Dear Neighbor,

Racism is real, sexism is real, homophobia is real, ableism is real, transphobia is real, Islamophobia is real. Kingfield is a vastly white, middle-class, home-owning neighborhood, so why then does all this matter? Do we only concern ourselves with our immediate vicinity? Of course not; that has never been the case. The question I want to ask is this: Are we doing all that we can to listen to and support individuals and groups in our neighborhood, city, and nation that do not fit so neatly into the dominant culture of this country?

Over years of conversations with my fellow Kingfielders, I have yet to meet someone who is not passionate about the pursuit of equity across Minneapolis, the United States, and the globe. It may be cliché, but I know you are a global citizen who cares deeply about the wellbeing of everyone.

Sincerely,
- David Fenley, KFNA President

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**Kingfield Empty Bowls**

**Stopping Hunger and Homelessness, One Bowl at a Time!**

On Thursday, February 9th, Kingfield will host the sixth annual Kingfield Empty Bowls, and we would love to see you there! Empty Bowls is a single day event that combines art, food, local businesses, nonprofits, and lots and lots of neighbors raising awareness and funds to combat hunger in our neighborhood. Your support of this project will again benefit Nicollet Square, an organization that provides affordable housing and a supportive environment for young adults who have experienced homelessness or have been in the foster care system. Last year we were able to donate over $10,000 to Nicollet Square through this single evening event!

The concept of Kingfield Empty Bowls is simple: Attendees donate (suggested at $20 per bowl), select a beautiful handmade bowl donated by a local pottery artist, enjoy a hearty meal of soup prepared by volunteers, and then keep their bowl as a reminder that you helped to provide meals for neighbors in need.

The Empty Bowls planning team has been working busily to secure beautiful handmade bowls, and the community is answering the call. Besides direct artist donations of finished pottery, KFNA hosted a Pottery Throwdown again this year with Uptown Clay where 11 potters threw more than 200 bowls in six hours! These bowls have been used at several community Pot-a-Bowl events already this fall, giving everyone a chance to be a part of what makes Kingfield Empty Bowls so special—a community working together, each in our own way, to take care of our own!

The bowls will be plentiful at Kingfield Empty Bowls, and so will the food! Once again many of our local restaurants have offered to provide soups, breads, and desserts for this event. Please join us in thanking Butter Bakery Café and Victor’s 1959 Café, who have many of our local restaurants have offered to provide soups, breads, and desserts for this event. Please join us in thanking Butter Bakery Café and Victor’s 1959 Café, who have already pledged their support. We know that many more of our incredible community restaurants will be joining them to cook and bake for Empty Bowls as it draws closer!

**From The KFNA President**

On Election Day, neighborhood volunteers connected with hundreds if not thousands of Kingfield voters at our polling place, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, and the sentiment was the same—compassion for all. I believe Kingfield has an opportunity to leverage its compassion and resources to do more good.

In the coming months and years, KFNA will support this. What that support entails has yet to be determined. I do not have all the answers, and neither does our board. We will seek solutions from you as well as our surrounding communities and the entire city. We are listening, we will hear, and we will support all communities no matter what.

Sincerely,

- David Fenley, KFNA President

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**Kingfield Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting & Potluck Showdown at MLK Park**

**Come gather with neighbors, hear the news of the year, and celebrate Kingfield and KFNA!**

Wednesday, February 22, beginning at 6 PM for a potluck and social, with the meeting beginning at 7 PM.

The annual KFNA board elections are approaching, and on this Wednesday, February 22nd, nominations for board members will be taken from the floor at the meeting. For more information in the weeks leading up to this meeting, please contact KFNA Executive Director Sarah Linnes-Robinson at sarah@kingfield.org or 612.823.5980, and she will be happy to chat with you about board needs and responsibilities.

Also plan to attend Kingfield Empty Bowls on February 9th, where you can snag a raving KFNA Board Member and talk with them about what it’s like to be part of the KFNA leadership team! They will all be at this event with an eye towards engaging new neighbors in the organization, as well as soliciting new ideas to include more neighbors in KFNA activities and events.

