Kingfield News

“Is That You, Neighbor?”
Kingfield Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting & Potluck

Cust aside the parka for an evening, stop peering out of your ‘scoodie’ like a babushka for a night, and come celebrate Kingfield and KFNA!

The Aliveness Project is happy to host KFNA’s annual meeting, “Is That You Neighbor?” on Wednesday, January 21st, on the 2nd floor of their building at 3808 Nicollet. Please join KFNA upstairs beginning at 6:30 PM for a potluck and social time, with the meeting beginning at 7 PM.

You can even be one of those board members, if you’d like! Look for announcements in the weekly KFNA e-News, or on our website and Facebook page for KFNA Community Dates and Happy Hours in the weeks before January 21, and drop in on one of them to meet some board members and learn more about KFNA.

If none of the drop-in events fit your schedule, don’t worry—just contact KFNA Executive Director Sarah Linnes-Robinson any time at sarah@kingfield.org or 612.823.5980, and she will be happy to chat with you about board needs and responsibilities. Or, simply attend the annual meeting and nominate yourself while there. Each KFNA board member serves a two-year term, and attends monthly board meetings the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Note: Meet the newly elected KFNA Board at Happy Hour following the Annual Meeting at Blackbird Café, 3808 Nicollet, beginning at 9 PM.

Evaluating Nicollet Open Streets
Think back to the warm days of late summer and you may recall that on Sept. 14, Nicollet Avenue closed down to automobiles and opened up to pedestrians and bicyclists for the 1st Annual Nicollet Open Streets! Though the Minneapolis Bike Coalition promoted six such Open Streets events throughout the city in 2014, Nicollet Open Streets was unique in that two neighborhood associations (Kingfield and Lyndale Neighborhood Associations (KFNA and LNA)) organized and oversaw the event, using grant money from Blue Cross Blue Shield to help cover some of the costs.

Estimates of attendance showed that 9,500 people walked, biked, ate, drank, connected with organizations or neighbors, were entertained, or simply played on the 16 blocks of Nicollet Avenue closed to automobile traffic that day. Additionally, approximately 80 local businesses and nonprofit and governmental organizations participated in a myriad of creative ways, such as selling food and beverages, sharing ideas, and providing entertainment and activities.

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Kingfield Empty Bowls: Thursday, February 5th • MLK Park
Stopping hunger and homelessness, one bowl at a time!

Kingfield will host the fourth 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, an organization that provides affordable housing and a supportive environment for young adults who have experienced homelessness or have been in the foster care system. Last year we were able to donate almost $7,000 to Nicollet Square through this single evening event!

The concept of Kingfield Empty Bowls is simple: Attendees make a donation (suggested at $20 per bowl!), select a beautiful handmade bowl donated by a local potter, enjoy a hearty meal of soup prepared by one of your favorite local restaurants, and will provide direct, concise feedback on others’ current marketing materials!

The more designers we have willing to volunteer, the more attendees can register. At the time of this printing, we have room for 24 people in this workshop—if you volunteer your services, we will have room for more participants!

The cost of participating will be $10 for Kingfield Homebased Professionals, and $20 for neighbors from adjoining neighborhoods. The cost covers food and nonalcoholic beverages plus an optional cash bar on-site. Find more information on the Kingfield website at www.kingfield.org or on the LinkedIn group of the same name.

Midwinter Escape: A Homebased Professionals Event
Monday, January 26, 5:30-7:30 PM • The Aliveness Project at 38th & Nicollet

Break out of the midwinter weariness and gather with your fellow Kingfield Homebaseers for camaraderie and critique! Past January events have drawn over 50 home-based professionals, so you won’t want to miss this one! In addition to providing fun social time to combat winter isolation, the January 2015 Midwinter Escape will engage our own graphic and web designers. In a small group setting, designers will offer tips about the questions a client should ask a designer, and will provide direct, concise feedback on others’ current marketing materials!

If you are a graphic or web designer and are interested in participating in this event, please contact sarah@kingfield.org. Or, the more designers we have willing to volunteer, the more attendees can register. At the time of this printing, we have room for 24 people in this workshop—if you volunteer your services, we will have room for more participants!

