THE POWER OF A PATIO

Patricia recently moved into an older 10-unit apartment building on 40th Street and 1st Avenue in Kingfield. As with many such buildings, there was no place for residents to gather or to sit outside, except on the steps or sidewalk, and residents didn’t know one another. Then one day last spring, Patricia started asking herself … what if we created a patio?

Patricia invited the other residents over for wine and hors d’oeuvres so they could get to know each other and talk about the patio idea. They knew that the landlord was cash-strapped, so they decided that to make it happen they would all contribute to cover the cost.

A small group of neighbors decided on the best place to put the patio, researched how to do it right, and got together everything they needed. They bought the pavers on sale, and got permission from the landlord. The layout they decided on was an octagon with room for a fire pit in the center. Even with a mathematician involved and lots and lots of string, the measuring took forever! One rainy night, Patricia and two other residents braved the sod and hauled it away, using recycling bins as a moving dolly, since they didn’t have a wheelbarrow. Fortunately, Patricia’s co-conspirator Matt had the kind of saw they needed to cut the pavers. As soon as it was done, they set up a fire pit and some cheap Adirondack chairs they had bought, and the new patio was ready to use.

People come together on the patio every day.

The very next day, other residents started knocking on Patricia’s door with checks. And it has been worth every penny to all of them—their new patio has transformed their little corner of Kingfield. A real sense of community has emerged. People come together on the patio every day—not just from Patricia’s building, but from next door and across the street as well. Someone bought a grill for all to use. Sometimes someone brings a guitar. As others walk by, someone will call out: Are you going to the block party? Have you voted? For the first time, they all know each other’s names.

The ripple effects extend far beyond the patio. Patricia used the dirt they removed to create a raised bed garden. They started backyard composting. They have increased their recycling so much that they have had to get extra bins. Residents with dogs are keeping the poop cleaned up as never before. They’ve created a building bulletin board to share news. They welcome new residents into their community.

Now that they have seen what a difference it made for Patricia’s building, others are excited about how they could do this kind of “placemaking,” transforming their own buildings and blocks into communities. If you have your own ideas for building community in new and unusual ways, contact Sarah Gleason at sarahg@kingfield.org or 612.823.5980.
From the KFNA President

This August, months of the KPNA Board and a few friends spent National Night Out on their bikes delivering Sebastian Joe’s ice cream from block party to block party. It has become an annual tradition—this was my fourth year doing it—and I think that I hope continues for years to come. Judging by the reaction we get, I think that many in the neighborhood share my sentiment in this regard. Of course, it is hard not to be popular delivering vats of custom-made free ice cream to a block party on a 90-degree day.

This year’s flavor, Kingfield’s Sweet Deal, was designed by Sebastian Joe’s along with the 4100 block of Garfield—the residents’ reward for having the greatest participation in the CEE energy audit program so far (see article on page 3). Caramel, chocolate, toffee, and a curve ball of ginger all worked together and the flavor seems like another keeper, based on your initial feedback. It will have a hard time surpassing last year’s flavor, Nicollet Pothole, which has become increasingly popular at Sebastian Joe’s. (Read the Southwest Journal article on this flavor—a bit of “ice cream activism” from KPNA—if you have not already.)

National Night Out is about more than ice cream for KPNA. It is about connecting with the neighborhood, getting people on our e-mail list, putting some names and faces behind the weekly e-mail blasts and quarterly newsletter, and helping get Kingfield and its residents even more engaged than they already are. They are the true block party or who just spent a great summer evening outside with their neighbors. I’m already looking forward to next year, and next year’s flavor.

—Chris See, KPNA President

Body, Brain, and Basics (B3) Boot Camp for People Ages 50 and up

Workouts geared to your fitness level, fun and challenging brain games and exercises, and all the latest on brain research, exercise, and nutrition, as well as the social-worker-led class “Health Care Directives, Living Wills, Medicare and More.” Please wear comfortable clothing and sneakers to each class. Co-sponsored with Volunteers of America-MN’s Southwest Senior Center, the parks, and Minneapolis Community Education.

