Kingfield News
www.kingfield.org
a quarterly publication

March 2008

Longtime Kingfield Resident receives Community Leader Award

Michael Vanderford, a resident of Kingfield since 1981, was one of four recipients of the second annual Community Leader Award on January 25, 2008, presented to outstanding individuals or organizations within the 8th Ward by Minneapolis City Councilmember Mary Wagner. Michael’s nomination came from neighbors who felt that his ongoing commitment to Kingfield and to the broader community deserved formal recognition.

In mid-September, Michael founded a new Kingfield neighborhood block organization, “West of King,” which comprises the 9 blocks directly west of Martin Luther King Park. Much of the impetus to create the group stemmed from specific incidents, namely a July shooting near 41st and Blaisdell, increased levels of mobile drug dealing, and the murder of Mark Loesch, a Kingfield resident. Michael spearheaded the group’s first meeting, which included Mayor R.T. Rybak, Senator Scott Dibble, Inspector Kris Arneson, Councilmember Glidden, and several Kingfield residents looking for information and for a new direction for the neighborhood. With the feedback from that meeting, he set organizational goals, which he hopes will strengthen neighborhood ties and educate residents about crime incidents and how to report and respond to them. Finding committed block leaders, keeping open communication with city and police officials, launching West of King walking groups, creating phone and email trees, and encouraging greater neighborhood involvement with King Park are just a few of the goals that Michael has outlined as the group begins to develop.

Michael’s leadership in West of King is preceded by a long

living Art- Art Show and Silent Auction

You are invited to Living Art, an art show and silent auction featuring the work of up to 100 artists from Kingfield, Lyndale, and across the Twin Cities. The date of the event is Saturday, March 22. The event features auction procedures, artists, and other information can be found at www.livingart.org.

The event will be held at the Rau+Barber building from 7-10 PM.

"Because we believe that art is the key to community, this project helps us, artists, and neighbors together in the creation and appreciation of art."

Funds from the event will be split 50/50 between the artists and the Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA). KFNA’s proceeds will be contributed to Walldogs on Nicollet, a joint project of the Lyndale and Kingfield neighborhood associations. Walldogs on Nicollet involve local and national artists, together with community members, painting 8 murals along Nicollet Avenue between Lake Street and 46th Street on July 24th - 27th, 2008. More information can be found at www.walldogs.lyndale.org.

KFNA Annual Meeting
Come to a Taste of Kingfield!

KFNA has a long tradition of Annual Meeting potlucks, but this year has been hectic for all, and the last thing you need is to cook another dinner! So on Monday, April 21, stroll on down to MLK Park at 6 PM and enjoy A Taste of Kingfield on a sampling of tidbits and tasty treats from many of our fine local restaurants including Victor’s, Grand Café, Anodyne, and many more (we have a dozen local eateries in Kingfield now, you know!)

Sample the variety of Kingfield and then stay for the 7 PM Annual KFNA meeting, where 7 officers will be elected to the board for 2-year terms. Learn about what IS going on in your neighborhood, what WILL BE happening, and how you can be a part of it all! Questions regarding the procedures, responsibilities, and mission can be directed to Sarah Lennes-Robinson, KFNA Executive Director, kfna@email.com or 612.823.5980.

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Free childcare is available from 6:45 PM to 9:30 PM for kids ages 5-12 by Leonardo’s Basement. Younger children (ages 1-4) will be cared for by local teens. To guarantee that your child will be cared for, however, you need to register for it. To register for childcare, send the following info to kingfield@q.com or call 612.823.5980 ext-4: Parent’s Name & Contact Information including Phone Number and E-mail + Each Child’s Name and Age.
Note From the President

I hate to write this, but here’s the truth: Our neighborhood organization is dying. This is my second stint as KFNA president, and I can’t tell you how painful it is to write this. We still have incredible, dedicated volunteers - Tom Parent, who has done yeoman’s work on the homeowners association issues, or David Suddiaris and Darrell Gerber, who have helped put green principles into action throughout the neighborhood, or Niki Valens, who has done so much for the neighborhood association while working to keep Victor’s 1959 Cafe a neighborhood success story. They are many, but space is too tight to name them all. The problem is, they’re dwindling. And somehow, we’ve gone from 200 people to our Annual Meeting in April, we’ve been lucky to draw 50 recently. That’s more or less enough to get people to Kingfield Board, which is the backbone of our neighborhood organization work: reviewing and improving development projects, planning events that connect Kingfield such as the Farmer’s Market and the Art Show, and organizing more effective crime fighting.