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**Kingfield Empty Bowls**

Empty Bowls is an event that can make a difference in our immediate community. If you are looking for community connections and a way to help others, please consider getting involved! The biggest need we have right now is for handmade pottery bowls that will be given away to all attendees at the February event. If you are a potter, or if you know a potter, please consider making and/or asking for a donation of bowls. Each bowl helps, and hundreds are needed! If you would like a digital copy of our Call for Pottery Artists, or e-mail language to use to send to potters that you know, please contact KFNA at info@kingfield.org with your name and e-mail address, and we will send you materials that will help you to help KFNA to help Nicollet Square!

If you are ready to drop off donated bowls, you can do so through January 31 at the Color Wheel Gallery, located at 46th & Grand, next door to Café Éna. Bowls will ideally be soup-sized and must be created with a food-safe glaze. If you need KFNA to pick up a donation, please contact us at 612.823.5980 or info@kingfield.org.

**SAVE THE DATE** and join us on Thursday, February 9th, 4 to 8 PM at the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center, 4055 Nicollet Avenue, for Kingfield Empty Bowls—a fun evening of art, great food, and lots of lively conversation with your community.

Contact Sarah Linnes-Robinson at sarah@kingfield.org or 612.823.5980 if you are interested in getting involved. The planning team will meet again on Tuesday, January 10th, and there will be opportunities to assist with promotion and event planning.

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**You are filling the Empty Bowls with more than soup...**

C.J. describes his growing up as a dark, sad time with very little parental love or attention. His dad did time in prison, and his mom was just trying to survive herself with his other younger siblings to care for. By high school, C.J. had struggled enough that even school had given up on him, and so at 17 he left home. Running away to Arizona with grand hopes to be a musician turned out to be nothing but trouble, and he found himself trying to live day to day with more and more desperate acts. Eventually he chose to leave, but time in Chicago wasn’t any better, and so he returned home to St. Paul with determination to finish school, get a place to stay, and a car to help him be independent. It wasn’t any easier there, but a connection to Studio 4, where he sought to fill a passion for music and writing, provided him a chance to apply to Nicollet Square. After a long year of sleeping in porches, bouncing from friends’ houses, and eventually living out of a car parked in a backyard, C.J.’s homelessness ended with a call of acceptance at Nicollet Square.

C.J. now has the one thing that had eluded him for so long: safety. He is surrounded by positive opportunities and by people who care about his future through the work of the Youthlink and Beacon staff. C.J. is very grateful for the supportive and positive environment he has found here at Butter among both staff and customers, because his prior work experiences have not been all positive: he has been overworked, taken advantage of, and treated poorly in front of customers and other staff. And with this newfound safety comes the security of having food to eat and the time to pursue his dreams to write and perform music and to begin to rebuild relationships with his family.

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Continued on page 2
Creating a Welcoming Community

Election Day in Kingfield was blissful. Blue skies and warm temps, tasty cookies dipped in hot coffee, and friends happily face each other. The day after was not so serene. The national response to the presidential vote took place in dramatic contrast to our community’s desire (as noted by reviewing the voting results on the Secretary of State’s website). The outcome of this election has served as a wake-up call to Kingfelders and beyond, that the divide is real on every side, many neighbors stunned and searching for answers and actions.

On November 9th, KFNA invited neighbors to join us at our monthly board meeting for a community conversation regarding the recent election and how we can do our part to create a welcoming environment for all neighbors. About a dozen neighbors joined the board to share their story, and with everyone remaining strong, was it evident that the world had shifted for most people in the room, and we were all trying to make sense of the new world order.

Invest Locally with KFNA

Caution: This is a request for your financial support, so if you don’t value what KFNA does in the community, please skip to the next article.

Dear Kingfield Neighbor,

Local is a trendy concept these days, but no one can claim to be more locally engaged and oriented for Kingfield than the Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA). Our energy, time, and money are being spent in our neighborhood, engaging neighbors and businesses in activities, issues, and solutions.

