

Kingfield News

Winter 2008

www.kingfield.org

a quarterly publication



Kingfield Locals Return Home to Build Businesses

Small businesses employ roughly half the workforce in the United States, and since the mid-1990s, small businesses have created 60-80% of the net new jobs, according to the Small Business Administration. The current economy may be in a recession, but that's not stopping new businesses from getting their start — even right here in our neighborhood.

Divine Image Boutique, next door to Nicollet Ace Hardware at 38th and Nicollet, opened its doors in September. This trendy urban-wear shop features the latest and hottest urban styles straight from the coasts. Owner Trace Maxwell grew up in Kingfield, and he made a living in real estate before starting Divine Image Boutique. With a current ad in *City Pages* and a

future online presence, his business plan calls for him to expand adjacent to his current location and eventually grow to add a mall outlet. "Right now, I'm looking for a web developer to build my website," he said. The space is decorated in stunning red and black, and the atmosphere exudes as much style as the merchandise the store features. Trace says he chose his location as a way to give back to his community. Try Divine Image Boutique for your last-minute gift shopping.

Open since December 2007, **Chelly's Cafe** on the northwest corner of 38th and Nicollet features all-American cuisine with a clear southern influence for dine-in or take-out. Great food and very reasonable prices make this an excellent destination for families in our area.

Owner Jimmy Ferguson named the café for his daughter Michelle. Like Trace, Jimmy lived in the Kingfield neighborhood. He raised his 10 children here. Fish and wings combos are a popular menu item, and the menu on Sundays is always something different. Look for convenient parking on the side of the building.

If you enjoy a local neighborhood business, tell a friend or neighbor and help these locals advertise by word of mouth! New small businesses need your support now more than ever. Remember your local businesses, both familiar and new, when you venture to eat out or shop, for the holidays or any day.

— Grant Vslak

Bienvenue to KFNA's New Project Organizer

On October 8, 2008, the Kingfield Neighborhood Association board approved the hire of Sarah Gleason as KFNA's new Project Organizer. Gleason, a South Minneapolis native, is replacing Joanna Sahlberg Hallstrom, KFNA's Project Organizer since 2004, who resigned this fall.



Sarah Gleason has a long history of working in programs involving social justice, outreach, and community involvement. "We received applications from more than 20 qualified applicants," said Sarah Linnes-Robinson, KFNA's Executive Director. "Sarah Gleason's resume and cover letter stood out to the review team immediately. We were all impressed with her strong experience, both working with volunteers and being one. Having grown up in the area, she also has familiarity with the neighborhood. These factors have allowed her to hit the ground running," Linnes-Robinson said.

Gleason spent the latter part of the 1980s as a Peace Corps volunteer in Burundi, Africa, teaching farmers how to build ponds and raise fish. In the early 1990s she moved back to Minnesota, just long enough to earn a master's degree in Agricultural Education from the University of Minnesota. She then lived in Senegal, where she spent the latter part of the decade training Peace Corps volunteers in community development and cross-cultural adaptation. While in the Peace Corps, Sarah learned to speak fluent French.

In 1999, Gleason returned to the United States, accepting a position with the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation. As director for their AmeriCorps' Neighborhood Leadership Program, she focused on civic engagement, youth leadership, and diversity issues. Since 2005, she

has been a partner in Side by Side Associates, a St. Paul consulting agency that works with groups—community, nonprofit, educational, and governmental—to build and strengthen community.

As KFNA's Project Organizer, Sarah Gleason will organize volunteers in each neighborhood project, providing support as needed; this includes assisting volunteers in defining goals, motivating leadership, and recruiting any necessary assistance from the community or city. She will be responsible for the initiation, oversight, and implementation of specific elements of KFNA's NRP Action Plan, including:

- Building community within the neighborhood, with a focus on strengthening neighbors' relationships to each other and to KFNA
- Event planning
- Neighborhood outreach, including block club organizing
- Supporting the Crime Prevention and Safety Committee and its projects
- Maintaining a close working relationship with Martin Luther King Park and any citizen efforts related to park programming and safety.

Whether you would like to learn more about neighborhood projects, bone up on your French, or find out how to start your own fish farm here in Kingfield, make a point of introducing yourself to "Sarah G." You'll see her in the KFNA office or at the next KFNA event. You can reach her at sarahg@kingfield.org or 823.5980 #3.

— Marshall Onsrud

Thank You 2008 Kingfield Business Sponsors!

