Kingfield Community Gardens, Not a Too-Distant Thought!

My fondest childhood memories revolve around my family’s garden.

When I was young we lived in a rural Wisconsin trailer house, placed in a clearing in the woods, and there my mother planted a huge garden with rows and rows of corn and beans and tomatoes. My brother and I had John Deere tractor ride-on toys with a trailer to go behind them, and I would “work” our little farm.

My mother said I was her best garden helper as I poked little holes in the soil and then watched weekly as weeds came up throughout the season and drove them way in my tractor trailer. After harvest I would help her harvest the corn so she could cut it off the cob for canning, and I especially loved to make jars and jars of food for us to eat all winter. That garden fed the family, and brought us together during cold Minnesota winters.

Gardens, especially shared ones, have a way of invoking a feeling of community and building relationships. It’s wonderful to think that during the Kingfield Neighborhood Association’s Green Committee and a dedicated local group of volunteer gardeners, has decided to plant community gardens here in Kingfield.

After meeting with Ila Dunteman of Gardening Matters, an organization dedicated to promoting community gardens, we set out to find suitable space in the neighborhood. Finding a shortage of empty land we began to look into starting smaller micro gardens that could be scattered throughout the neighborhood.

I looked out my window here on Van Nest, and it was apparent to me that I had to volunteer some space. While I currently have a beautiful backyard harvest vegetable garden and a few flowers here and there, I do not water my yard, because it is so big and grass is such a water hog. Feeding my community the sparsely covered patch of dirt I call a “lawn,” and remembering what a great experience my first garden was, it just seemed the right thing to do.

Jackie Hayes, building owner and administrator of the Center for Performing Arts at 38th and Pleasant, is excited about the garden idea and has offered her side yard as another community garden space. Gardeners who are interested in volunteering to work with neighbors to create a space where artists and community members can garden, relax, and interact outdoors.

With these two sites settled on, planning for the 2010 growing season is underway. Workshops with master gardeners are being set up for the winter, so that anyone new to gardening can learn how to tend a plot of land before it is time to plant it. The workshops will continue after the garden season, and sharing what we learn is essential to a successful garden project.

Faced with start-up expenses that include major tree removal and trimming, fencing, and storage, fundraising will be another key to the garden project’s success. We were generously gifted a used garden shed from the Minnehaha Avenue Community Garden, and have put out feelers for tasseled fencing and other items, but more help will be needed.

If you are wondering what you can do to help, there are three opportunities to participate in fundraisers that are available this month. Buy a ticket to join the upcoming Kingfield garden walking tour or to attend an outdoor screening of the documentary Fresh. And when you visit the Farmers’ Market this month, pick up a Blue Sky Guide—a wonderful coupon book for eco-friendly stores, restaurants, and other businesses. All proceeds will go to the Kingfield community garden fund. (See side bar on this page for details on all three fundraisers.)

More than anything, we need to find more people who are interested in growing their own food and volunteering for a project that will ultimately grow green thumbs, vegetables, strong families, and community.

If you want to become involved, and if you have fundraising ideas or want to contribute money, or used garden items, please contact Sarah Linné-Robinson, KFNA Executive Director, at sarah@kingfield.org or 612-623-5980.

Jody Lynn Sessly-Jones

New Residential Energy Program Coming to Kingfield!

Learn how to reduce your energy use and save money. KFNA has teamed up with the Center for Energy and Environment, CenterPoint Energy, and Xcel Energy to offer Kingfield homeowners Community Energy Services (CES), a full-service program designed for homeowners who are ready to make larger investments to reduce home energy use, such as installing, sealing, bypassing, and installing new windows.