In our neighborhood, we constantly are creating new ways for neighbors to come together to build community and strengthen local relationships. (Think of Empty Bowls, PorchFest, Garden Tours, Open Streets, and the Community Outdoor Oven.) In city, county, and statewide matters that impact the Kingfield neighborhood, we ensure that Kingfield has a seat at the table and a voice in the debate. Because of this work on behalf of our neighborhood, we are writing to ask you to support us with a tax-deductible financial donation. KFNA runs a pretty barebones operation. Our Board of Directors and committee members do not receive financial compensation for their work in the community. The 16 board members and other volunteers are coordinated by two part-time, paid staff people, and occasional unpaid project organizers.

• In our neighborhood, we are constantly working to create new ways for neighbors to come together to build community and strengthen local relationships.

• About a dozen neighbors joined the board to share their story, and with everyone remaining strong, was it evident that the world had shifted for most people in the room, and we were all trying to make sense of the new world order.

As added incentive, this year KFNA will give the first 50 new monthly Contributing Members a jar of VERY local honey, from our Kingfield beehives located on the rooftop of our office at the Center for Performing Arts! We have giving levels to fit the needs of many different neighbors, including:

• The Kingfield Block Builder at $5 per month
• The Good Neighbor at $10 per month
• The Community Leader at $15 per month
• The Community Builder at $20 per month
• The Kingfield Neighborhood Hero at $50 per month or more.

Thank you for your time, energy, and interest in Kingfield Neighborhood and the Kingfield Neighborhood Association. It is the residents and businesses that make this neighborhood amazing!

Your KFNA Board

As always, our primary objective is to ensure that neighbors receive our weekly e-News, because this newsletter is the only way we can keep you up-to-date on what’s happening in Kingfield. As share ideas in the weekly eNews and in this quarterly Election Reflection, KFNA is sharing all these ideas on our Facebook page. For example, ways to support The Aliveness Project on page 3 of this issue—so that anyone can find ways to be involved to assure that the Kingfield neighborhood keeps this work happening in your community. Make a one-time donation by mailing a check directly to us, or donate via Razoo, a safe online nonprofit donation site (which is linked from our website at www.kingfield.org). Please also consider becoming a sustaining member this year with a monthly recurring donation.

We had fun with Instagram snapping photos of voters with a giant “I VOTED” sign. Look for them with hashtag #KingfieldVotes on Facebook. Want to see more? Join us in the Kingfield Neighborhood Association or Instagram at KingfieldKF.

Our Election Day outreach could not have happened without the leadership of KFNA, the dozens of volunteers who staffed our tents, and the donations of coffee, tea, and treats from local businesses and neighbors. When you next visit these generous businesses, please thank Gail & Chris at Blackbird, Mary & Dan at Grand Café, Dan at Butter Bakery, Caleb and Ezra at Five Watt, Niki at Victor’s 599 Café, Heather at The Lowbrow, Jim at Roy’s, Anne at Pat’s Tap and Gigi’s, Dennis at Curran’s, Solvieg at Sun Street, and Kirsten and the rest of the staff at Bruegger’s Station 27!

Again, about 85% of Kingfield came out to vote in 2016. While the national results do not reflect what the vast majority of Kingfield voters wanted (93% of Kingfield voted for non-winning Presidential candidates), it is important that we continue to work together to make Kingfield a safe and welcoming place for everyone. In that spirit, KFNA is working to listen better, partner more, and to be a conduit for neighbors to find the information they need to talk about their neighbors’ and their communities’ needs and to act on that information and connect to good causes and a hub for them to connect to each other.

I will conclude with this: PLEASE come back to MLK Park next year to vote in the municipal election. The 2013 election in Minneapolis only saw about 40% turnout at the voting, which is concerning, especially when you consider that we have the power to enact change at a local level. I promise to be there all day for you and your neighbors, and to share their stories. Giving you coffee, tea, and treats, and friendly smiles.

— Scott Mueller, KFNA Board Member

Nicollet Square housing was developed by Beacon, an interfaith collaborative of congregations committed to ending homelessness through housing, the Families Moving Forward shelter program, and public advocacy. Beacon always welcomes new volunteers.