Anodyne Coffeehouse @ 43rd • Butter Bakery Cafe
Colonial Cleaners • Corner Table • DreamHost
Fresenius Medical Care • Grand Cafe
Hawkins Automotive • Nicollet Hardware
Northrup Roofing and Remodeling
Odds n Ends • Rau + Barber Photography
Unger Construction • Victor's 1959 Café

...and a **special thanks** to those super special Kingfield restaurants that donated a share of their profits through Eating for Art on October 2nd: Anodyne, Curran's, Grand Cafe, and Victor's; as well as Lyndale neighborhood's Butter (but we all know Dan lives in Kingfield!), Champions, and El Paraiso!



KINGFIELD COMMUNITY ART SHOW & SILENT AUCTION

March 21, 2009 • 7 to 10 p.m.
Rau + Barber • 4244 Nicollet Ave. S.

CALL FOR ARTISTS:

Redefine, Recreate, Reinvent:

Materials for the creative soul are all around us. Local artists and community members are invited to create 2-dimensional or 3D art, reusing or rediscovering items and images in unexpected ways.

Registration Deadline: March 5, 2009

Artwork Due: March 7 and 8, 2009

Selected pieces hung for predisplay at Anodyne
All pieces sold by auction Saturday, March 21, 2009

To register, visit www.kingfield.org or call 612.823.5980.

The 411 on 311

On the third floor of the third precinct office of the Minneapolis police department, a team of approximately 17 operators awaits your phone call. Want to haul away that old stove behind the garage? Think your car got towed? Maybe you want to send the mayor a birthday card! The folks at the 311 office specialize in knowing the ins and outs of city operations, and they will get you where you need to go.

Three years ago, Minneapolis implemented the 311 system. One objective was to filter out the calls that can unnecessarily clog up the precious bandwidth of the 911 system, such as those relating to snow or nuisance animals. Another goal of the design was to simplify citizen access to government resources and contacts. In most phone books, government information is listed in the blue pages: more than 275 numbers, for everything from election offices to public health nurses. With 311, there is no need to sort through the numbers. Some operators are bilingual, and the city contracts a third party interpretive service that can handle more than 170 languages, ensuring that all Minneapolis residents will have access to information they need.

The concept is simple: just dial 3-1-1 from any phone,

cellular or landline, from anywhere within city limits, and be connected to an operator. There is no charge for the call from the city, although be aware of your own service provider's usage charges. If you are not within city limits, the number will not work. Another option is to go to the city's website, at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/311/>, and start a live chat with an operator.

Kingfield residents have been making use of 311. During the month of August, the city reports 39,337 calls made to 311; of that total, 67 complaints related to Kingfield. The top five issues from Kingfield residents were exterior nuisances (19), graffiti (15), residential conditions (11), abandoned vehicles (10), and general animal complaints (6).

When you make a report to 311, you are given a tracking number and a target completion date. That tracking number can be used to track the progress of the issue you are calling about, either online or by phone, allowing you to monitor the city's response to your complaint.

Operators handle not only nuisance complaints and informational calls, but they can also take non-emergency police reports over the phone. They can handle issues such as bicycle theft or vandalism, failure to pay, and restraining order violations — situations in which

evidence is not an issue, and police officer presence is not required.

Minneapolis 311 director Don Stickney says, "A lot of times folks need these reports for their insurance companies." He advises that residents can go online at any time of the day or night, fill out a report, and have a copy of the report immediately emailed back to them, saving the time and hassle of waiting for an officer report.

It is important to remember that 311 operators do not dispatch officers and cannot handle emergencies. If you are ever unsure about a crime you wish to report, always err on the side of caution and call 911.

— Amanda Vetch

311 Minneapolis Information & Services

Operators available M - F • 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.
TTY (612) 673-2157
(Teletypewriting service for hearing impaired)

From the KFNA President

It's a strange time to be part of a neighborhood non-profit. The economy is wobbly, so non-profits are feeling an extension of the pinch everyone feels—people are cautious about letting go of disposable income, perhaps putting off any donations. The City of Minneapolis also has withdrawn some of the funding promised as part of phase 2 of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

In spite of these facts, I can honestly say that Kingfield, and by extension the Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA), has bright days ahead. The commitment to the neighborhood so many people exhibit, whether autonomously or as part of KFNA, demonstrates an indefatigable effort to define and solve the issues that face our neighborhood.