Community Energy Services provides:

• FREE educational workshops to teach homeowners how to lower their energy use and save money;
• Low-cost items for immediate savings, which may include low-flow shower heads, setback thermostats, compact fluorescent light bulbs, gasket seals, door sweeps, faucet aerators, pipe insulation, and attic hatch weather stripping;
• Home energy visits from qualified professionals who will identify additional ways for residents to save, including a door-to-door test. Receive up to $400 in services and materials for a co-pay of only $20. And, if you schedule and complete your visit before the end of 2009, the Kingfield Neighborhood Association will reimburse your entire $20 co-pay;
• Personalized energy use inventory for the last 12 months and the next 12 months, to measure the effectiveness of measures taken. Participants are also allowed to compare their energy use to that of their neighbors also participating in the program (confidentially, of course);
• Personal incentives, and rebates for those who are able to complete larger projects such as insulation or furnace replacement.

Contact Sarah Linné-Robinson, KFNA Executive Director at 612-623-5980 or sarah@kingfield.org or if someone has volunteered from your street to do outreach on this program to your neighbors yet?

Help us get your entire block to the workshop!

Our workshops are open to anyone in the neighborhood! We’re launching our Blue Sky Guide fundraiser in September to raise money for the 2010 Kingfield Community Gardens.

Blue Sky Guide, also dubbed “The Best of What’s Green and Local,” is a one-of-a-kind resource—a coupon book, a directory, a source of ideas and inspiration. The Guide has over 100 coupons and resources for exploring our community and supporting local, sustainable businesses. Find hundreds of participating stores and services, with offers for Anodyne, HUCECAR, and Butter Bakery Café, as well as the Guthrie Theater, BEC, Bachman’s, and many, many more! To see a complete list, please visit www.ecocomto.com.

The books are sold for $20, and KFNA earns $10 per book! Every penny of KFNA’s profits will go toward start-up costs for the Kingfield Community Gardens.

To make your purchase, please visit the KFNA table at the Kingfield Farmers Market, 6130 Nicollet Ave., only Sunday in September! Thanks for your work in growing Kingfield.

— Marnie Pechtel and Tracey Ashbery
About the Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA)

The Kingfield neighborhood runs from 36th to 46th Streets, between Lyndale Avenue and 15W.

KFNA Office Location:
The Center for Performing Arts Room 101 • 3744 Plainview Ave. S.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409

Phone: 612.827.0544
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, 4050 Nicollet Ave. S.

2009-10 KFNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Jeff Bark... 612.825.4280
Scott Eeren... 612.827.1868
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Kingfield News

If you are interested in writing, editing, designing, or taking photographs for the Kingfield News, call KFNA at 612.825.0860 or email us at info@kingfield.org.

I am excited about Kingfield. That may sound corny coming from the president of the neighborhood association, but it is true. I have been on the board a relatively short time, but in the last couple of years, I have seen the neighborhood come together in a variety of ways.

Walldogs on Nicollet was an extraordinarily ambitious and successful project, driven by the partnership of the Kingfield and Lyndale neighborhood associations and supported by countless volunteers from those neighbor- hoods. The Kingfield act seems to be getting bigger and better each year, thanks to the generosity and commit- ment of numerous Kingfield residents, including our local artist community. And the newly-independent Kingfield High School, supported by countless volunteers from those neighbor- hoods, will do the same.

All of these events have helped build connections in our community, and they are perfect examples of what a neighborhood can achieve with dedicated and engaged residents. This year, new traditions are being created, including the new Fashion Art programming initiatives through Leonardo’s Basement, the 1st Annual Kingfield Community Garden Tour, and Celebrate 84!

The neighborhood still faces its challenges, as all neighbor- hoods do, and we continue to struggle against crime and with attempting to negotiate the changes in public school options. In my view, the role of the Kingfield Neighborhood Association is to harness and leverage the energy and ideas of the neighborhood, and bring people together to take on our challenges and celebrate our achievements.

The way that KFNA does this, however, may be changing in the coming years.

We are coming to the end of the last cycle of Neighborhood Revitalization Projects, or NRP, funds, and we usher in the City’s new Neighborhood Community Engagement Program. We have little idea what this will mean for the future of KFNA as an organization. We do know that KFNA to continue to lead projects for the neighborhood, it will be necessary to rely ever more heavily on the energy and creativity of volunteers. It will be a challenge for both the board and the neighborhood as we try to adapt to the upcoming changes, but given the community spirit I have seen in just a few years on the board, I remain excited about Kingfield and the future of the neighborhood association.

