A New Vision Comes to Kingfield

This spring, the long-standing "Welcome to Kingfield" mural on the corner of 39th and Nicollet has been taken over by teenagers with a social conscience. "The students are not typical troubleshooting vandals," say the kids, who are part of a service-learning class from Loring Nicollet Alternative School, led by instructor Victoria Peña. They have drawn heavily from what they have heard about the community and how they could use it to bring the neighborhood together. The kids were impacted by what they heard from residents of crime, gang violence, housing issues, and poverty. They drew heavily on the work of British graffiti artist Banksy in conveying a message of hopes and unity for the area. "They were very excited about being able to give a gift to the neighborhood, to give back in some way," says Peña.

But their mural will not be permanent. Peña intends to hold her class again for new students, using the same space. "The idea is for this to be a changing space," she says. "Hopefully we’ll be able to paint another mural with new ideas, and involve the community more with a new project. The idea [is] to keep it alive with current events in the area."

The original mural was installed by the Kingfield Neighborhood Association in 2005. KFNA director Sarah Laimes-Robinson said that although the neighborhood board may miss the original work, it is exciting to have an active canvas at this site depicting change, as well as youthful energy and involvement. She added that no matter what the image is each year, KFNA hopes that it will still serve as a welcoming gateway to the neighborhood and prevent graffiti on the wall.

Stay Up-to-Date Between Issues of Kingfield News

Did you know that KFNAs provide a weekly e-newsletter to supplement this paper? It includes meeting notices, special events, and classes. Anyone interested may subscribe to the list by sending an email to kingfield-news-update@list乔治. Every month, regardless of holidays, subscriptions, and new vehicles, you can depend on the Kingfield News to present interesting articles and events that are relevant to our community. So make sure to stay updated by subscribing to our weekly e-newsletter today!

Building Nicollet Square

Ground breaking for Nicollet Square, the proposed mixed-use development at 37th Street and Nicollet, is delayed but still on track.

Replacing a former funeral home and parking lot, Nicollet Square will provide 42 studio apartments for young people transitioning from homelessness or foster care, with on-site life skills programs and supportive services provided by YouthLink. Nicollet Square is currently negotiating with a community partner to develop a coffee shop/bakery that will be a wonderful neighborhood amenity and a job training opportunity for residents. Nicollet Square will also have two other retail/office spaces for rent to neighborhood businesses.

Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation (PCNF), the non-profit housing organization developing the site in collaboration with Westminster Presbyterian Church and Plymouth Congregational Church, is reporting a delay in the ground breaking for the new building. Originally scheduled for spring 2009, the groundbreaking is now anticipated for fall 2009. The primary financing for Nicollet Square is through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program, which has suffered from the economic downturn. However, tax credits from Washington will be disbursed by Minnesota Housing this summer to enable the project to move forward.

Nicollet Square is "shovel-ready," and will provide employment for approximately 120 direct construction workers. The building will be completed approximately one year later: PCNF is in the process of securing funding for the supportive services program for fall 2010.

-Joe Blons, Executive Director, Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation
From the (new) KFNA President

This is my first letter to you as the President of the Kingfield Neighborhood Association, and I would like first to take this opportu-
nity to welcome back returning board members and welcome the new additions to the board.

Returning members are outgoing President Tom Parent, who did a fantastic job leading the organization over the past year, and Vice President Chris DeParde, as well as Jody Schwab, Sarah Linnes-Robinson, Marie Wolf, Arthur Knowles, and David Potosky. New members Marshall Onstrud, Scott Boeden, and Jeff Bajek have been involved in the community and KFNA in a variety of ways in the past, and were specifically drawn to the board this year through an interest in issues surrounding public school choices for families in the F2 Open Area.

I believe we have a talented and energetic board, and I look forward to working with them as we continue to build community and address neighborhood issues.

The school choice issue is one that our new board hopes to address. Changes to the process will have a strong impact in our neighborhood as the Minneapolis School Board is determining how to establish a community school or schools for the area. The KFNA board hopes to assist in the process of delivering information and improving communication between neighbors and the School Board, and hopes that through the process a broad neighborhood consensus can be attained.

I also want address another community stress from the past year. The board wishes to express its condolences and sympathy to the families and friends of Mark Loesch, Katricia Daniels, and Robert Shepard. The recent trials in these high-profile murder cases that involved Kingfield neighborhood were undoubtedly stressful and difficult times for the families, and we hope that the neighborhood and community can begin the healing process after these tragedies.