In one such example of this effort, over 10 years ago, neighbors identified the lack of fresh food as an issue

in Kingfield. When feasibility studies of the first solution — a neighborhood food coop — were not favorable, the neighborhood focused its efforts on the creation of a Farmers' Market. Now after eight years of operation, the Market has become quite a neighborhood success story, and every Sunday you can expect to find food, music, and neighbors at 43rd and Nicollet.

In weighing KFNA's role in the Farmers' Market, the decision was made recently to spin the Farmers' Market into its own organization. This will help streamline the Market's operations during the season, and control the bottom line for both KFNA and the Market. The two organizations will continue to work collaboratively toward the shared goals of bringing the neighborhood together every Sunday. We hope this can be a new paradigm for the neighborhood association: to be an incubator of long-term projects that promote our neighborhood, bring us

together, and identify Kingfield as a wonderful place to live and work.

A few days ago, you should have received a letter from me asking for donations to KFNA. Please consider doing so. Even though the economy is uncertain, the work in the neighborhood soldiers on. In fact, the mortgage meltdown has created more work for KFNA, as we explore innovative ways to prevent and mitigate the effects of foreclosure in the neighborhood. Undoubtedly, Kingfield is a great place to call home. We have a wonderful track record of identifying and taking action on issues that improve our quality of life, and your support in these efforts is greatly appreciated.

— Tom Parent
KFNA President

Green Grows on Wentworth

You may have noticed activity at 4307 Wentworth in recent weeks, but not thought much of the new house being built. The lack of vacant lots in desirable city areas has produced a recent trend in Southwest Minneapolis — to raze small houses to make way for new houses. However, the construction at 4307 Wentworth has a bit of a different story.

Last winter, Hennepin County took possession of 4307 Wentworth on tax forfeiture. The County has several options available for disposal of tax-forfeited properties. After consulting with the Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA), the County chose to redevelop the property itself, with the expectation of selling the property upon completion of the project. This strategy has been used by the County a number of times in the past, but this project is unique in that funding was awarded by Hennepin County to utilize this house as a "green" demonstration project.

As part of the new home's design, green features were selected, with two goals in mind: reducing the home's impact on the natural environment, and reducing expenses for the future homeowner. A geo-thermal heating and cooling system and


increased insulation will reduce energy consumption. Fiber-cement siding will provide long-term durability and reduce maintenance needs, while the landscape will be complimented with rain gardens to reduce rainwater runoff as well as overall water consumption.

STAY TUNED...
In the next issue of *Kingfield News*, learn more about the effectiveness of geo-thermal heating from your Kingfield neighbors who are already using it, Rich and Martha Ingram!

From the start, this project has been a cooperative partnership between KFNA and Hennepin County. The property manager from Hennepin County met with the KFNA Board, Redevelopment Committee and Green Committee numerous times throughout the planning and design for this project. The result is a project that should meet the neighborhood's stated goals of increasing green demonstration and providing affordable housing options in Kingfield. Upon completion, the house will be sold to the City of Lakes Community Land Trust (CLCLT). The CLCLT will maintain ownership of the land and sell the house to a qualified family to retain perpetual affordability.

Watch for more details on the green strategies implemented and a public tour after construction is completed this winter.

— Dave Saddoris



Kingfield

About the Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA)

The Kingfield neighborhood runs from 36th to 46th Streets, between Lyndale Avenue 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 kfna@email.com
Website www.kingfield.org

The KFNA board meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at MLK Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S.

2008-09 KFNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mark Brandow	612.306.0044
David Brauer	612.822.8601
Chris DeParde	
Secretary	612.823.0182
Arthur Knowes	
Vice President	612.823.0808
Tom Parent	
President	612.331.2463
Karen Pieper	612.822.2304
David Potosky	612.825.6630
Dave Saddoris	612.396.3472
JobyLynn Sassily	
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Diana Schleisman	612.822.4690
Chris Sur	612.377.0544
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KFNA STAFF:
Executive Director:
Sarah Linnes-Robinson 612.823.5980
Project Organizer:
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KINGFIELD NEWS
If you are interested in writing, editing, designing, or taking photographs for the *Kingfield News*, call KFNA at 612.823.5980.

Around the Block with Mrs. Garfield

When I was told of the group of people who live on the 4200 block of Garfield — how they "haze" the newest tenants on their block by bestowing them with the loan of a special piece of artwork to be hung on their wall — I just knew these were my kind of people! And as I set out to find more about the portrait of "Mrs. Garfield" and those who have come to love this fictitious woman, I learned about the spirit of this block, and bonds that run deep through this micro-community.