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Paint-a-Bowl for Empty Bowls!
Saturday, January 10th 1-3 PM • MLK Park

Everyone can be a contributing artist for Kingfield Empty Bowls. Join us to glaze a handmade bowl to be given away at our February 5th Empty Bowls event! Paint-a-Bowl is open to all, but we prefer that children participating be at least 6 years old, and those under 12 must come with an adult.

All materials provided, no cost, but donations will be greatly appreciated!

Questions? Contact KFNA at info@kingfield.org or 612.823.5980.

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The Kingfield Homebased Professionals also continue to gather informally at a Kingfield café the first week of each month, and for a happy hour in Kingfield the third week of each month. To find out the locations of these raving get-togethers and RSVP for these events, please join the Kingfield Homebased Professionals LinkedIn Group!
When my kids were young, we’d play a funny little conversation game—I’d name a thing, and they’d guess whether it was magical or mechanical. As in: Electric lights and dishwashers? Mechanical. Unicorns? Magic. Turning on the lights with a wave of a wand, or washing dishes with that same wave, a la a “Sorcerer’s Apprentice”? Well, magical, but supported by the mechanical, right?

The joys of living in Kingfield work the same way. It’s a magical neighborhood and I feel very lucky to live here—I know many of us do—amongst neighbors who take the time to know much about the distance of many family-owned stores and businesses, with public safety officers who can often be counted on. In a world full of stranger danger, big box chains and police forces elsewhere whose values don’t match the communities in which they work, none of the charms of Kingfield should pass unappreciated.

And while you’re appreciating it, notice too that much of this magic has the mechanical supporting it. National Night Out and the annual garage sale, supported by the KFNA staff and board members, give you the chance to meet the neighbors who always leave through their alley. Artistic neighbors send in beautiful images to grace our electrical boxes, but Sarah Linnes-Robinson, KFNA’s Executive Director, sends an endless stream of emails, letters and forms to jump through all the hoops to make them appear. Cheryl DeSaff, KFNA’s Project Organizer, keeps the crime and safety committee together, giving us all a place to talk directly with the folks who know the most about keeping our families safe and preventing crime. KFNA spends countless hours and untold attention on things that are almost too boring to talk about—sound walls, exit ramps, parking spaces for new restaurants, city budget lines. Boring, that is, unless we neglect them and the noise, the traffic, intrudes through the charm and the magic. The mechanical supports the magical.

Dear neighbors – if you love your neighbors and your neighborhood, I’m asking you to pair your love with money. These things go so well together! Here at KFNA we need so much of your time and attention and energy and goodwill, and, well... money. KFNA would be fully funded in a stable, self-sufficient way if every household donated $20. Short of a magic spell, we probably won’t get a donation from every single household this year, so I ask each of you: Please take stock of your means, and the value you give to the magical and mechanical of Kingfield and give as much as you are able.

Thank you!
According to a survey that over half of the participating organizations responded to, the event was well received. Almost eight of ten organizations open during the event reported an increase in the number of visitors that day compared to a typical Sunday, and about two-thirds of these thought their customer traffic at least doubled. Many of the organizations thought the event brought in new folks, not just their regular customers.

Surveyed organizations rated the event highly on many dimensions, such as “casts Nicollet Avenue in a favorable light,” “is a valuable use of the neighborhood association’s effort,” “felt welcoming to a diverse group of people,” and “strengthened the sense of community in the Lyndale and Kingfield neighborhoods.” No dimension, however, rated higher than “should be an annual event.” Virtually all the organizations said they would be somewhat or very likely to participate if Nicollet Open Streets is held again.

Colin Harris of the Minneapolis Bike Coalition is excited about the Nicollet Open Streets model, which gave neighborhood associations the lead on organizing the event and allowed the bike coalition to take a supporting, backseat role. If this model is replicated elsewhere, more people and neighborhoods will benefit from more Open Streets events throughout the city than the bike coalition could handle on its own.

Katherine Harter, a resident of Kingfield Neighborhood, worked with KFNA and LNA to evaluate Nicollet Open Streets and enjoyed biking the event with her family.

Evaluating Nicollet Open Streets
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Vegetable Growing Basics: A Series of Free Classes at MLK Park

Do you want to grow your own vegetables? Come to the Vegetable Growing Basics classes this spring at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center, 4055 Nicollet St. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 starting April 7 and going through May 5. Classes are free and open to adults.