I am honored and excited to serve as President of KFNA and for the opportunity to work and connect with the neighborhood in the coming year.

–Chris Sur, KFNA President

PASSING THE TORCH

KFNA’s Redevelopment Committee has spent 1½ years supporting the redevelopment of 4307 Westcote. We have told you about this project in previous issues, including the partnership between Hennepin County and the City of Lakes Community Land Trust (CLCLT) to demolish and rebuild the home. What was once a one-bedroom, one-bath, 100-plus-year-old foreclosed home, originally built as part of a housing development for immigrant workers, has become a green, 3-bedroom, affordable home, including all energy efficient appliances, recycled pop bottle carpeting, and a green-seal furnace.

The County passed the torch to the CLCLT this past spring, and the Land Trust began marketing the house in earnest, showing it in numerous open houses and the Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour. The house, estimated to be valued at $250,000, now has a purchase agreement in place with an income-qualified buyer and a closing date in July for $142,000.

Before the torch passes from CLCLT to the homeowner in July, volunteers from the KFNA Green Committee will assist the project by installing rain gardens on the site, to capture the runoff from the impervious surfaces. KFNA has partnered with a local landscape company, Energyscapes, who donated their time to developing a full site plan for the homeowners and will oversee the installation of rain gardens. This project has been a great collaboration of agencies and missions to increase the number and style of affordable units in Kingfield, as well as to educate the neighborhood about environmentally green homebuilding and yard practices. KFNA thanks the County and CLCLT for their partnership on this project, as well as Energyscapes and the neighbors involved in the creation of the rain gardens. We are excited to welcome a new homeowner to the neighborhood!

The project should be almost completed by the time this newsletter comes to print, so stroll by 4307 and take a look, and if we aren’t done, feel free to pick up a shovel and dig into the project with us!

–Sarah Lissner-Robinson, KFNA Exec. Director

4200 Block of Garfield Avenue Hits the Big Time!

On May 31st, resident of the 4200 block of Garfield gathered in the street, along with pets, props and party supplies, for a special photo shoot with one of their own, photographer Layne Kennedy. Mpls. St. Paul Magazine is preparing a feature spread for their August issue that will include the portraits created that day. The accompanying article will highlight some of the unique neighborhoods and community spirit that make this neighborhood so special. KFNA thanks the City of Kingfield block so special, including the recent hold-no-barred, gala-benefit for a neighbor the whole block put on in May. Keep your eye on the newstand!

–Sarah Lissner-Robinson, KFNA Exec. Director

THE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION: Changing the Way Your City and Neighborhood Work

The City of Minneapolis’ Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) is a 16-member, resident-based commission, which will provide direction to the next phase of the City’s community engagement work. Intended to replace the 10-year-old Neighborhood Revitalization Program, the NCEC was created to shape how the City engages its residents. While working with neighborhood and community organizations, the Commission will oversee programming details and funding for neighborhood revitalization work.

The NCEC has eight members elected by the neighborhoods, five members appointed by the City Council, two members appointed by the Mayor and one member appointed by the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board. The NCEC will work directly with the newly established Neighborhood and Community Relations Department of the City of Minneapolis. This department’s purpose is to support:

• Neighborhood Vitality, by supporting the ongoing work of the neighborhood organizations;
• Access and Outreach, by strengthening the link between the City, neighborhoods, community organizations, and all residents of Minneapolis;
• Community Participation and Engagement;
• The City Enterprise, by incorporating the work of neighborhoods and city departments; and
• Strategic Partnerships, by building broader support for neighborhood and community engagement work through partnerships with institutions, corporations, and foundations.

This commission will hold its first meeting in June 2009; KFNA will keep you informed as we learn more on how this will affect your neighborhood association’s funding and operations in the future.

KFNA’s 2009 Business Sponsors!

Adoyn@44cB • Betts • The Craftman • Curtis Walker, Attorney at Law • Dunn & Semington • Gee Tetz • Good Life Catering • Johnson Design • etc • The Landor Group • Nicollet Ace Hardware

Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation • Odds in Ends • Quality Coaches • Rau & Barber

Ungerman Construction • Victor’s 1959 Cafe

KFNA 5% Exterior Home Improvement Loans Still Available

A few low-interest loans of up to $10,000 each are still available to Kingfield homeowners for exterior home repair projects. There is no household income limit for this program, which is administered through the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE). This funding, along with the 12 loans provided to residents last year, comes from Kingfield’s Phase II allocation of Neighborhood Revitalization Program funds. Information, including a list of eligible projects, can be found at www.kingfield.org/grant-programs or call Jim Hasnuk with CEE at 612-335-5085.