It's a block with an impressive array of occupations: from professional clowns, a puzzlemaker and a handyman, to a playwright, award-winning chef and a fine art photographer. This is the type of block that holds a National Night Out parade with so many people involved that some had to volunteer to be the audience. There are poker nights with story telling, happy hours, and Saturday morning coffee and doughnut gatherings.

Barb and Butch Strand have hosted an annual 4th of July brunch for more than 30 years, and Linda and Ralph Grieling have the best house to visit on Halloween. I heard a lot about Ralph while researching this story; it seems he is always pulling fun pranks and finding interesting ways to pass the time: from the "bumping bulldog" races his dogs participate in at Christmas parties, to drinking what must have been his body weight daily in milk to provide Halloween milk-carton luminaries for half the block. Another hot spot this Halloween was Greg Roger's house at his backyard bonfire. This was especially a great time for the 10 adults who gathered to share eight bottles of wine after the kids had had their fun.

As interesting as all the neighbors are, I was still very interested in the occupant who has lived in the most homes, Mrs. Garfield. Who was she? How did she come to be? Has she ever been hidden in a closet? Do people wonder if anyone will ever move from such a cool block so they can be rid of her?

According to resident Laurel Deloria, the story began with President Garfield: The block ran him in their own private election for president against Reagan, with the motto "might as well be a dead man." The block had been throwing many "Garfield parties" for years, even putting on a play about the death of Garfield.

A portrait of President Garfield was made and served as

mascot at block parties. But one year when a family moved out of 4224 Garfield, a new, very special portrait was discovered in the attic. It was claimed by Ralph, who declared it to be "Mrs. Garfield," and he decreed that the newest block residents would have to display it in their homes.

The painting is described by Greg as "unique — clearly completed by a novice, expressing a slightly off-balanced facial structure with eyes that eerily don't look at you." A face that only a mother could love? Perhaps, but according to Lela and Joe Mathison, Mrs. G's current housemates, it's a face that comes with decades of amazing stories written on the back of the frame. Playwright Kevin Kling told me that when you are first given the painting at the block party, you are not sure if it's a joke. You have to take your cue from all the earnest neighbors hovering over you to check out your reaction.



The extent to which these earnest neighbors care for one another is not limited to the good times. Kevin was in a motorcycle accident and said that, while he recovered, his grass was always cut, the garbage was taken out, there was food on the porch, and nobody said a word — it was just done. He states, "This block has a way of celebrating loudly and quietly helping."

This spirit of support was echoed by Greg Rogers: He moved to the block with his wife Emily, who at the time was fighting cancer. As Greg puts it, the neighbors immediately embraced them. They knew that something was wrong with Emily's health, but seemed to manage a balance of being welcoming but not encroaching. This overwhelming comfort and acceptance they felt from their neighbors helped Emily outlive her diagnosis by four years.

Greg received food, invitations for home cooked meals, comfort and hope both while Emily was still with him and after she had passed. He describes Mrs. G — he displayed her in his living room for over 5 years — as a "unique gift," and "the first gift of many that are given to you when you move on the block."

Somehow I couldn't help but believe that among the tangible and intangibles, the biggest gift of all that you are given while living on this block, is just simply to live there.

— JobyLynn Sassily James



My Favorite Things about Kingfield Neighborhood

It is really cool and exciting to live in the Kingfield neighborhood. Here are my favorite things about it:

First, the **MARTIN LUTHER KING RECREATION CENTER** has great classes kids can take for free. All parents have to do is sign their child up. The classes mainly teach sports such as baseball, basketball, and soccer. Once I took a basketball class and learned the proper way to dribble, shoot, and play defense. After I took a number of classes, I could tell my basketball skills improved.

Second, my favorite stores to buy gifts are **COLOR WHEEL** and **PETERSEN FLOWERS**. Color Wheel is a store that sells funky jewelry and wonderful art by local artists. It is also a one-chair salon where I get my hair trimmed. The owner is Tammy Ortegon. She is a local artist and a stylist. Color Wheel has an "Artists Under 18" art show every year. I have sold my artwork there for two years. Right now I have an art piece there called "More Peace" that's waiting to be purchased. If you like Barack Obama, you definitely want to check out this gallery.