Hennepin County Master Gardeners will show you how to plan and plant a vegetable garden, and how to take care of your garden until harvest time. Create the design for your own garden space, and practice gardening techniques through hands-on activities.

Garden at home, or at the park, which will have a community garden space dedicated to this program this year! 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 help answer questions that come up as your garden grows.

To register for the class, go to www.minneapolisparks.org, or phone the park at 612-370-4908. Specify 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, Kingfield Neighborhood Association, Minnesota State Horticultural Society, and the University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener Program in Hennepin County.

In Spanish classes also offered: The Master Gardeners will teach vegetable gardening classes in Spanish at the Sabathani Community Garden. Classes in Spanish will meet once a month from April through September. To register, call the Sabathani Garden line at 612-547-6910 and leave your name.

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Nicollet Votes

The election cycle has passed, Nicollet Votes has ended, and we’ve begun to analyze the results of the campaign. The preliminary data is already improving our understanding of the Lyndale, Kingfield, Stevens Square/Loring, and Whittier neighborhoods.

We staffed 50 door-knocks and one flyering event. We knocked on more than 1,762 doors, and had over 710 conversations between the four neighborhoods.

We fielded a total of 95 volunteer shifts, for about 250 volunteer hours.

We registered 50 voters, and passed out many more registration forms. In total, we added 223 potential new voters to the State of Minnesota’s Voter Activation Network (VAN).

One of our goals was to increase voter turnout in the neighborhoods from 57 percent (in 2010) to 65 percent of registered voters. We didn’t meet our goal, but the failure was caused by a bigger, nationwide problem, not a problem with our neighborhoods. Voter turnout for registered voters across the four neighborhoods reached an average of 53 percent, compared to the citywide average of 55 percent. The national average for eligible voters was 36.4 percent. Across the country, voter turnout was the lowest it has been since WWII.

Nicollet Votes knocked every door on the blocks we knocked, not just those of potential voters, a method that decreased our numbers. We sacrificed focused canvassing, targeting campaign in favor of reaching as wide and diverse a population as possible. Though the numbers suffered, we connected with nonvoters in the neighborhoods, and the survey was part of the door knocking benefitted from a wider sampling of our neighbors.

This survey asked people to rate their level of satisfaction with their neighborhood and to name what they like about their neighborhood and what issues concern them. In Kingfield, approximately 93 percent of respondents liked their neighborhood either “mostly” or “a lot.” They frequently mentioned “good neighbors,” walkability and convenience, and the many small businesses as things they appreciate. The most common concerns were traffic related, With residents citing issues with parking, speeding, bike lanes, and lack of towing, while other residents mentioned crime and safety concerns and airport noise.

– Nate Elder and Logan Carroll, Lyndale Neighborhood News

POtTERY CLASSES KICK OFF IN 2015

Pottery is one of the few forms of art that creates functional everyday pieces, and allows artists of all skill levels to work side by side and continually learn from one another. Working with your hands to relieve stress and create pieces that can be displayed or used is a wonderful leisure outlet for youth and adults alike. This craft has been making a comeback in popularity recently; if you hit a local art fair you will see all sorts of artists showing off their work.

In hopes to capture some of that enthusiasm, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park is launching a new pottery program starting in January, instructor Mike Smith is a working studio potter in Minneapolis who also has participated in the Powderhorn Park program for many years. He has participated in Empty Bowls projects around the country as well, and is excited to support the Kingfield Empty Bowls project. All new programs at the park will dedicate class time to support Kingfield Empty Bowls. Most classes will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school and into the evening.

Youth Classes will introduce kids to the clay arts, mainly through hand building, but we will discuss wheel throwing and other techniques. Projects will be fired and glazed. This class will be fun and creative.

Family Classes will allow parent and child to work together to explore their creative side collaboratively. The projects will be designed to be taken home and used in the home together as a family.

Beginning Wheel Throwing will be an intensive class, very limited in size, for the individual who would like to focus on wheel throwing skills. Work step by step on three different pottery wheels. The focus of this class is technique, not completed works, though we will make sure that you have something completed at the end of the class.

