRB will also be collecting handmade knitted items in support of the Love Light Project. The Love Light Project collects, makes, and sells handmade knitted items, scarves, hats and infinity scarves, and uses all profits to support local teenage victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

The Food Drive concludes during the 2013 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration, held **January 21 beginning at 6:30 PM**, at Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park. The public is invited to attend the hour-long program that honors and celebrates the life and achievements of Martin Luther King. Local entertainers will perform, and Cobe Williams, a Violence Interrupter from Chicago and subject of the 2011 award winning documentary “The Interrupters,” will give a keynote presentation. The 2013 Living the Dream Award will also be presented, in recognition of those whose work embodies Martin Luther King’s message of justice for all and commitment to community. Attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to the event. All donations collected will benefit the Groveland Food Shelf.

For more information about the Feeding the Dream Community Food Drive or Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration, please visit www.minneapolisparks.org or call 612-230-6479.

Glass Mosaic Quilting • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



A mosaic can also be defined as composition of small pieces put together to make a whole, especially being made up of diverse elements. It is our hope that the diverse elements of our community will be come to be the actual mosaic that adorns MLK Park for years to come, alongside the sparkly glass pieces that will be displayed on the building.

For more information and images of the project, please visit kingfield.org/mosaic-quilting-project/ or contact Sarah Linnes-Robinson, KFNA Executive director at sarah@kingfield.org or 612.823.5980.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, and by a grant from the City of Minneapolis Graffiti Prevention program.

Join Jonathan Odell for Warm Soup & Conversation Feb. 10 from 2 - 4p • MLK Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave South

Join us for soup and conversation with Minnesota author Jonathan Odell, to hear his perspectives on race and race-relationships, and discuss his books *The View from Delphi* and *The Healing*.

Jonathan Odell (www.jon-odell.com) is the Minnesota author of two novels, *The View from Delphi*, which deals with the struggle for equality in pre-civil rights Mississippi, his home state, and *The Healing*, which explores the subversive role that narrative plays in the healing of an oppressed people. His presentation focuses on growing up in a small Mississippi town on the white side of the color line and returning as an adult to understand what life was like on the black side of that line. The deep knowledge and understanding that came from that investigation is at the heart of his novels. He spent an evening recently last fall with the Building Bridge book group and was a wonderful speaker.

Odell holds a master’s degree in counseling psychology and has been active in human resource development for over 30 years. His programs for diversity training have been used by organizations such as General Mills,

Prudential Insurance Company, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Hewlett-Packard, and Avon. Odell also built a successful practice as a Leadership Coach to executives in Fortune 500 companies.

In 2003, along with Minneapolis civil rights leader and city councilperson Don Samuels, Odell founded the Institute for Authentic Dialogue to spark conversations across race. He appeared before thousands of business executives, clergy, community and government leaders, and educators, teaching the skills for authentic dialogue through sharing his own race story.

This event is sponsored by the Building Bridges Multicultural Book Club, made up of people who share novels and conversation to better understand how race and racism impact our communities. Our goal is to reconnect our communities divided by race, time, and 35W. Please join us!

– Lynda McDonnell, Multicultural Book Club Co-Leader

Meet the KFNA Board



VICTORIA PEÑA
Victoria@kingfield.org
3600 Block of 1st Avenue

My interest in being a part of the Kingfield Board is to represent a corner of our neighborhood that has been underrepresented. My family has owned several homes on this block since before 1939, and I am proud to know my neighbors, both renters and owners. I see my responsibility to be a voice for them in the broader community and bring opportunities to them as well. One thing I’d like to share is that my eight year old son and I enjoy watching black-and-white movies together and analyzing the motives of the protagonists.



BEN RASMUSSEN
Ben@kingfield.org
3700 Block of Pillsbury

I want to serve on the board to help the neighborhood wrestle with transportation issues, since that’s my profession. I’m a big fan of English soccer and I hope that soccer here will someday be as big as it is on the other side of the pond. (It’s getting there but has a ways to go!)