Petersen Flowers is another cool place to support. This flower shop is great! The flowers are always vibrant colors. I recommend purchasing flowers from Petersen Flowers when you want to get someone fresh flowers just for fun or a holiday.

Third, I think the **KINGFIELD FARMERS' MARKET** is a fun place because there are a variety of items you can purchase in our neighborhood. Every time I go, there are different items for sale. There are usually homegrown fruit and vegetables, fair trade coffee, funky art, nuts, contests, gardening experts and live music. The contests are fun. Last month I entered the pumpkin bake-off. I did not win, but it was still fun.

Last, I like the **SURROUNDINGS**. I like to just ride my bike up and down the sidewalks sometimes. I will bike to stores near my home and the market. I will even bike or walk to the gas station just to get a snack. I think the Kingfield neighborhood is a fun community to explore. I think everyone here should get as involved in the Kingfield neighborhood as I am, and you will see why I like it so much.

— *Dominica Asberry-Lindquist*
11 years old

In Need of Some Help This Holiday?

Although statistics show that people in Kingfield are largely weathering this financial crisis, KFNA is sure that some people in the neighborhood are struggling to stay afloat. While foreclosures in Kingfield are nowhere near rivaling the foreclosure and vacancy rates of other neighborhoods in south central or north Minneapolis, they are higher here than in any other southwest Minneapolis neighborhood. Although KFNA does not have the expertise to help you directly, we wanted to provide a list of resources to you in case you, or a neighbor, are facing financial difficulties this year.

If you are a homeowner and are currently facing a foreclosure, or are falling behind on your mortgage, any of the following community agencies can provide free and confidential counseling to help you avoid foreclosure, or help you create an action plan if foreclosure has begun:

- Minnesota Home Ownership Center:
651-659-9336, or toll free at 1-866-462-6466
or visit www.hocmn.org
- Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity:
612-331-4090 or visit www.tchabitat.org
- Minneapolis 311 Foreclosure Helpline:
Dial 311 (within Minneapolis) or 612-673-3000
- Prevencion de Embargo de su Casa en Espanol,
por favor llame: 651-292-0131

If you are a renter caught up in foreclosure, you have rights too, including the right to stay in the property up to 6 months. For free counseling help, call Legal Aid of Minneapolis at 612-334-5970.

If you are having trouble paying your utility bills this winter remember that Minnesota has a "cold weather rule." This rule states that eligible residential energy customers are protected from service disconnection from Oct. 15 through April 15. To avoid disconnection, customers who receive a notice of proposed disconnection must immediately contact the utility and commit to a payment plan. Payment plans take into account your household income and any extenuating circumstances, and are arranged between you and your energy provider. Please note that Excel requires you to miss a payment and receive a disconnect notice before they will set up a payment plan, whereas Centerpoint encourages you to contact them if you foresee trouble in paying your bill.

Upon calling your energy provider to discuss a payment plan, you will be referred to contact Community Action of Minneapolis. Community Action of Minneapolis is a private non-profit agency that provides programs and services to low-income residents in our City. Originally started in 1976 under the authority of the Minneapolis City Council, they reorganized themselves in 1982 to bring together experts from the low-income, private and public arenas to make joint decisions on their operations and programs which focus on eliminating poverty in Minneapolis.

Community Action of Minneapolis offers a number of programs in weatherization and energy, including the Energy Assistance Program (EAP). Director Tony Spears encourages residents facing financial troubles to call his agency at the same time you call your utility company, because you will submit your EAP application directly to Community Action. (See the center box for contact information for Community Action.)

Approval for the EAP is based upon your household's last three months of income. Spears stated that they have seen more applications this year due the market's downturn, which has prevented many seniors from

drawing their retirement income. Spears stressed that assets are not taken into account to qualify for this program; Community Action of Minneapolis would rather trust that those who ask are truly in need than have someone needing assistance fall victim to an overzealous screening process.

If you or your family needs winter clothing, a number of local low-cost sources exist in our area. **The Salvation Army** sells new and used clothing at several metro-area stores, including one at 38th and Nicollet. Profits from Salvation Army stores go to operate the Salvation Army Rehabilitation Center in downtown Minneapolis. **Clarissa's Clothing Closet** (renamed last year for Bryant neighborhood resident and great local advocate for children and families, Clarissa Walker) is a program at Sabathani Community Center, 310 East 38th Street. The clothing closet is open to all shoppers regardless of income, and it operates from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Both programs are also happy to accept donations of your used and outgrown clothing. Many of our local food shelves also offer seasonal clothing at no cost.