When new interns arrive at Butter Bakery Café, I offer a week or two of time to orient and connect with each one. Even on my first visit with C.J. it was evident that we had some things in common, some willingness to be open with each other, and a shared hope for the future. C.J. shared his desire to be a writer, which became our first point of connection. My writing career has been both varied and fruitful, and my many years as a writing teacher suddenly came back to me as a gift of experience that could be available to share with C.J. His interest in my writing sparked my own interest in his. And, as I pointed out to him, he wasn’t alone here at the café. We have lots of writers who use this place as their workplace, their socializing spot, and their retreat when needed. As I introduced C.J. to the writers who pass through here, he found encouragement and support.

I am so grateful for all the ways customers of the café see themselves as points of contact for our neighborhood, recognizing that their ability to be welcoming and friendly is a great gift to the residents of Nicollet Square. For many of these young people, their experience is one of being disconnected from family, from friends, from community. Our willingness to accept and include the residents into the tapestry of the Kingfield neighborhood makes us all richer.

— Dan Swenson-Klatt

Election Reflection

For the fourth time since 2012, the Kingfield Neighborhood Association was at MLK Park on Election Day to greet our voters with free coffee, tea, and treats. All of Kingfield and the Kingfield-only votes at MLK Park, so it’s the perfect outreach opportunity for us to connect with our neighbors. For the first time, we added two tents beyond the station along Nicollet north of the park building, and set up in the back parking lot and south at 41st Street.

Thanks to early voting, Kingfield saw about 1,500 fewer voters at the MLK Park location this year than in 2012. However, the voting line was relatively short lines throughout the day. Kingfield’s turnout was strong, however—about 85% of registered voters cast their ballots either early or in-person at MLK Park.

Of all the things KFNA does, Election Day outreach is C.J.’s Story — continued from page 1

Many people expressed a need to connect with others (“have dinner with neighbors” … “find shared ground” … “listen”), and there was a strong desire to support the people they might feel less connected to in change in leadership (“volunteer” … “be an ally”) while they expressed a desire for specific, tangible actions (“identify and begin planning for potential needs of neighbors” … “be the Bridge Builders – 40th Street” … “make welcoming yard signs”).
Kingfield and Lyndale and Whittier, Oh MY!

**Neighborhoods work together to put on the largest Nicollet Open Streets yet!**

On Sunday, September 18th, three neighborhoods came together to host the 3rd Annual Nicollet Open Streets. Our neighborhoods welcomed an estimated 14,000 participants with pride as bikers, walkers, and vendors flooded the section of Nicollet Avenue between the Knott parking lot and 46th Street. That is up from an estimated 11,000 in 2015!

Undoubtedly, bicycles were the primary form of transportation when the street was closed to motorized vehicles for the afternoon, but at many intersections it was necessary to walk them! 35th, 37th, 38th, and 43rd were so packed with neighbors enjoying food, drinks, and music provided by our local eateries and musicians that navigating on-wheels became impossible. No one seemed to mind very much, however, as it gave the bikers a chance to grab a bite and beverage, and enjoy the sounds of Kingfield as they passed by. Scooters, rollerbladers, and dog-walkers also joined the river of people down Nicollet to fill the street from curb to curb!

Programming in the Knott parking lot was our first step of a partnership with Whittier Alliance on this event. If Nicollet is again selected as a corridor for this event in 2017, we envision the event wrapping around the Knott site and continuing up into East Street! Thus we can experience for a day the street as it used to be—the main street connection from downtown to southern Minneapolis.

Countless volunteers organized by KFNA, LNA, and Whittier set up for the event, assisted vendors, provided information for guests, and cleaned up afterward. They could be seen working from morning to night in their Open Streets T-shirts. As cars reclaimed the pavement, Nicollet Avenue was left free of litter and debris. Despite the hard work, volunteers enjoyed the event as much as the bikers. This was a great way to meet neighbors, business owners, artists, and musicians. When the call comes for volunteers in 2017, please consider tossing your name into the hat and being an integral part to the smooth running of this massive event.

Each year, this event is a chance for us to reintroduce our neighborhoods to the greater community. In 2016, we able to proudly present a beautiful park, a thriving business atmosphere, and three neighborhoods full of people who were able to work together to put on a spectacular event.

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**Every 40 years or so you gotta have your street repaved.....**

The City of Minneapolis, Public Works, is preparing to perform street improvements in the Kingfield area next summer. These improvements will focus on the removal and replacement of the asphalt street in front of many of your houses.