–Sarah Lissner-Robinson, KFNA Exec. Director

KINGFIELD

About the Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA)

The Kingfield neighborhood runs from 36th to 46th Streets, Harris Avenue and 150w.

KFNA Office Location:
The Center for Performing Arts Room 101 • 6754 PennWell Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55409

Phone: 612.823.0808
Email: info@kingfield.org
Website: www.kingfield.org

The KFNA board meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Martin Luther King Park, 4600 Nicollet Ave. S.

2008-09 KFNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Bajek • Scott Boeden • Mark Brandow • Chris DeParde • Vice President

Dean Muldood • Melissa Bary • Marshall Onstrud • Tom Parent • David Potosky • David Saddoris • Marie Wolf • President

Dean Muldoon • Treasurer

KFNA STAFF

www.kingfield.org

Executive Director: Sarah Linnes-Robinson • 612.823.0808
Project Organizer: Sarah Gleason • 612.823.0182

KFNA NEWS

If you are interested in writing, editing, designing, or taking photographs for the Kingfield News, call KFNA at 612.823.5880 or email at info@kingfield.org.
**Vacant Home on Your Street? Adopt it.**

On our street in the Kingfield neighborhood, a house sits vacant in the middle of the block. We who live nearby keep an eye on it. Is there a newspaper or a flyer on the front step, we remove it. When it snows, we shoveled. When the grass grows long, we mow. We want the house to appear lived-in, like the rest of the homes on our block. It’s our best deterrent to keep out would-be copper thieves, drug dealers, and squatters.

We realize it’s the responsibility of the bank to take care of this abandoned house, but there’s a problem with that. The contractors who maintain vacant homes have multiple homes to look after these days. Oftentimes, they never show up after a snowfall. Then it becomes our responsibility to abate anything that offers a hint of abandonment.

We maintain that vacant property simply because we take pride in our neighborhood. It is the same reason we maintain our own property. There is really no point in stopping at the property line and allowing an adjacent parcel to fall to ruin. Ultimately, vacant homes become an obligation to our communities and to ourselves.

In our situation, we don’t have a set schedule for mowing and shoveling. It just kind of happens. However, I believe neighbors can easily pull together and develop a schedule for a vacant property on their block. Maybe a young neighbor could be paid by a block pool to maintain the lot. It may take some creativity to develop a routine, but the benefit to the neighborhood is worth the effort.

Please note that you should never directly enter or repair someone else’s dwelling; even accessing their property is sensitive. If you are uncomfortable taking the above actions yourself, you and your neighbors can also push the owner for appropriate maintenance. If you need help figuring out the ownership of a vacant house on your block, please contact Sarah Gleason, Project Organizer at the Kingfield Neighborhood Association, at 612.823.5980 x3 or sarahg@kingfield.org. She will help you contact the owner and demand that the property be maintained.

Dawn Muldoon

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**Gardening Blooms in Kingfield**

The previous issue of Kingfield News reported on KFNA efforts to build a community of urban farmers and a network of urban farms in Kingfield. While researching various programs in the city, including Backyard Gardening and the Urban Gardener program at Sabathani, KFNA is making strides at bringing resources and gardeners together.

Through joint outreach with Backyard Harvest about their program, four Kingfield neighbors are participating in the program, working with their own personal farmer to raise food on their own land. To learn more about this program, visit www.priceoffarm.com. Also look for the Backyard Harvests at the Kingfield Farmers’ Market later this summer, where you can meet representatives at the KFNA table, and see examples of their produce.

Additionally, KFNA has received a Minneapolis Climate Change Micro Grant to support the development of community gardens. The grant will provide training with the Urban Gardener program and support through Gardening Matters to neighbors interested in starting these gardens. So far, a group of more than 20 neighbors has stated a specific interest in creating a garden in their own yard. KFNA is honored to receive recognition for this outstanding project. Thank you Minneapolis Arts Commission!  