For more information on assistance in paying your utility bills, contact:

XCEL ENERGY

24-hour residential customer service line:
1-800-895-4999
www.xcelenergy.com/Residential/ManageMyAccount/EnergyAssistance/Pages/EnergyAssistance.aspx

CENTERPOINT

Metro area: 612-372-4727
Mon - Fri. 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
www.centerpointenergy.com/services/naturalgas/residential/customerservice/contactus/MN/

COMMUNITY ACTION OF MINNEAPOLIS:
Energy Assistance Program applications are available online at www.campls.org/2008-2009_EAP_Application.pdf.
Or, call customer service: 612-335-5837 and request an application, which will come with a stamped, self-addressed return envelope.

211 - UNITED WAY'S FIRST CALL FOR HELP
Call 2-1-1 and press "9" to speak with a customer representative who can help link you with housing, transportation, and medical assistance, among other things.

Lastly, with the rising cost of food, some of **you may need help filling your family's stomachs** this winter. The Kingfield neighborhood currently is served by two food shelves that are part of the Twin Cities Emergency Food Shelf Network. This network status enables them to purchase food at a discount rate through Second Harvest.

The Incarnation Church Food Shelf, 3801 Pleasant Avenue South, is open to anyone who lives on or between Nicollet and Lyndale Avenues, from 32nd Street to the north and 50th Street to the south. The only criteria to utilizing the food shelf is that you reside within the boundaries; computer records are kept on each Food Shelf family and include identification, place of residence, and frequency of visits.

The Food Shelf is staffed by two regular staff members and several volunteers. Incarnation also has a staff person with a social work background who has helped families find housing and other social service needs. Besides food, they also provide seasonally appropriate, gently used clothes and shoes through the St. Vincent de Paul Chapter of Incarnation.

In 2006, the Incarnation Chapter of St. Vincent de Paul helped 126 families with needs such as gas vouchers, bus passes, medical co-pays and prescriptions, and food vouchers. The food shelf served over 1200 households that same year and is supported by Incarnation parishioners at about 75%.

If you live on Stevens or 1st Avenue, you need to travel out of the neighborhood to access the appropriate food shelf; **Mrs. Walker's Market**, 310 E. 38th Street, is the Sabathani Community Center food shelf, which serves a large area of Minneapolis that includes Kingfield. Sabathani asks that you call them at 612-821-2303 to confirm eligibility. Regular food shelf hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; and 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. They are also open the third Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School, 3901 1st Avenue South, runs an independent food shelf. Although the school is private, the food shelf is open for all who have need. Pilgrim does not require identification and works with all people on their word. It is small and currently serves only 10 visitors a week, but the food shelf has generous supporters (individually and church funded) that keep it shelved and stocked. **The Pilgrim Food Shelf** is open for the public from 3 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Stop at the Pilgrim office for more information or call 612-825-5375.

It is not hard to figure out, but is difficult to resolve, that when peoples' needs increase, their ability to make donations decreases. A recent *Star Tribune* article (www.startribune.com/local/stpaul/34064434.html) noted that requests at local food shelves are up (a South St. Paul food shelf saw a 34% increase in the requests for food this September and October over the same period in 2007), but donations over the same period fell by 3%.

In 2006, KFNA was able to provide a one-time \$5,000 Social Service Grant to the Incarnation Food Shelf to help the church deal with the increased demand. Needs from the community have continued to rise, and the Food Shelf continues to struggle to meet our residents' needs. All of the agencies mentioned above would welcome your donations of time, supplies, or cash. Please call them directly to make arrangements if you are in a position to help your neighbors this year. This year could prove trying for many Kingfield neighbors, and your support could make the difference to help them through.

If you have other ideas on how KFNA can help neighbors in need, feel free to call the KFNA office any weekday between 9 a.m. and noon at 612.823.5980 or send a message to kfna@email.com and discuss your ideas. KFNA Staff would be happy to talk with you directly if you are having financial difficulties; sometimes having a neighbor to talk to can help more than anything else, and maybe together we can figure out some alternative solutions to the ones listed here. The real message—you have done nothing wrong if you are having a hard time meeting your financial obligations. Please ask for help before it is too late to save your home, your savings, and, as much as possible, your family's mental well-being.