Back in 1965, the City Council directed the Department of Public Works to improve all 600 miles of residential streets in the city, which back then were made of an old asphalt-dirt surface, and replace them with new concrete curb and gutter and an engineered pavement section. This resulted in the reconstruction of all residential streets in the city over a 30-year period. By 1995, the streets that were first built were nearing their 50-year life, and a new asphalt surface extended the life of these streets about 10 years, to bring the total life of these streets close to 40 years.

Streets still are selected to be resurfaced following this original program. For 2017, the streets involved are part of the Harriet/Lakewood residential paving area, two projects that were originally built in 1960 & 1978, respectively.

Along with this program there is a property assessment which will pay for a portion of the project. This assessment is based on the uniform assessment rate, a standard rate applied to all properties not only in Harriet/Lakewood, but to all the streets resurfaced in 2017.

At least two meetings are being organized for public works staff to meet with the property owners in these project limits. A public hearing at City Council is scheduled for February 28, 2017, at 9:45 AM in council chambers, and a neighborhood meeting will be held the week prior, in the evening. Public Works will be mailing letters to all the affected property owners in the Harriet/Lakewood properties, along with the cost for their assessment and an invitation to the evening meeting. —Larry Matsunoto

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**Get to know Gee Teez**

Gee Teez is a business sponsor of the Kingfield Neighborhood Association and has been part of the fabric of the neighborhood for two and a half decades! They are a local provider of custom screenprinting, embroidery, and promotional products in small and large quantities alike, from as few as a dozen to thousands of pieces.

**How long has Gee Teez been in the neighborhood and what has changed most since you moved in?**

We opened in 1990 in the East Harriet neighborhood before moving to Kingfield at 38th & Grand. In 2003, we moved to our current location at 4050 Nicollet. Watching the rejuvenation of the neighborhood with so many fabulous restaurants and other unique small businesses has been a joy. It’s been truly remarkable.

**How is “community” important to your business?**

We enjoy working with our neighbors, whether through the schools, park programs, businesses, teams and family reunions, and other community events. The community supports us, so we like to support the community and the local neighborhood association, KFNA. Plus, the murals are wonderful! Please stop in—we always have treats for the neighborhood dogs who bring their people to visit.

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**Annual Kingfield Community Rummage Sale — We Need You!**

An important announcement for people with overstuffed garages or storage spaces AND the treasure-seekers among us! The 19th Annual Community Rummage Sale will take place in May 2017, and we need your help planning the event! This sale has become a yearly tradition that draws hundreds of folks to our neighborhood, and allows Kingfielders to purge and repurpose the things they no longer want or need. Planning this event is easy and fun.

Please send an e-mail to Cheryl@Kingfield.org if you would like more information about volunteering.

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**Celebrate the spirit of giving**

The Aliveness Project’s Holiday Gift Program delivers gift cards and other useful items to people living with HIV and their families. Gifts will be distributed at a Holiday Gift Expo on December 20th and 21st, where people living with HIV and their families will also be able to pick up home baked cookies, stockings, and other health and wellness related holiday items.

You have an opportunity to support people living with HIV this holiday season by adopting one of our members. More than 600 members have requested holiday gifts, and our goal is to have 100% of them adopted. You will receive a shopping list for every person or household you adopt that will include a $35 gift card and cold weather items.

If you’re not able to donate, there are also many opportunities to volunteer including baking cookies, helping at the Holiday Expo, or delivering gifts on December 23rd.

An application to adopt or volunteer is available on our website: http://aliveness.org/holiday-gift-program or by stopping by our center (3808 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis). For more information, call Roosevelt at 612-822-7946 or e-mail him at roosevelt@aliveness.org.
SNOWETIQUETTE

This winter, we need everyone’s cooperation to keep our sidewalks and streets clear of ice and snow. Minneapolis ordinance requires that all sidewalks be cleared completely after a snowfall. Once a snowfall ends, single family homes and duplexes have 24 hours to clear sidewalks; apartments, commercial buildings, and all other properties have 4 daylight hours.