Although it may not always be apparent, you’ll miss these things if they were gone. And our drop in interest coincides at the worst possible time: the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, which has contributed thousands of dollars to neighborhood-led projects, is winding down, and we don’t know what will replace it.

When I was first KFNA president 15 years ago, NRP hadn’t really kicked in. It’s been wonderful to have the money, but there is little to do without it. The redevelopment review work remains critical, even if we only have sweat, not dollars, to contribute. Anti-crime organizing is low-buck but must-do. And thanks to volunteer David Potocky, we’ll have a much more usable website (at the same address, www.kingfield.org) where neighbors will inform neighbors of the critical news we need to know.

So what I need - what I need you to consider - is people willing to give up a little time to keep Kingfield strong. Being a board member isn’t onerous: one board meeting and one committee meeting a month, plus a few hours more on an issue of your choice.

Fifteen years ago, I was part of a group of neighbors who organized to get Kingfield into NRP. This year, without a similar push, the work you rely upon may not get done. Please consider running, and feel free to email me at david@tcq.net with any questions.

-David Brauer

KFNA Annual Meeting- Business Items

Monday, April 21

Kingfield residents will vote on April 21 whether to amend the KFNA Bylaws to allow up to 30% of non-Members to serve on the committee of the Board of Directors, such as the Farmers’ Market Committee, whose reach extends beyond the boundaries of the neighborhood. Additionally a vote will be taken to clarify that the President and Treasurer shall continue their service as officers and, in the case that their term has expired, the Executive Board Members between the April Election and the first regular meeting of the Board of Directors in May.

The specific language changes regarding these amendments are as follows:

Article 6: Board Officers
A. Election and Term of Office (except)
The officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors at its first regular meeting following the annual meeting of the Members. The officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year and serve until their successors shall have been elected or until their earlier resignation, removal from office or death.

In the case that their board term has expired, the President and Treasurer shall serve as Ex-Officio members of the board and officers until their successors shall have been elected. Article 7: Committees of the Board

Committee members who are appointed by the Board must be Members unless otherwise specified in a resolution of the Board. The Board may specify the regulation that up to 30% of the committee members can be non-Members of the association. All committee members, unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws or by resolution of the Board of Directors must be appointed by the President.

In addition, the following NRP Phase I Plan Modifications will be voted on at the KFNA Annual Meeting, Monday April 21, 7 PM, MLK Park.

New KFNA website to be launched in March

What can you expect from the new KFNA site? The new site is weblog-based and will have a substantially improved look and feel. Articles will be in blog roll format, with most recent articles always at the top. An event calendar will be navigated through a variety of methods on the right side of the site. All KFNA board members and staff will have kingfield.org e-mail addresses.

Most important, authoring of content is easy. Because of this, expect to see much more frequent content updates from KFNA board members and staff about Kingfield events, notices and other topics of interest.

We’d like to hear what you think of the new site when it launches. Please feel free to e-mail after the launch, which is expected to happen this month.

-David Potocky

KFNA Annual Garage Sale Registration

Sale Date: Saturday, May 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Payment Due by noon; Wednesday, April 30th
$30 individual sale; $30 group sale*

Name:
Street Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
How many years have you participated in the Kingfield Garage Sale?

Make your tax-deductible donation payment to:
KFNA, 3754 Pleasant Avenue South, Room #101, Minneapolis, MN 55409

*A group sale must represent at least 5 households on a block and registration information must be provided for all participants in the group block sale. Call the KFNA office at (612) 823-5980 with questions.

Come learn about eco-friendly winter home and yard maintenance!

On Thursday, March 29, from 7-8 p.m., join the KFNA Green Committee at MLK Park for Minnesota’s 1st winter maintenance training class designed for homeowners. This will be a chance to learn about de-icer alternatives, low-flow showerheads, rain collection, how removal methods and environmental impacts. For the past 10 years this type of class from 36th to 46th Streets, between Lyndale Avenue and 35W.

Since this is a new program piloted in 2008, we are interested in understanding homeowner winter maintenance concerns. Bring your tricky winter maintenance concerns and join in the discussion.