— *Sarah Linnes-Robinson*
KFNA Executive Director

Public School Choice for Kingfielders: Not So Elementary

Many families reading this article already know that the Kingfield neighborhood does not have a designated elementary school. Instead, Kingfield is part of open area F2, as labeled by the Minneapolis Public Schools District. Many families reading this have struggled with the wide number of school choices offered to this open area, and have wished for one clear choice — a school that most kids from their immediate neighborhood would attend. Let me be clear, this story is not directed at these families. This story is aimed at those just starting to think about school choices, to make sure that these families know that one, they don't have any guaranteed community school for their new kindergartener to attend; and two, to make sure these families are aware of the special rules that apply within the public schools' open areas.

Let me back up almost 10 years: A group of Kingfield families was upset by the city-wide move back to "community schools." This change guaranteed attendance to incoming kindergarteners within a specific boundary to a specific school — but Kingfield didn't have one. Facilities close to Kingfield had been torn down years ago (both Louis Agassiz Elementary at 38th and Harriet and Margaret Fuller at 48th and Harriet), and Barton was already a successful open magnet program, whose program the District refused to modify to allow Kingfielders to attend. Kingfield parents worked with the District to assure a "three-choice guarantee" for all open area families with incoming kindergarteners. The guarantee meant that if a family's choice card was received by the district on time, and their school selection included two community schools and one magnet facility within the designated bussing area, the family would be assured to get one of their three choices.

Fast forward to last spring. In May the *Southwest Journal* (Vol. 19, No. 10) wrote that two dozen Kingfield families hadn't received any of their school choices. The article provided some insight into why this may have happened, but KFNA wanted to follow up directly with the District to discuss this issue from last year. What steps are they taking to make sure it is not going to happen again?

I met with Jackie Turner of Student Placement in November 2008 to talk about the three-choice guarantee and any anticipated changes. Turner affirmed that

the May *Southwest Journal* article was true, and that these families had not originally received their choices; she stressed, however, that the District worked with them directly and most found Minneapolis Public Schools that they are happy with. In fact, over half of the children were placed in their first-choice school come school start. Turner said that determining placement in southwest Minneapolis is especially difficult, because many parents enroll their kids in multiple programs, often including preschool and kindergarten options. These families often don't decide on the best school for their child until a week or two before the school year; these last-minute "withdrawals" from multiple public and private school programs cause a ripple of placements throughout southwest Minneapolis in the few weeks before school starts.

The "glitch" to placing these open area kids last spring, according to Turner, was siblings, a school placement priority that ranks above open area children. This unexpected bubble of kindergarten-aged siblings filled almost two classrooms at both Burroughs and Lake Harriet. To avoid a similar issue this year, a survey is being sent to all Barton, Burroughs, and Lake Harriet parents (often Kingfield families' three top choices). The survey will ask whether they have an incoming kindergartener in 2009. Turner stressed that if you are in these schools and reading this article, please be sure to return your survey to your school by the deadline.

I questioned Turner about whether the District was anticipating changing attendance boundary lines for these popular community schools, to relieve the attendance crunch. Turner said the District does not plan to change these community school boundaries at this time. And where does this leave the open area's guarantee? Turner stated that although she did not anticipate any changes to the choices provided this year, the final outcome will be based upon the results of the survey. Turner did confirm, however, that the District is continuing to look into open areas, and the need for them, as part of their ongoing work of evaluating boundaries, transportation, and school choice. The District is also working hard to market the strength of other school choices that are available to open areas. For example, area F2 includes more than 14 kindergarten/elementary schools options, including Ramsey Fine Arts, Armatage Montessori, Windom

Dual Spanish Immersion, and Whittier International.

As for the push for a Kingfield community school? Interestingly, the parents who fought for the three-choice guarantee 10 years ago are starting their search for high schools at a time of reorganization for the District for these facilities. It turns out that Washburn High is actually now the community high school for the entire Kingfield neighborhood. I am hearing strong support from this group as they embrace this opportunity of having all the neighborhood kids together in one facility at last.