If you find a neighbor’s sidewalk that hasn’t been cleared, please check on them to see if they’re able to complete it on their own. If they can’t, work with them to find ways to keep the sidewalks cleared. If you still don’t see positive results after those efforts, you can report the snow/cicy sidewalk to the city online or by calling 311.

Emergency response vehicles depend on the snowplows to clear our streets curb to curb, and they in turn depend on us to follow the parking restrictions of Minneapolis Snow Emergencies. Full details can be found online at http://www.minneapolis.gov/snow/snow_stay-informed or by calling 311.

Going away for one night or longer, and leaving your car behind parked on the street? Leave your keys with a trusted neighbor and ask them to move your car if a Snow Emergency is declared. Out shoveling your walk and see a car that’s illegally parked? Be a plow pal and knock on the neighbor’s door—a head’s up can help them avoid a ticket and tow. Let’s look out for each other this winter!

Set a playdate at MLK Park

It might be getting colder outside, but the winter programs are just heating up at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park. Kids have been dropping in after school to use the gym, game room, or computer lab; these spaces are free and open every day for our neighborhood youth. The Indoor Playground on Monday–Wednesday from 3 to 8 PM for preschoolers, grades K-3, and grades 4-6 on Thursdays from 4 to 8 PM. For a complete list of winter programs at MLK Park for families, preschoolers, and adults all running on Thursdays. For a complete list of winter/ spring activities, go to www.minneapolisparks.org and click on Parks & Destinations/Recreation Centers/ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center, and download an electronic copy—or, stop by the park for a paper copy. We’ll see you at the park!

The winter program highlight for the season is the new Pottery Wheel Throwing class for youth running Thursdays at 4:30 PM. Every participant gets a dedicated pottery wheel to learn the craft from Kirsten, our ceramic teacher. This class will begin with the basics and finish with fired, usable pieces of artwork. Look for other ceramic classes offered at MLK Park for families, preschoolers, and adults all running on Thursdays. For a complete list of winter/ spring activities, go to www.minneapolisparks.org and click on Parks & Destinations/Recreation Centers/ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center, and download an electronic copy—or, step by the park for a paper copy. We’ll see you at the park!

- Peter Jaeger, MLK Park Director

Kingfield Pleasant Community Garden has a spot for you!

With winter setting in, let your mind wander back to the joy of spring days… the smell of fresh vegetables in the garden… the feel of the sun on your face…. Now picture yourself in the Kingfield Pleasant Community Garden, sharing the beautiful day with fellow Kingfielders! Although we won’t begin advertising availability for vacant spots in the garden until March, if you would like to be added to the list of people interested in joining the garden, please send an email to Cheryl@kingfield.org to be one of the first people notified when applications become available. If you are interested in learning how to garden and might be interested in a free class led by Hennepin County Master Gardeners, email us as well; the Veggie Basics class will be held again this spring and we are happy to notify you directly this spring when it is time to register!

Crime Prevention and Safety in Kingfield

Although the numbers show that most crime is down in our neighborhood, if you see the posts on Nextdoor Kingfield and receive the Crime Alerts from the city, you might believe otherwise. The Neighborhood Association is here to help! We can work with you and your block to provide crime updates, crime prevention workshops, and even facilitate meetings with city resources to address issues of concern. Questions about criminal activity? Feel free to contact our MPD 5th Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist, Jennifer Waisanen; Jennifer.Waisanen@minneapolismn.gov.

Thank you, 2016 KFNA Business Sponsors!

www.kingfield.org A Quarterly Publication

Volunteer opportunity @ The Aliveness Project, 3808 Nicollet Ave. S.

Now Open registration for winter/spring Activities at MLK Park (Jan.-May)

Online @ minneapolisparks.org, or in-person @ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther
King, Jr. Recreation Center, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S.

Tues., Jan. 10 Planning Meeting for Empty Bowls

6 PM social hour

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S.

7 PM meeting

Wed., Feb. 22 Kingfield Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting & Potluck showdown

6 PM social hour

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S.

7 PM meeting

May 2017 The 19th Annual community rummage sale

Look for details in the next edition of Kingfield News, or check kingfield.org

Calendar of Events

community news

www.kingfield.org

Thank you, 2016 KFNA Business Sponsors!