—Chris Sue, KFNA President

Green Tip from a Kingfield Neighborhood Block Club

One of our neighbors, Hannah, came up with a great recycling idea. She discovered that Eastside freelance Co-op at 2514 Central Avenue NE collects additional plastic: the city does not collect (1, 2, 3, 4, & 6, no bottles). Hannah volunteered to be a drop-off site for the block. Another neighbor will collect for the west side of the block, and we have several volunteers to deliver the plastic to the co-op. It’s such a great project, especially since we have an island of plastic larger than the size of Texas floating in the coast of California!

TIP: Besides Eastside Co-op, Whole Foods is also accepting #5 plastics for recycling at this time. Organize a drop-off porch and delivery person for your block, or take turns collecting and delivering each month! Visit www.kingfield.org for other Green Tips, just search “Green Tip” with the website’s search tool.

—Anne Blech, Block Club Coordinator

CHANGING SCHOOL OPTIONS TIMELINE

Many Kingfield neighbors have been following the Minneapolis School Board’s discussions throughout 2009 regarding school closings, curriculum focuses, and attendance boundaries, now commonly called the Changing School Options plan. As of this printing, the expected schedule for a decision from the board is as follows:

COMMUNITY HEARINGS—September
BOARD VOTE—Late September

For more timely information, visit the Minneapolis Public Schools’ website at www.mpls.k12.mn.us.

Celebrating 100 Years in Kingfield

At least three churches are celebrating a century in Kingfield this year: Judson Memorial Baptist Church, Faith Free Lutheran Church, and Incarnation Catholic Church. Centennials are great opportunities to look into the histo- ries of these institutions and the neighborhood they helped to shape. Though it had been part of Minneapolis since 1887, Kingfield was still mostly farm fields 100 years ago.

Judson began in 1906 as a mission of Calvary Baptist, “on the urban frontier beyond the residential districts of the city.” Then the Judson Memorial Baptist Church built its current facility in 1907 at 38th and Harriet, and Judson became an independent church in 1909. In 1914, after consolidating with the oldest Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Judson Memorial Baptist Church built its new home at 41st and Harriet, at what had been the center of a 40-acre farm owned by Hiram and John Van Nest.

“The Miracle on 41st Street,” a detailed account of the first 75 years of Judson’s history, including historic photos, linked to the church website — click on “about us” at www.judsonchurch.org.

Two special events mark the Judson centennial celebration. On All Saints’ Sunday, November 1, the 10:00 a.m. worship service will feature the music of “Requiem,” a choral work written by church member Doug Weatherhead, performed by the Judson Choir. Then on Sunday, November 15, at 10:00 a.m., a special worship service with communion will celebrate Judson’s entry into its next 100 years. The service will feature the music of the Judson Choir and Brass, and former pastor Dale Edmondson will preach.

Faith Free Lutheran, on 44th and Pillsbury, began in a chapel at 41st and Pillsbury in 1909, as a mission outreach of the Lutheran Free Church. The congregation was named Rosedale Lutheran Church, after the neighborhood as it was known then. A basement church at the present location was dedicated in 1948, and the sanctuary of the current facility was added in the early 1950s. At first the membership was primarily Norwegian, but as the neighborhood changed, the congregation gradually became more diverse. Rosedale merged with another church named Faith Free Lutheran Church, and the combined congrega- tion took that name.

Faith Free Lutheran will hold a special centennial worship service on Sunday, October 25th, at 10:30 a.m., followed by a dinner. All are invited. Those with personal ties to the church over the years are encouraged to send remem- brances to be included in a memory book of the occasion. Send to: 140 West 44th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55409 or gregorypleura@msn.com.