Eco-friendly treats hand–baked and foot-delivered by Butter & Peace Coffee brewed by Andoys! This program is funded by the Mississippi WMO and presented by Fortin Consulting Inc. 

www.kingfield.org
Kingfield Farmers' Market

Spring, and the Kingfield Farmers' Market, are just around the corner! May 17 - July 26, every Saturday from 9 am - 1 pm. Kingfield Farmers' Market vendors at the Judson Street Farmers Market (see details in the calendar). The regular Farmers' Market opens for the season on Sunday, June 1 with our annual plant exchange and then will be there for you every Sunday, June -October. Bake-offs are back beginning with our 2nd annual Rhubarb Bake-off on June 8. Amateurs and professionals are encouraged to participate.

The Kingfield Farmers’ Market has a great opportunity for you and your family to spend a few hours outside and dirty. Volunteer to assist the market coordinator and experience a “day in the life” of a farmers’ market. Help with market set-up, take down and vending. You, your family or a group of friends can sign up for one or several shifts. This is a great way to support the market and have fun at the same time. Call or email the KFNA office for more details 612-823-5980 x3 or kingfieldhq.com.

KFNA is hiring for the Kingfield Farmers’ Market Coordinator position and looking for a summer intern. Please call the KFNA office if you are interested 612-823-5980 x3.

Kingfield Farmers' Market & Davidson's Farm

Making Mother's Day Special

$5 Jumbo 6-pack of zinnias, cosmos or marigolds
$4 “grape” or cherry tomato plants
$22 Terracotta mezuzah lettuce bowls
Harvest your own spring salad.


Pick-Up on Sat., May 10, 10am-1pm Frame Ups Gallery, 4233 Nicollet Ave.

40% of sales support the Market

Volunteer in your Neighborhood

Kingfield has wide variety of volunteer opportunities. Do you have gift, talents, experience or interest in the environment, art, urban development, crime and safety, writing, farmers’ markets, community building or fundraising? If so, we have a place for you. Go to www.kingfield.org to view our active committee list and meeting times. We would love to have you join us. Please contact us with your questions Kingfieldhq.com, or (612) 369-4587.

Southwest Journal’s Home Improvement Fair Saturday, May 25 10 am - 3 pm Southwest High School, 3414 W. 47th St., Minneapolis

Dreaming of spring already? The fair is a great opportunity to meet local contractors, get tips for your home and garden and meet city experts who will be on hand to field burning questions. Be sure to stop by the Center for Energy and Environment table and ask about Kingfield’s home loan and grant programs! For more information call 612-436-4387.

Light Aerobics and Weights Mondays 10:15 am from March 17 to May 19

Enjoy exercising to music while doing strength training, stretching, and light aerobic with certified instructor, Nancy Fritz-Whalen. This class is supported by Kingfield’s Community Fund. Recommended Donation: $20 Questions? Call Mary Ann Schoenberger, Director, Southwest Senior Center, (612) 822-3194.

KFNA wants to see more bikes... and the City agrees!

Minneapolis has matching funds in 2008 for the purchase and installation of public bike racks at commercial locations. Bike parking can be cheaper than $150-$250 per unit, depending on style. KFNA is willing to provide an additional $25 rebate per unit to businesses that want to install the Kingfield “sprout” racks, the same racks you see at Victoria’s Secret, Best Foods, The Center for Creative Arts, and other prominent Kingfield businesses! Three neighborhood businesses, Rau+Barber, Jack Bartsh and Curran’s Family Restaurant, have already asked KFNA to set up a meeting to site the bike racks and see how a rack will work on their property. If you are interested in discussing the addition of bike racks at your business, please contact Sarah Linnes-Robinson, KFNA Executive Director, kfnahq@email.com or 612.823.5980.