• B3 BOOT CAMP •
Lyndale Farmstead Park – 3900 Bryant Avenue S.
Sept 13 – 17 from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Oct 4 – 8 from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

• TAI CHI •
Intermediate Classes start Wednesday, 10 a.m., Sept. 8
Beginner Classes start Monday, 10 a.m., Sept. 13
Classes are held at: Southwest Senior Center
5612 Bryant Avenue South

$35 for the session – Must register at least one week prior to the start of the session.

Blocking leaders: Connecting blocks, building community

The most important thing all of us can do to prevent and fight crime is both simple and powerful: Get to know your neighbors! Those special neighbors who bring others together and keep them connected are the important people we call block leaders. Sometimes people think being a block leader means taking on a big responsibility. But even “if all” you do is plan an annual party, or maintain an email list, or keep the block contact map updated…you are a block leader!

The Kingfield Crime Prevention and Safety committee (CPaS) is working on identifying, connecting, and supporting Kingfield block leaders. In May, they hosted a block leader social gathering, where we heard all kinds of great ideas for bringing blocks together and connecting neighbors. If you missed it, never fear! Join CPaS and other Kingfield block leaders for the fall 2010 block leader gathering on Tuesday, October 19, 7 p.m. at MLK Park. Bring your ideas and questions, along with an appetite for homemade dessert treats!

Nicollet Ace Hardware, our local hardware store

In 1979, a young Julene Lind was hired to work at a hardware store on 4th Avenue. “They hired me on the spot—and asked for my last name two weeks later.” Julene was in love with the hardware business from the very beginning. She loved being busy and helping people solve problems; she even loved the smell of hardware stores. “I just couldn’t get enough of it. When there was a hardware-related seminar, I just assumed that I was going.” A few years later, the owners made her the manager of their other store at 38th and Nicollet, Nicollet Ace Hardware.

Small business was the right place for Julene. She was probably sure she wouldn’t survive in the corporate world. “Rules are not for me!” she says. “A smaller company could accept my independence and free spirit. I’ve always been a motivated self-starter, but large corporations couldn’t see that.” The hardware store owners were really good small business owners, working six days a week, so Julene had two excellent teachers during her extended on-the-job training.

When the owners retired in 1986, Julene bought the business from them. Seven years later she decided to up the ante, and she bought the building from them as well. In 1991 her husband Steve came into the business. When Nicollet Lanes (the bowling alley/bar that occupied the rest of their building) decided it was time to call it quits, Nicollet Ace Hardware was able to expand. For 25 years, sales at the hardware store grew every single year—until the recent recession. 2007-08 was the first year that they saw sales decrease.

Julene is a big believer in the power of local business. “Money spent here goes back into the community. Small business provides a better value to all—a bigger bang for every buck. But a generation has grown up with big box retail, where the money flows out of the community. We need to get used to small business shopping again.” She is hopeful about the current “buy local” renaissance, and is a major supporter of the Kingfield Farmers’ Market.

Jilene and Steve are clearly proud of the business they have built. They believe their success has been built on staying nimble as a company, and hiring people who are dedicated to connecting and keeping our neighborhood together. Through everyone’s efforts, the Nicollet Ace Hardware family is proud of the transformation they have brought to the exterior aesthetic of Nicollet Ace Hardware. She hopes that their son will take over the business when they retire, so that they have what will continue to be the next generation.

Bus service at I-35W & 46th Street is focus of changes coming in December

Metro Transit soon will announce its final plan for restructuring bus service along I-35W South, including the Kingfield neighborhood. At the center of the changes is the new transit station at 46th Street, where customers can transfer between local buses on 46th Street and I-35W express buses that don’t have to leave the freeway. The two-level station features stairs and elevators, geothermal heating and cooling, high-efficiency LED lighting, and signs that display real-time departure information. Customers board local routes from the 46th Street level and express buses at the freeway level.

The plan also leads the way in bringing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service to the I-35W corridor. The 2012 BRT service operates much like rail service, with fewer stops, enhanced capacity, and boarding areas, and payment at stations prior to boarding.

Beginning in December, Route 535 will offer frequent (every 15 minutes during rush hours, every 30 minutes in midday and evening) express service between 46th Street and downtown Minneapolis from 5:20 a.m. to 11:20 p.m. on weekdays. Buses on Route 46, which travels on 46th and 50th streets, will be timed to meet express buses for easy, reliable transfers. Route 575 will offer express service between 46th and 50th streets and the University of Minnesota.