Incarnation (38th and Pleasant) is also compiling a centennial booklet of photos and stories. You can add your own stories, read what others have written, see historical photos, and access a detailed church history on their centennial website: www.incarnation- centennial.org

Incarnation will be cele- brating this fall, beginning with Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 3. The day will include historical displays and church tours, a carnival lot with games and rides, a beer garden with live entertainment, a chicken dinner (immediate neighbors will receive free tickets) and more. The church will also hold a centennial worship service celebrated by the Archbishop on October 14th at 10:30 a.m.

LOCAL HISTORY BUFFS

If you are interested in helping to highlight more of the neighborhood’s history, we want to hear from you! Please contact KFNA at info@kingfield.org or 612.825.5890.

If you want to learn more about local history research check out this presentation at the Central Library.

Researching the History of a House, Building, Neighborhood, or Piece of Land in Minneapolis

Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall Tuesday, Sept. 8th, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the history of your house, neighborhood, or a piece of property you own within Minneapolis city limits? This presentation will explain tools and resources that are available at the library and throughout the city that can help you compile this information. For more information, please call 612.630.6350 or email special004@mpls.lib.mn.us.

Kingfielders Enjoy a Niccolot Pothole on NNO

Kingfielders got to enjoy a Niccolot Pothole on National Night Out — the 2009 specialty flavor created and mixed especially for KFNA by our favorite local confectionary, Sebastian Joes! Joe’s created a dark chocolate ice cream with a dash of salt (sea, not road), a covering of caramel, holes of fudge, and a heavy gravel of toffee chunks. It is SO GOOD. Niccolot is now available at all Sebastian Joe’s stores and at Josophins.com.

Joe’s are masters at creating a smooth flavor, too bad they aren’t the ones responsible for creating a smooth roadway!

—Anne Blech, Block Club Coordinator

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KFNA’s New Program Helps Neighbors Fight Graffiti

An affordable new approach to combat the graffiti epidemic is being tested in Kingfield. Through a Clean City micro-grant from the city of Minneapolis, KFNA is testing a two-part strategy to re-face areas that are particularly prone to tagging: by creating alley-length mural installations, and wrapping utility boxes with a design from one of the neighborhood.

The alley targeted for the mural project lies between 36th and 40th Streets, and between Stevens and Niswedge Avenue, because of this area’s high volume of tagging incidents. For participating blocks, KFNA is providing the talent and direction of local artists, as well as painting supplies. Within the next few weeks you can expect to see alley murals popping up, stretching across multiple garages and fences. If you like what you see, talk to your neighbors about bringing the mural program to your block.

If even your block is not interested in murals, you can still participate in the clean-up program. Homeowners may receive one gallon of latex color paint to fully paint the alley-facing sides of their garage or fence. This avoids spot-painting tactics of covering up a tag, which can be unsightly, obvious, and generally ineffective. Paintings along the alleys are also encouraged, and KFNA offers a reimbursement of up to $100 per property for the purchase of plants, mulch, and tresslilces. Please contact KFNA beforehand, to make sure that your home qualifies. And it is not a graffiti amnesty; you must work with your neighbors to address multiple problem spots. By working together, homeowners can increase their effectiveness against the problem. Therefore, KFNA will give priority to projects that are proposed for five or more homes.

Cop Bike Tires Filled

You did it! Thanks for “filling the tires” of the bike for cops!

The KFNA Crime Prevention and Safety Committee, supported by the Green Committee, started raising money this spring to purchase a bike for Patrol Officers. People responded enthusiastically to the project, and a bike was purchased.

If you stopped by the KFNA Farmers’ Market table in early June, you may have seen “the tires” on the bike poster gradually filling up. We were halfway to the $800 goal when a generous Kingfield neighbor came to the market table and, after asking some questions, quietly wrote a check to complete the amount.

WOW! Thanks to all who contributed to the effort.

The Kingfield coordinated, neighborhood-wide yard sale is coming!

This year it will be held on Saturday, September 12th, one week after Labor Day. It’s a great opportunity to turn stuff no one wants—or a little bit of cash—into grass for your yard.