MLK Park Summer Fundamental Soccer

This year, King Park is moving towards an “in- house” Fundamental Soccer League. Our goal is still to provide a program that is designed to introduce children to the fundamentals of soccer while creating a fun, positive environment for all participants, both beginning and experienced players. There are several reasons why KFNA continues to support and encourage local youth soccer. First, we believe that soccer has the unique ability to teach children about teamwork and collaboration, and the value of working together. Second, the positive influence of sports on a child’s development cannot be understated. Studies have shown that sports can provide an outlet for children to express themselves, build confidence and learn to overcome challenges. Third, sports are a great way for children to stay active and healthy, and KFNA continues to advocate and encourage physical activity for all age groups. Finally, sports provide a fun and engaging environment for children to learn valuable life skills such as communication, leadership, and decision-making. This year, KFNA is excited to once again offer the MLK Park Soccer Program, a fundamental soccer league for children ages 5-8 with an emphasis on fun and development. The league is designed to introduce children to the basics of soccer in a safe and supportive environment. The goals of the MLK Park Soccer Program are to provide a positive and enjoyable experience for all participants, encourage teamwork and communication, and promote the values of fair play, sportsmanship, and respect. The MLK Park Soccer Program is a great opportunity for children of all skill levels to have fun, make friends, and learn the fundamentals of soccer in a supportive and welcoming environment. KFNA is committed to providing a high-quality soccer program that is accessible to all children in the community. The MLK Park Soccer Program is open to children ages 5-8 who meet the eligibility requirements. It is important for parents to register their children early to ensure a spot in the league. KFNA is dedicated to creating a fun and engaging environment for all participants, and we look forward to another successful season. Please visit our website (www.kingfield.org) for more information about the MLK Park Soccer Program and to register your child today!
The Center for Creative Arts Cooperative Association

Did you know The Center for Performing Arts has been managed by a Cooperative Association of tenants since January, 2007? We chose the name The Center for Creative Arts to reflect the diversity of activities that happen here. We are member-operated and membership isn't necessary to rent space at the Center. We have embarked on what we call “a grand experiment” to keep the Center alive as a community resource and a home for artists and healers. We are under a contract for deed as a stepping stone to ownership, so we can’t yet change the sign out front.

We began as a small group of committed tenants, meeting in March, 2006, to creatively find a way to finance ownership of the building. Jackie Hayes, the owner of the building, wanted to sell it. We are learning a lot about managing The Center and our own small businesses. We now have 16 coop members! Our vision is to have an owner-controlled work space, using volunteer labor to keep costs down, and build community by working together.

We provide space for classes, lessons and sessions of all kinds from music, dance, bodywork, chiropractic, psychotherapy, and special events on an hourly and monthly basis. We like being here as a place for activities to happen here. We are member-owners, tenants, friends, business owners, and neighbors to socialize, share ideas, and network. One day some of us tried a new incarnation of a familiar craze, Hooping (hoola hoops), which is now a form of exercise and spiritual practice! Everyone is welcome. If you have topics to suggest or want to share what you do, let us know. Contact us at the Center office: 612-821-9202 for further information and questions.

- Marjorie Huebner, CCA Board Member

On a fixed income and need help painting your home? A Brush With Kindness

House painting and minor repairs applications and eligibility: 612-788-8169

Metro Paint-A-Thon

House painting Eligibility: 60+ or disabled homeowner on limited income

Apply by May 9

612-721-8687 x 321

www.gmss.org/paint-a-thon

Faces Etc.

Minnesota’s first makeup training facility is now open at 4149 Nicollet Avenue South. Faces Etc provides both Professional Media Makeup Artistry training and Beauty Educational training. The former is a comprehensive course, which teaches students all the skills necessary to work as a professional media make-up artist. Work opportunities include film production, television and print. For those who are already licensed beauty professionals, Faces Etc offers courses to enhance a practitioner’s palette of beauty techniques.

The complete Makeup Artistry Course requires 130 hours of classes, which are conducted in four-week, full-time sessions. There is no prerequisite for the course; admission is allowed at the discretion of the director of the school. Tuition for the complete course is $4,945, part of which goes towards the purchase of a professional makeup kit, suitable for use in the field once the graduate moves into the work world. There is a similarly comprehensive course of study directed towards licensed beauty professionals, as well as a range of a la carte classes. The cost for a full day class is $240.

All classes are taught by licensed beauty educators and platform artists, boasting more than 20 years of experience. The staff are active professionals in the Film, HDTV and Print industries. For more information visit www.facesetc.com or call 612.824.3000.

-Tor Anderson

Direct Support for KFNA, Directly from You-Thank you!

One hundred fifty neighbors and businesses have demonstrated their support of KFNA by contributing over $8000 in cash to their neighborhood association this year. This money is critical support for the work we do publishing this newsletter, updating you weekly about neighborhood happenings via the e-mail list, running the Farmers’ Market and Walking Group, sponsoring an art show, facilitating the process to provide you with the information regarding new developments in the neighborhood including 5700 Nicollet, and, per KFNA’s mission statement, providing a forum for community participation, and a structure to promote the vision and aspiration of the neighborhood.

We thank you for your support and welcome your tax-deductible gifts at any time of the year! Contributions can be made online at www.kingfield.org or mailed to the Kingfield office, and 100% will be spent to improve your neighborhood!