The plan was the focus of public meetings in June. Metro Transit staff have been reviewing the plan based on feedback received during the comment period. The final plan is expected to be approved by the Metropolitan Council in late August, and route changes will begin with the opening of the I-35W & 46th Street Station on Dec. 4. Details, including information about the transit station and an animation of how buses will enter the station from the freeway, are available at www.metrotransit.org/I35W.
Stay Up to Date Between Issues of Kingfield News

Did you know that KFNA provides a weekly e-notice to supplement this publication? Each week, we provide you up to date on neighborhood events and issues! KFNA provides this service free of charge to keep you informed on neighborhood events.

Community Energy Services Continues to Help Homeowners

Last fall KFNA encouraged neighbors to participate in the home energy workshops and energy assessments led by the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE). More than 300 Kingfield households took advantage of this opportunity, an impressive percentage of the 1700 area households served to date by this program.

CEE continues to offer workshops to Minneapolis homeowners, and although there is now a small fee for the home energy assessment, the workshop is still free. Upcoming workshops will not be held in Kingfield. Please contact locations and register by contacting Ashley Robertson at 612-335-5869 or arethorton@umnce.org. Additional information can be found at www.mnce.org.

As a bonus, the City of Minneapolis is working with CEE to create a neighborhood competition based on attendance at these workshops. Cash awards will be given to the neighborhood associations that have the highest participation. Both past participants and those who take part in the coming year will be counted toward the final numbers for neighborhood grants. If you haven’t already attended a workshop, sign up today!

COMmunity ENERGY SERVICES PROVIDES:

• FREE educational workshops to each homeowner on how to lower their energy use and save money.
• Customized home energy visits from qualified professionals who will identify additional ways for residents to save in their homes. Up to $400 in services and materials for a co-pay of only $30.
• Personalized energy use inventory for the last 12 months and tracking for the next 12 months.
• Information on financing, incentives, and the federal tax credit. Participants also gain access to rebates available to only this program.

Funding for this project was provided by the City of Minneapolis and the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

Blue Sky Guide/Chinook Goes on Sale Soon

We're launching our Chinook Book (formerly Blue Sky Guide) fundraiser in September to raise money for the 2011 Kingfield Community Gardens! The books are sold for $20, and KFNA earns $10 per book! Every penny of KFNA's profits will go toward the Kingfield Community Gardens.

This coupon book has been dubbed "The Best of What's Green and Local," and is a one-of-a-kind resource – a coupon book, a directory, a source of ideas and inspiration. The book contains more than 300 coupons and resources for exploring our community and supporting local, sustainable businesses. Find hundreds of dollars in every savings with offers for Anodyne, HOURCAR, and Butter Bakery Cafe, even the soon-to-be-opening-in-Kingfield Blue Sky Guide Cafe, as well as local and sustainable businesses! To see a complete list, please visit www.ecometro.com.

To make your purchase, please visit the KFNA table at the Kingfield Farmers' Market, 4110 Nicollet Avenue South, any Sunday in September! Thanks for your work in greening Kingfield!

Kingfield's Garden Walk

On Thursday August 5th, neighbors gathered for the second annual Kingfield Gardens Walking Tour. It was a perfect evening for a walk through the neighborhood while enjoying the beauty of our neighbors’ hard work in their gardens.

We were treated to a variety of delightful garden creations, a new Kingfield neighborhood company that converts hybrids to plug-in hybrid vehicles! A plug-in hybrid conversion is a cost-effective way to start transitioning to a greener transportation system towards a more naturally sustainable model. The conversion, available now for any existing Prius hybrid, significantly decreases fuel economy to 60-85 mpg for the typical commuter and increases the electric-only capacity of the vehicle by 10 times—up to 20 miles per charge.