--KFNA Board

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**Walldogs on Nicollet Wins MAC Award: Celebrating the City through Public Art!**

This spring, the Minneapolis Arts Commission selected three public art projects to receive the first annual MAC Awards, established to recognize special contributions to public art in the community. Our own Walldogs on Nicollet project received one of the awards!

The Walldogs project created 10 murals along Nicollet Avenue in the Uptown and Kingfield neighborhoods during July 2008, which were painted by local and national artists, as well as community members. The murals depict elements from the history of the city, including the city’s historic and current skyline, the work of Joseph Nicollet, the Nicollet Ballpark, the former park building at Nicollet Field (now MLK Park), and the historic street car system.

As the recipient of the Award for Celebrating the City through Public Art, Walldogs on Nicollet is recognized to have “contributed to the visual character of the community through a work of public art.” It “fostered the city’s sense of spirit, heritage, and/or diversity, and stands as a ‘work that has become a symbol for the city.”

Recipients of the other two MAC awards were the creators of a colorful park bench crafted by youth in North Minneapolis, and a dramatic installation of photographs in a downtown skyway giving voice to the Minneapolis immigrant community.

The Minneapolis Arts Commission was chartered in 1974 with the mission to strengthen the arts and enrich cultural life in Minneapolis. The Minneapolis Arts Commission works closely with the staff of the Department of Community Planning & Economic Development-Planning Division, Cultural Affairs, and shares its goal of developing a strong and vital arts community throughout Minneapolis.

KFNA is honored to receive recognition for this outstanding project. Thank you Minneapolis Arts Commission!

---KFNA Board

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**Martin Luther King Park Mural**

I have found an interesting mural that everyone in Kingfield should check out. It is the mural on the Martin Luther King Park recreation building. I like it because it symbolizes the park’s history. I asked Sarah Liness-Robinson (one of the people who made the mural) some questions about it, and here is what she said.

Q: How long did it take to paint the mural?
A: 4 days.

Q: What made you want to make the mural?
A: We wanted people to think about the history of the neighborhood, and to see what the park looked like 100 years ago.

Q: Have you done other murals?
A: Yes, we made murals that weekend. We’ve made a total of about 20.

--Dominic Lau, 3rd Grade

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**“Cathedral of the Cornfields”: The Building(s) of Incarnation**

In just 17 years, the parish grew from 200 to 1500 families. Many factors contributed to this expansion. The founding pastor Father Cleary’s popularity and reputation certainly played a role, as did that of Archbishop Ireland. It was not unusual to see real estate ads reading, “Lots for sale in Fr. Cleary’s parish.”

The facilities at Incarnation could not keep up with the increasing number of young families. The parish purchased a lot on the southwest corner of 37th Street and Pleasant Avenue to construct a new convent in 1921. An addition to Cleary Hall was completed in 1925.

In 1934, even with the pressure of the Depression, construction of a new school was begun. It was located on the site of the old convent and would tie all four corners of 38th and Pleasant together. The school was completed in 1935 and named Moyrnan Hall.

Growth continued into the 1960s, when school enrollment topped 1000. An addition was built adjacent to Moyrnan Hall in 1961-63. This would prove to be the last new building project, as the titles of enrollment would turn in the decades to come.

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**Who Wants to Let the Dogs Out?**

A recent poll, conducted via the KFNA website, indicated neighborhood interest in a Kingfield dog park. The issue was raised to the forefront of the Redevelopment Committee due to a recent surge in off-leash citations issued at MLK Park by Minneapolis Police. 259 neighbors answered the survey, and almost all expressed support for the idea. 139 of you even stated that you would put time and money into making it a reality.

If you were one of these people, now is the time to come forward and put your effort toward this project. We need you to continue to express how important this would be to you and to assist us on this issue, which is a politically difficult idea to make a reality. If you want to work on the feasibility and creation of a dog park, please contact KFNA Project Organizer, Sarah Gleason, at sarahg@kingfield.org or 612.823.5980 x3!