In past years, 65 to 90 families have been part of this neighborhood-wide sale. Eighth Ward City Council Member Elizabeth Glidden, a Kingfield resident, is looking forward to it. “This is a great example of Kingfield’s dedication to sustainability and reuse,” she said. “Yes, we are creative thinkers. We buy and barter and re-purpose. It’s not about being cheap, it’s about being conscious.”

If you want to participate, you must REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 8TH AT NOON!

Our Youth/Our Future

Over 50 people participated in a new family/art initiative by Kingfield Neighborhood Association and Leonardo’s Next Generation called “Our Youth/Our Future” on a Sunday afternoon in August.

The public art project focused on youth portraiture, celebrating the diversity of culture, appearance, learning and ideas in our community. The art-filled afternoon allowed families to explore faces of our community and learn various methods of creating portraits including digital photography, Photoshop, free-hand self-portrait painting, and screen printing.

Look around the community to see the one-of-a-kind yard signs, which display the faces of our youth and our future.

If you would like to have a yard sign to place in your yard, contact Sarah Linnen-Robinson, KFNA Executive Director at 612-823-1080 or sarah@kingfield.org. Pick one up, while available, at the KFNA table at the Kingfield Farmers’ Market.

To learn more about Leonardo’s future family/art sessions visit www.leonardonowhasearth.com. This project was supported by:

• Color Wheel Gallery
• Kingfield Neighborhood Association
• Leonardo’s Basement
• Minneapolis Institute of Arts: Art in the Parks
• Martin Luther King Park
• Solomon’s Porch

The second graffiti-fighting technique being tested in Kingfield, “wrapping,” is a procedure in which the plain metal surface of a utility box is wrapped in a specially designed vinyl laminate. The material features a design or photo, so that instead of looking like a blank canvas for taggers, a utility box becomes a design feature of the neighborhood.

The corridor of 38th and Niswold has suffered significantly from tagging. KFNA will target utility boxes in this area first, and you can expect to see a test box installed by mid-August with an image by Kingfield photographer John Rasmussen (a.k.a. Bar + Barber). Upon inspection and approval by the agencies that own the boxes, a call for photographs from other local artists will be distributed.

Clean City, a program of the city’s Solid Waste and Recycling division, has awarded these graffiti prevention micro-grants to Minneapolis communities as part of its five-year plan. “A Safe Place to Call Home,” one of the overall project’s goals, is to reduce diversion of the street art.

Remember: It is necessary to contact KFNA before undertaking your project, to ensure that program guidelines are met and utility companies are contacted. Reimbursements cannot be made without pre-approval. Happy painting!

– Amanda Wipich

OFF-LEASH AREA FOR KINGFIELD DOGS

A group of Kingfield residents is preparing NOW to bring a proposal to the Minneapolis City Council to create an off-leash dog area in MLK Park. If you have an interest in seeing this happen, you need their support! Both organizing and fundraising are necessary in this effort. If you are interested in being part of the planning, willing to voice your support when needed and able to help raise the money needed to create an off-leash area, contact KFNA at 612-823-5980 or info@kingfield.org.

The coordinated sale will be advertised in the Star Tribune and on Craig’s List, announced in other local papers, and promoted through multiple other outlets by KFNA. All registered sales will be listed on the market in the alleys of the neighborhood. You can register by mail, online at www.kingfield.org/garage-sale/garage-sale-registration, or in person at the KFNA table at the Kingfield Farmers’ Market.

Registration forms are also available outside the Kingfield office at room #101 in the rear, by phone at 612-823-5980, or online at www.kingfield.org.

The coordinated sale will be held on Saturday, September 12th, one week after Labor Day. It’s a great opportunity to turn stuff no one wants—or a little bit of cash—into grass for your yard.

Celebrate safety, sustainability, and reuse with a neighborhood-wide yard sale on September 12th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The coordinated sale will be advertised in the Star Tribune and on Craig's List, announced in other local papers, and promoted through multiple other outlets by KFNA. All registered sales will be listed on the market in this area.

