Kingfield Empty Bowls: Be a part of stopping hunger and homelessness in our community!

Thursday, February 8th, 4-8 PM
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center • 4055 Nicollet Ave. S.

On Thursday, February 8th, Kingfield will host the seventh annual Kingfield Empty Bowls, and we would love to see you there! Empty Bowls is a single-evening event that combines art, food, local businesses, nonprofits, and lots of love. Together, we will raise awareness and funds to combat hunger in our neighborhood.

As in past years, donations to Empty Bowls will benefit Nicollaret Square, an organization that provides affordable housing and a supportive environment for youth who have experienced long-term homelessness or have been in the foster care system. New this year, we are also partnering with Lyndale Community Dinners, which welcomes neighbors to a free home-cooked meal every Wednesday throughout the year. While helping to address ongoing food security issues in our community, these dinners also offer the chance for people of different walks of life to share a meal and fellowship.

The concept of Kingfield Empty Bowls is simple: Attendees make a donation (suggested at $20 per bowl), select a beautiful handmade bowl donated by a local potter, artist, or group, and then keep their bowl as a reminder that many of our neighbors need food and housing. Bowls are being donated by numerous local high school ceramic classes, as well as by professional artists. Be sure to check out the Paint-a-Bowl on January 14th at ColorWheel Gallery (see details in the calendar, page 4) where you can help decorate bowls for the event!

Once again, many of our incredible restaurants have offered to provide soups, breads, and desserts for Empty Bowls. Please join us in thanking Blackbird, Butler Bakery Café, Café Ena, Five Watt Coffee, Nighthawks, Patisserie 46, Pat’s Tap, Royal Grounds, Sunstreet Breads, and Victor’s 1959 Café, who have already pledged their support.

Get to know the City of Lakes Community Land Trust and support an affordable housing project in Kingfield

Monday, January 22nd • 6:30-7:30 PM
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center

At their December meeting the KFNA Board approved $145,250 of recently unfrozen NRP dollars and returned program income from past home loans to be contracted to the City of Lakes Community Land Trust (CLCLT) for the redevelopment of an affordable, single-family home at 210 W. 46th Street. To fully rehab this property, however, they need additional funds, so the KFNA Board has authorized their Redevelopment Committee to hold a meeting for the purpose of approving a NRP Plan Modification to move an additional $14,750 from Strategy 1.4.1.1/ Housing Staff to 1.1.1.1/Affordable Housing also to be loaned to the CLCLT. Attend this meeting to meet CLCLT representatives and approve the moving of this funding on January 22nd. Can’t make this meeting? Feel free to send your comments via email to info@kingfield.org.

The City of Lakes Community Land Trust (CLCLT) is a nonprofit organization that was formed in 2001 and provides sustainable homeownership through a community land trust model. The CLCLT provides perpetually affordable home ownership opportunities for income-qualified buyers who otherwise would not be able to purchase homes in Minneapolis. It does this by acquiring land and removing it from the for-profit real estate market by holding the land “in trust” forever, ensuring that it will always remain affordable for future homebuyers. They do this by continuing to own the land, allowing them to sell the rehabbed home as a separate, entity. When the homeowner sells the house, both parties realize an increase in property value and wealth; CLCLT reinvests its share of the profit into the affordability of the property, and the homeowner carries their share forward to purchase a new home. There are close to 250 CLCLT homes across Minneapolis today, with three already in the Kingfield neighborhood. In addition, the CLCLT has facilitated 50 resales, where homes have retained affordability for the next buyer.

KFNA is excited to partner with CLCLT to assist in the renovation of this property located in Kingfield, which will be sold to an income-eligible person or family at 30-80% MFI. Besides providing a $10,000 grant to CLCLT, a 5% loan of $250,000 will be drafted to ensure that this property can be continue to remain affordable. The interest charged on this loan will be forgiven if conditions of the property are met, including:

- the property is completed and sold to an income-eligible family within 365 days of the loan signing, or
- the loan amount is repaid in full, also within this time,
- the home for sale follows KFNA’s Design & Development Guidelines, specifically the community land trust model, the unique characteristics of the neighborhood,” by using high-quality materials, and “respecting the environment” through the use of energy-saving lighting and appliances.

The project already meets the Design & Development Guidelines priorities of “increasing housing opportunities” and “collaborating with developers.” You can read these entire policies on the Kingfield website at kingfield.org/board.

Let’s Talk Numbers... and what you can do about them

Based on what you might have read on Nextdoor Kingfield or various Facebook groups, you might think our neighborhood has been experiencing a horrendous crime spate. Fortunately, the numbers aren’t as bad as you might think. Of course, numbers only tell part of the story, especially if you happen to have been a victim.

Let’s start with the facts: This year’s crime statistics (of reported crimes) show that robberies (when someone threatens to take something from you, personally, not your home), auto thefts, and arson are down compared to the last five years. Aggravated assaults (when someone threatens to hurt you) and burglaries (unwelcomed entry into your home or garage) are up from last year, but not as high as 2013 or 2015. Unfortunately, thefts are the highest they have been since before 2012.