Senior Ceramics has a 30-year history at the park led by Eunice Rudolph. Painting and glazing ceramic figures will continue every week. Stop by and discover the vast assortment of ceramic molds one can choose to work on.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Park welcomes your feedback as we develop this new program. For specific class times and information, visit www.minneapolisparks.org.

Click on “Find a recreation center,” then choose “Rev. King Park,” and click on the winter/spring brochure. You can also stop by the park or call 612-370-4908.

– Peter Jaeger, Director MLK Park
the HOP

Your Social Playground

communALAB

Where Your Social Playground Meets Your Community

the HOP creates healthy boundary-pushing space

for social growth.

How we do it:
The HOP creates space for the community to come and experience true social interaction through diverse mediums, with the intention and purpose of creating:

- Interwoven Personal Community Relationships
- Socially Aware Minds & Globally Friendly Lifestyles

Upcoming events:

January 12th - “Moshka” by the HOP • 6:30-9 PM
Center for Performing Arts • 3754 Pleasant Ave S.
Moksha means emancipation, liberation or release from suffering. In a psychological sense, Moksha connotes freedom, self-realization, self-love, and self-knowledge.

Activities will include:

- Children’s Brain Lab • Women Empowered Dance
- Intellectual Gathering • Imaginary Creation Space
- Performing Arts • 3754 Pleasant Ave S.
- Community Resources and Awareness Dialogues

January 14 — communALAB

Moshka participants that care to will gather with a socially and globally open mind to create a community event centered around a Moshka-identified community topic or issue with a focus on intertwining personal and community relationships.

Partnerships:

the HOP is a proud partner with the Center for Performing Arts. The center will be the main hub for events and community gatherings.

communALAB is a new partnership between the HOP and the KFNA with the goal of hosting events that intertwine personal and community relationships in a creative and artistic manner.

Not sure what this is going to be? Neither are we! Be brave, come check it out!

Email: hop.playground@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/hop.playground

KINGFIELD:

Thinking Outside the [Utility] Box!

Thanks to a fine selection of images by local photographers and a graffiti prevention grant from the City of Minneapolis, late this fall Kingfield completed Phase II of our utility box wrapping project! When first conceptualized by KFNA and presented to the City in 2009, while acknowledging it was creative and original, there was skepticism that this idea was going to be long lasting and effective in stopping tagging. However, Public Works approved Kingfield for a pilot project (Phase I in our minds!) that was installed in 2010. It quickly proved effective, with graffiti tagging on the wrapped boxes dropping significantly. In fact, in the last four years, the initial nine boxes were only tagged five times. It didn’t take long for other neighborhoods to start clamoring for information on how to do a similar project. To date, 166 boxes are wrapped across the city, and many more are in the works.

A huge THANK YOU goes to all the photographers who submitted images for consideration for the project. The images that were selected are diverse, but all offer a range of pattern that deters graffiti artists from marking the boxes—whether out of respect for the artwork or because their image would not be very visible, we don’t know! Many of this year’s images also offer a magnifying-glass look at our community, due to the size of the final images—from the startling giant-sized Converse tennis shoe (Katie Korpi), to the bee you may never have noticed on the Echinacea (Bob Shrank), to the bowling ball-sized tennis balls of Alby Zatkoff, who sadly died this summer before seeing his photographs on a box. The images make you stop, and often laugh. Hopefully they also encourage people to look both at the artwork and at the world around them a bit more closely.

Congratulations to all the following artists, whose images were selected by both the KFNA Volunteer Selection Team and approved by the Minneapolis Arts Commission:

Jolene Sylvester • Pierce Kroh • Alby Zatkoff • Katie Korpi • Bob Shrank
Stephanie Torbert • August Olson • Kristina Perkins • Brenda Johnson

This year’s project wrapped an additional 10 boxes in Kingfield, largely enhancing our new Nicollet streetscape and replacing some of the boxes we lost in the recent reconstruction of the avenue. Although we had plans to host a box tour (with boxed wine, of course!) this past fall, the early snowfall got in our way, and a spring tour will be arranged and announced for 2015. Keep on the lookout for this, when we start to thaw out, in the Kingfield weekly e-News or this paper.

— Sarah Linnes-Robinson, KFNA Executive Director & Curating Artist for the Project

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WINTER 2014