Celebrate safety, sustainability, and reuse with a neighborhood-wide yard sale on September 12th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The coordinated sale will be advertised in the Star Tribune and on Craig's List, announced in other local papers, and promoted through multiple other outlets by KFNA. All registered sales will be listed on the market in this area.


CELEBRATE 38TH! Connecting South Minneapolis For More than a Century

In 1883, 38th Street became the southern boundary of most of the city of Minneapolis. Just four years later, the border was moved south to 54th Street. Running from the Lakewood Cemetery to the Mississippi River, 38th Street became the main crosstown connection south of Lake Street.

On Saturday, September 19th, visit 38th Street to celebrate a vibrant corridor that has connected South Minneapolis for more than a century! It will be a festive day full of music, dance, food, fun, and history, history, history!!

Join us for a fabulous day of celebrating our connections:
• Family hat making and parade preparation, starting at 9 a.m. on Pleasant
• Parade with HOURSAR from Pleasant to Nicollet and back, starting at 10 a.m.
• Live music and dance performances at CPAA on Pleasant, starting at 11 a.m.
• Live “parade band” music at Quality Coachers (between Nicollet and Blaisdell), 12 to 6 p.m.
• Self-guided history tours (walk or drive) at Lakewood Cemetery: See more details in sidebar.
• History highlights up and down 38th Street.
• Celebrations at 38th and Grand, 39th and Chicago, 38th and Pleasant, and other nodes
• Open houses, food, art, special shopping opportunities, family fun, and much MORE!!

Check the website at www.kingfield.org to see the events and activities for various nodes and businesses all along the corridor, which are being planned and added to the list daily! See you at Celebrate 38th!

The final stop on 38th

Tour of Minneapolis History at Lakewood Cemetery

Explore Minneapolis history on a self-guided tour of Lakewood Cemetery in its beautiful park-like landscape.

You’ll see and learn about:
• The founding families of Minneapolis, who were instrumental in the development of Minneapolis.
• Land developer Thomas Lowry, William M. Washburn, who launched the city’s lumber and milling industries, and Charles Loring, “Father of the Minneapolis Parks”
• Monuments that honor historic Minneapolis events, such as the Washburn “A Mill explosion
• Burial places of popular local leaders and politicians, like Hubert H. Humphrey, Paul Wellstone, and Hubert Humphrey.
• Monuments and sections that honor Minneapolis groups including the Eternal Order of the Elks, the Minneapolis Firemen’s Convent Memorial, and Showman’s Rest
• Unique and one-of-a-kind monuments and sculptures

Pick up a tour brochure from noon to 2 p.m. at a table outside the Administration Building (first building inside the front gates at 38th & Hiawatha). The tour takes an hour or a little longer, so you must have a free hour to drive. You can take a tour anytime after you pick up the brochure. Lakewood is open daily until 6 p.m.

Also available — Self-guided tours of Lakewood’s Victorian mansion, Memorial Chapel—once a Minneapolis treasure on the National Register of Historic Places (the Chapel will be open unless it’s needed for a funeral), and self-guided tours of Lakewood Academy and the homes behind common symbols found on monuments in the cemetery.)
“Business has been kind of down lately — I’m not sure how much of that is due to the recession or because of the construction. The loyal customers still come, and with others you just kind of wonder what has happened. They have had to cut down on employees’ hours.”

IVAN CHANG
Employee of Colonial Cleaners • 37th St. & Lyndale Ave.

“The construction hasn’t really affected me because I always park on an off-street behind my place. When I moved in, my roommate warned me that my car had a higher potential of being affected by the road construction. The lunch business has been affected by the road construction. People seem to be avoiding the area. We’re hanging in there, but it hasn’t been busy.”

ERIN UNGERMAN
Owner of El Meson • 34th St. & Lyndale Ave.

“Business has been kind of down lately, because it means I’m almost late for work!”

JULIE MACKAY • Apartment resident • 36th St. & Lyndale Ave.