MARSHALL ONSRUD
Marshall@kingfield.org
3800 Block of Pillsbury

My family and I have lived in Kingfield for more than 10 years. My three girls attend Lyndale, Ramsey and Washburn. I joined the board because I believe every Kingfield resident shares in the responsibility of making our community a better, safer, and friendlier place to live. Magic happens when we know our neighbors, attend local schools and churches, and shop and dine at local stores and restaurants. The recipe for building community demands everyone’s participation and conscious effort. Combine all ingredients. Mix thoroughly. Add you.

WE ATE FOR ART! (...and boy, was it GOOD!)

Thank you eaters, and our amazing eateries, for such a fantastic turnout for Eating for Art this year! KFNA raised over \$3,000 on this day alone, thanks to the generosity of our local cafes including Anodyne, Blackbird, Butter, Curran’s, King’s, Lowbrow, Sun Street and Victor’s—and Lyndale Neighborhood Association sweetened the pot with support from Bryant Lake Bowl and El Paraiso as well!

KFNA will continue working in the coming year on the redevelopment of our central corridor, Nicollet Avenue, and on ways we can enhance this urban corridor with public art that both engages and identifies our community. If you have a crazy idea, feel free to share it! Just contact Sarah Linnes-Robinson, KFNA Executive Director at 612.823.5980.

KINGFIELD
CULTIVATES
TOP GARDENERS

The top 2012 Minneapolis Garden Awards were presented at Metro Blooms' Garden Awards event at Columbia Manor in Minneapolis on Thursday, November 8th, 2012. Metro Blooms' mission is to promote and celebrate gardening, to beautify our communities, and help heal and protect our environment. Numerous awards were presented to Kingfield neighbors!

Best Condominium Garden was presented to Leonard Jordan, 19 West 38th Street, across the street from Quality Coaches. Best Neighborhood Collaboration was presented to the neighbors on the 3600 block of Garfield Avenue South where most of the homes have stunning front yard gardens and planted boulevards. Additionally, a neighbor on this block, Chris Turpen, was given the Nate Siegel award, for inspiring his neighbors to create a neighborhood collaboration of gardens and for always lending a helping hand to a gardener in need.

If you'd like to recognize a gardener, you can nominate your favorite garden for a 2013 Minneapolis Garden Award online at www.metroblooms.org. Nominations for a 2013 award are due in July of 2013. Photos from this fall's Metro Blooms' event and the amazing award-winning gardens of 2012 can be accessed on Metro Blooms' Facebook page.

Our 2012-13
Business Sponsors

- Anodyne Coffeehouse • Blackbird Café
Butter Bakery Café • Colorwheel Gallery & Salon
Common Bond • Contempl8 T-Shirts
Curran's Family Restaurant • Dreamhost
Frame Ups and Capstone Gallery • Gee Teez
Grand Café • Johnson Design + etc
King's Wine Bar • Lander Group
Leonardo's Basement • Litin Eco • Mulroy's Body Shop
The Lowbrow • Patisserie 46 • Pat's Tap
Quality Coaches • Sebastian Joe's
Sun Street Breads • Twin Town Guitars
Victor's 1959 Café • Whole Builders



Whole Builders co-owners, Mary Jane Heinen and Marcia Bethke (right).

on her block, not in age, but in longevity!) she feels a deep connection to her block, which encompasses a wide range of housing styles, and to her neighborhood. She loves the liberal attitude of Kingfield neighborhood, which allows people to live and be as they are. Also, as owner of a business that was founded in the 1970's "green" movement, she appreciates the work that KFNA does on sustainability and environmental issues. Whole Builders mission is to design and build sustainably, and to help clients incorporate energy efficient options into their projects whenever possible.

Whole Builders was founded as in 1979 as a worker-owned coop. Today with two owners (pictured) and five workers, the company still maintains the democratic work style model of a cooperative. "Employees are part of the system," Marcia explained. "We become part of a family."