— Sarah Linnes-Robinson
KFNA Executive Director

DATES TO BE AWARE OF:

SCHOOL INFORMATION FAIR
For Pre-K thru Grade 8
January 10, 2009, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Hyatt Regency
1300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis

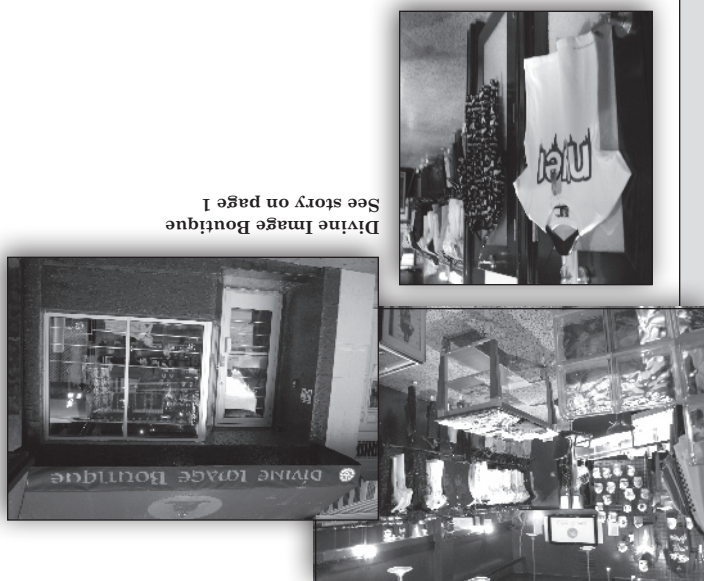
HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATION DEADLINE
January 31, 2009

PREK-8 SCHOOL REQUEST DEADLINE
February 28, 2009

Information on school choice and all of the schools available to Kingfield residents can be found at:
www.mpls.k12.mn.us/schools_registration.html. You can also pick up Guide Booklets outside the Kingfield Neighborhood Association office starting in December. KFNA is in the Center for Performing Arts, Room 101, 3754 Pleasant Ave. S.

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www.kingfield.org



Diving Image Boutique
See story on page 1

Date	Event	Time	Location	Contact
Now-Dec. 19	Registration for 2009 Youth Winter Sports		Martin Luther King Park • 4055 Nicollet Ave. S.	
Dec. 5	Build with Wood • Studio Bricolage @ Leonard's Basement	7-10 p.m.	4301 Nicollet Ave. S.	www.studiobricolage.org
Dec. 6	Nicholas Carter Concert • Judson Church	7 p.m.	4101 Harriet Ave. S.	info@judsonchurch.org
Dec. 6	Bake 'n' Boutique • Incarnation Church	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	3801 Pleasant Ave. S.	debw@incarnation-church.com
Dec. 7	Pancake Breakfast • Incarnation Church	8:30 a.m. - Noon	3801 Pleasant Ave. S.	debw@incarnation-church.com
Dec. 7	Pioneer Girls Make and Bake Sale • Pilgrim Church & School	8:30 - 11:30 a.m.	3901 1st Ave. S.	www.pilgrimmonline.net
Dec. 7	Family Building Day • Leonard's Basement	1-3 p.m.	4301 Nicollet Ave. S.	www.leonardsbasement.org
Dec. 11	3rd Annual Youth & Teen Appreciation Dinner	6-8 p.m.	MLK Park • 4055 Nicollet Ave. S.	www.minneapolisparcs.org
Dec. 12	Sara Thomsen Concert • Judson Church	7 p.m.	4101 Harriet Ave. S.	info@judsonchurch.org
Dec. 29-Jan. 2	School release programs • Leonard's Basement		4301 Nicollet Ave. S.	www.leonardsbasement.org
Jan. 2	2nd Annual Rube Goldberg Build	7-10 p.m.	Studio Bricolage @ Leonard's Basement	www.studiobricolage.org
Jan. 9	Fundamental Basketball (10 weeks) - kids 5-8	6:15-7:45 p.m.	Martin Luther King Park • www.minneapolisparcs.org	
Jan. 21	Experiential Learning for All: Enhancing the Future of Education in Our Schools • Pilgrim Church & School	6:30 p.m.	3901 1st Ave. S.	www.pilgrimmonline.net
Feb. 6	ICE & SNOW! • Studio Bricolage @ Leonard's Basement	7-10 p.m.	4301 Nicollet Ave. S.	www.studiobricolage.org
Feb. 22	Jazz Sunday Service • Judson Church	10 a.m.	4101 Harriet Ave. S.	info@judsonchurch.org
Mar. 5	Registration deadline for "Art": Kingfield Community Art Show & Silent Auction (see Call for Artists on page 1)	11:59 p.m.		www.kingfield.org

Calendar of Events