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**Vacant Home on Your Block?**

What you can do:

- Maintain the yard
- Pick up old newspapers and flyers
- Inform your carrier or local post office that the property is vacant, to assure mail delivery is not misdirected
- Shovel walks and sidewalks
- Pick up dog droppings
- Light the property at night with a motion light on your own property directly toward the neighbors
- Get broken windows boarded by calling 311
- Calling 311 is a response for all non-emergency issues including broken windows, broken doors, problems of maintenance, or graffiti. If you see anyone ever enter a home that you think is vacant, do not confront the person (instead, call 911)

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**Interested in other Kingfield history topics?**

Contact Sarah Gleason at 612.823.5980 x3!
Grants for Local Businesses
The Nicollet-East Harriet Business Association (NEHBA) has been serving local businesses for over three years and was created through funding provided by the East Harriet and Kingfield neighborhood associations. Its mission is to strengthen relationships among local businesses and the community, advocate for business owners, and foster local business development. It is their belief that a healthy local business climate is integral to the vitality of our neighborhoods. NEHBA’s boundaries are between 36th Street and 46th Street, and from Nicollet Avenue to Dupont Avenue.

In 2008, NEHBA made $50,000 of city money available to local businesses through the Great Streets Façade Improvement Program. The program helps create healthy neighborhood commercial areas by providing incentives for façade improvements. A number of other Kingfield projects have been approved but have yet to be implemented, including those for The Lander Group, Grand Cafe, and Quality Coaches.

2009 brought an expansion to the business nodes to which NEHBA could provide the grant funding. Currently, eligible to receive grant funding are businesses at 36th and Lyndale, 38th and Grand, 38th and Nicollet, 40th and Nicollet, 40th and Lyndale, and 46th and Nicollet. Projects can include, in part, painting or tuck-pointing, signage and awnings, or exterior lighting. For more information on NEHBA’s work in our community or to become a member, call 612-823-3472, email info@nicolleteastharriet.org or visit www.nehba.org.

—Marshall Oswald

A Bike for Fifth Precinct Officers
Thanks to the commitment of a group of Kingfield neighbors, a brand new police bike hit the streets of the Fifth Precinct in May!

Why a bike? The neighbors had learned that police officers wanted to get out of their cars and closer to the community this summer, but lacked sufficient bicycles. The group loved the idea of cops on bikes in our streets and alloys, and decided to raise money through KFNA to donate a bike to the effort.

Inspector Kristine Arneson tells Kingfielders, “Many thanks. I saw the bike, and it is really nice! Officers are quite happy that the neighborhood was so generous.”

The Crime Prevention and Safety Committee, supported by the Green Committee, is now raising money to finish paying for the bike. Stop by the KFNA table at the Farmer’s Market to track their progress and help “fill the tires!”

As of June 1, $285 of $800 raised — just over a third of the way there.

KFNA Website Update
Thanks to the valiant effort of KFNA Board member David Postolony, KFNA unveiled a new website last summer. Still at www.kingfield.org, the website was reformatted to make the site easier to search and to update. We are pleased to report that the site receives an average of 280 hits per day. If you have not checked out our website lately, please do — it’s our hope that you will find the information timely and useful.

The KFNA website is constantly improving, to make sure the info you seek is at your fingertips. The committee pages are regularly updated with current projects, and older documents are archived to maintain a record of issues and actions. If you can’t find what you are looking for, please let us know, and we may be able to add the information to the site.

While you are stopping by, be sure to visit the links to KFNA’s awesome business sponsors! Without the support of these businesses that assist with the cost of KFNA’s communication work, this website would not be possible.

KFNA at the Kingfield Farmers’ Market
Over the past nine years, the Kingfield Farmers’ Market has grown into a weekly happening on the Nicollet block. The Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA) is proud to see this project take root and flourish into its own organization. KFNA continues to be involved at the market as a founding sponsor and maintains a space at each market. Each week the table is hosted by a KFNA Committee or project.

Stop by and see what else KFNA is doing in the neighborhood — some special highlights include:

• JULY 5: Table hosted by the Crime Prevention and Safety Committee — Fundraising for a bicycle outfitted for a cop. (See story on this page.)
• JULY 12: HourCar is coming to Kingfield — See our new neighborhood car and learn about the program. (See story on the cover.)
• AUGUST 2: All registered block-party leaders, stop by the KFNA table and pick up your free party pack!
• AUGUST 9: HourCar returns to the Market to show off its stuff!
• SEPTEMBER: The Green Committee sells Blue Sky Guides to support green projects in the neighborhood. Pick up your copy!

It’s Coming Back!
SAVE THE DATE and YOUR EXTRA STUFF for the 2009 Kingfield coordinated garage sale on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12. Check the KFNA website or your local coffee shop for registration information.

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