That family feeling often extends to customers as well. Marcia joined the company just a couple of years after its formation, with a background in urban planning, architecture, and construction. Now after more than 22 years

Whole Builders, a profile of
a KFNA Business Sponsor

We met with Marcia Bethke, co-owner of Whole Builders, located at Lake and 4th, and asked what inspired her to become a Kingfield Neighborhood Business sponsor for 2012. Marcia responded that as a resident of Kingfield since 1982 (the oldest

in the business, Marcia finds she is doing the second or third project for some families, or even working for the children of people she did projects with years ago!

Whether residential or commercial, the company focuses on open and honest communication with the clients, as well as making sure they and their subcontractors are ever respectful of the homeowners and the difficulty of living through a remodeling project. According to Marcia, remodeling is very stressful for the homeowner and the job site needs to be peaceful. Additionally all workers need to treat people's homes as if they were their own.

Especially in the current market, Whole Builders searches for a creative solution to save costs for those doing remodeling projects. On a current project involving the expansion of a veterinary clinic, they studied the plans and proposed moving a building rather than doing a total teardown and rebuild. This was not only an environmentally conscious decision, but it also resulted in a substantial cost savings. Because people are more stretched financially these days, Whole Builders helps people make the most of their resources in a variety of ways, including project phasing, homeowner assistance on labor, or giving clients the option of managing the subcontractors or portions of a project themselves.

As a cooperative company, Whole Builders agrees that they would prefer to spend the bulk of their profits to support worthwhile organizations, like KFNA, rather than on advertising. We are happy that with the KFNA newsletter they can do a little bit of both!

- Sarah Linnes-Robinson

SOLARIZE!

This fall the Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA) partnered with Applied Energy Innovations (AEI) to help residents and businesses assess if their property is "right" for solar. Those who determined their site had potential to capture enough solar power were offered to participate in a group purchasing program to reduce the cost of solar electric systems. Thirty-four households from five neighborhoods participated in the Solarize Workshops, and so far, 14 have signed-up to get a reduced cost on-site

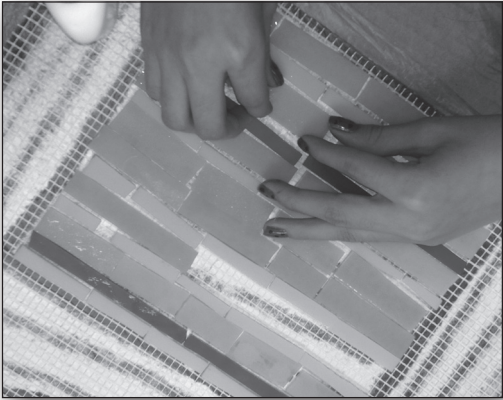
solar assessment from another partner, the Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES). At this time, we don't know how many will proceed with solar electric installations on their homes, but since the deadline to qualify for the solar reward rebates is so short, decisions will be made quite quickly! You can follow the progress of the project at kingfield.org/solarize-kingfield.

For questions regarding Solarize Kingfield, or to register by mail rather than online, contact Sarah Linnes-Robinson, KFNA Executive Director, at 612.823.5980 or sarah@kingfield.org.

Calendar of Events
Mon, Jan. 21 6:30 PM 2013 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration and conclusion of "Feed the Dream" Food Drive
Mon, Jan 26 1-3PM Community Cultural Celebration and Mosaic Workshop
Mon, Jan. 28 5:30-7 PM The Mid-Winter Home Office Escape
Thurs. Feb. 7 Empty Bowls benefit for Nicollet Square
Sun. Feb. 10 2 - 4 PM Minnesota author Jonathan Odell with Warm Soup & Conversation
Sat. March 23 6:30-9:30 PM Local. Kingfield's Community Art Show
Mon. April 22 6-9 PM KFNA Annual Meeting and Board Election

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Come to a mosaic workshop on Saturday, January 26th at 1-3PM, held at MLK Park. See story on page 1.