We’ve been waiting a long time for plug-in electric vehicles in Minnesota. 17% of all carbon emissions in the U.S. are from light passenger vehicles (cars, SUVs and pickups), and vehicle emissions are the single largest source of air pollution in the country. Facing a serious public health threat. By using electricity to power our cars instead of petroleum, we significantly reduce carbon emissions and air pollution. Even when powered by electricity in our current coal reliant grid, a plug-in conversion saves an additional 2,000 pounds of CO2 per year over a regular hybrid! Now the local company, ReGo, is our local opportunity to convert existing vehicles to next generation plug-in electric hybrids. 60% of all oil consumed in the U.S. is from transportation. A plug-in electric hybrid vehicle can displace 156 gallons of imported gas each year, with local power from local sources! (formerly called Blue Sky Guide) and is eligible for a 10% federal tax credit.

And as a local company, ReGo has designed these conversions to work in Minnesota’s cold climate. As a local company, ReGo has designed these conversions to work in Minnesota’s cold climate. And as a local company, ReGo has designed these conversions to work in Minnesota’s cold climate.

ReGo is our local opportunity to convert existing vehicles to next generation plug-in electric hybrids. 60% of all oil consumed in the U.S. is from transportation. A plug-in electric hybrid vehicle can displace 156 gallons of imported gas each year. (formerly called Blue Sky Guide) and is eligible for a 10% federal tax credit.

So if you’ve been waiting to try out an electric vehicle, take advantage of this opportunity to see the ReGo conversion in action. The next conversion takes just two days, doesn’t take any trunk space, and comes with a 2-year warranty on all parts and labor.

To learn more, stop by the ReGo office at 3920 Nicollet Avenue South (in the Mulroy’s building) any weekday between 9 and 4pm, or stop by the ReGo website. To make your purchase, please visit the KFNA table at the Kingfield Farmers’ Market on Sunday September 19th. More information is also available at www.regoelectric.com.

—Jennell Yevicks

KINGFILD COMPANY OFFERING PLUG-IN HYBRID CONVERSIONS

The Klingon the Thing for Your Kingfield Car

Following up on an idea from a neighborhood resident, the Klingon Crime Prevention and Safety Committee (KCPA) is promoting the use of Kingfield window cling stickers available in residents' cars.

The purpose of the Kingfield window cling is twofold:

1. Show your community spirit and pride in the Kingfield neighborhood.
2. Help your neighbors to more easily distinguish cars that do and don’t belong to neighborhood residents.

Join your neighbors in this community-building effort! Pick up your Klingon cling from the KFNA table at the Farmers’ Market, and display it in the carburetor of your Kingfield car. Free window clings will be accepted to help pay for the cost of the clings.

Join KCPA every 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m.
MLK Park, 4055 Nicollet Avenue South.
For more information on this committee of KFNA, visit www.kingfield.org or call 612-823-5890.

Thank you to all of you who came out to join us on the tour! Ticket fees collected from this tour are a direct donation to the Kingfield Community Gardens program, a part of the Kingfield Green Committee. We exceeded our goal of raising $200 with this fun event, which will help keep the water flowing and the bunnies at bay next year! Until the next tour, you can further support our community garden through your purchase of a Chinook Book (formerly called Blue Sky Guide) which will be sold at the KFNA table at the Kingfield Farmer’s Market, 4110 Nicollet, every Sunday in September.

—Mervie Pesich, 2009 & 2010 Garden Tour Coordinator
MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERS
South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels (SMMOW) is a nonprofit program that delivers a nutritious noontime meal. Monday through Friday, to eligible clients. The Kingfield Neighborhood is one of the neighborhoods served by SMMOW.

Patrons of the Meals on Wheels program generally have difficulty with meal preparation because of illness or limited mobility. Meals consist of a hot entree (meat or fish, potato or pasta, vegetable), salad, dessert (usually fruit), bread, and milk. They can be prepared to meet a client’s dietary needs, such as diabetic or low salt.

The cost is $4.75 per meal.

SMMOW has existed since 1973 and is supported by more than 20 local churches. Drivers are volunteers from member churches. Meals on Wheels is more than a food-delivery program; it also serves as a safety check for clients. Drivers will alert the program coordinator if a client cannot be accounted for, or if a client seems to be experiencing any difficulty. In some instances, emergency personnel may be called. For some clients, the Meals on Wheels driver is the only personal contact they have each day.

If you, a family member, or a neighbor would benefit from this program, please call SMMOW’s coordinator, Pat Bolstad, at 722-5487.