What does all that mean? Fortunately, there are very few violent crimes reported in Kingfield. Many thefts are from vehicles, or result from property being left behind or unattended, or property that is “lost,” meaning the owner isn’t sure where they left the items. Many burglaries and theft from vehicles are the result of not locking car doors, or leaving garage doors open. There are a few simple steps you can take to help reduce your chances of becoming a victim of these crimes:

- Lock your doors and windows
- Keep your garage door closed when not in your garage
- Remove items from your vehicle
- Register your bicycle by calling 311.
Gardening in Community, Kingfield Neighborhood

Now is the perfect time to start dreaming of warm weather and enjoying the challenges and rewards of gardening! Don’t have a great spot to garden? Maybe you would rather garden with a group of people and share in the feelings of community. We have a place for you! The Kingfield Community Garden, located in what is now the Lyndale Outdoor Oven, opened the entire four-neighborhood area, voter turnout improved by 10.6 percent over the 2013 mayoral election, and we believe our voter campaign made the difference.

KFNA intends to build on these successful efforts to engage voters before next year’s election for governor, congress, state legislature, and school board. Expect to see the yard signs back, as well as renewed collaboration with surrounding neighborhoods, and an even bigger polling party at MLK Park! We are also brainstorming new ideas to increase civic engagement, such as appointing Election Day block captains, who will get out the vote block-by-block and help new neighbors update their voter registration. If you are interested in making Kingfield the number-one neighborhood for voter turnout, email info@kingfield.org to get involved, or check the weekly KFNA newsletter as Election Day 2018 approaches.

Thank you to these very local businesses that fueled our Polling Party this year: Butter Bakery Café, Five Watt Coffee, Royal Grounds, Curran’s, Bridge’s Station 27, Sun Street, Patisserie 46, The Lowbrow. You are all the best!

Let’s Talk Numbers • Continued from page 1

Becoming more aware of activities occurring in our neighborhood can also help. Sign up for Crime Alerts from the MPD. Contact your block lead and ask to be included in information distributed by the Police Department. Not sure who your block lead is? Contact Jennifer Waisanen, our Crime Prevention Specialist (Jennifer.waisanen@minneapolismn.gov). Studies prove that active block groups help deter crime and make neighbors feel more comfortable that everyone is watching out for one another. If you see something, say something. Active situation with a suspicious person, always call 911! A recent active situation was when Mia Russell also created four murals on the basketball court at Kingfield Park. She, with the help of 12 volunteers, taught them techniques and the process of stencil cutting, and the 12 youth completed the 12 (Mia) collection. Mia Russell also created four murals on the basketball court at Kingfield Park. She, with the help of 12 volunteers, taught them basic aerosol art techniques and the process of stencil cutting, and the 12 youth currently have their work hanging in a gallery at Mpls. Russell also created four murals on the basketball backboards in the gym at MLK Park—be sure to check them out the next time you are at the park!

Lastly, if you are the victim of a crime, please report it. The Police Department dedicates resources to attack crime areas. If they don’t know there is a problem on your block, they will be spending time somewhere, where there are reported issues. And remember that if you see an active situation with a suspicious person, always call 911! – Cheryl DeGrof

The KFNA Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7PM at Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave.

2017 KFNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Executive Director Anthony Hinck – anthony@kingfield.org
Ashley Sligher – ashley@kingfield.org
Dave Swenson-Kohm – dswensonkohm@gmail.com
Dave Myers – dmyers@kingfield.org
David Funke – david@kingfield.org
Erica Torres Boguski – erica@kingfield.org
Hern Dabah – hern@kingfield.org
John Soder – john@kingfield.org
Lisa Hould – lisahould@gmail.com
Lisa Szereszko-Bronik – lisasbronik@gmail.com
Madelene Sandberg – madelene@kingfield.org
Scott Muhler – scottm@kingfield.org
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Cheryl DeGroff, Project Organizer

KFNA NEWS
If you are interested in writing, editing, designing, or taking photographs for the Kingfield News, call or email KFNA.

THE CROSSTOWN: Art + Basketball

In October, artist Peyton Scott Russell introduced the MLK basketball team to art nouveau, introducing the Rights Movement from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (Mia) collection. Then taught them basic acrylic art techniques and the process of stencil cutting, and the 12 youth currently have their work hanging in a gallery at Mia. Russell also created four murals on the basketball backboards in the gym at MLK Park—be sure to check them out the next time you are at the park!

Nicollet Square, which houses 42 formerly homeless youth in our community. Unlimited homemade soup was given to attendees in hot bowls in return for a donation. Attendees took home their bowls to remember those who are hungry in our community. This event brought together more than 600 community members and raised over $9,000 of discretionary funding for Nicollet Square.

The KFNA Annual Meeting and Potluck was held in February 2018. The Art + Basketball talk was given at this time, and Alternates were elected to the Board of Directors for a two-year-term.

Earth Day 2017 brought a giant pile of compost to the neighborhood from the state’s Plate to Garden program.

In June, KFNA organized the 3rd annual Kingfield PorchFest. This event brought over 50 local musical performances to 30 sites over the course of one evening. This popular event offers local musicians a way to share their talents with their neighbors, while serving their community as a promotional event that draws people both to the neighborhood and out of their homes for an evening.

In 2017, the Pleasant Community Garden completed its 8th successful year with more than 25 gardeners. These volunteers organized the annual Kingfield Garden Tour, which supports the KFNA Community Garden mission by encouraging gardening among our neighbors and raising money for the garden and our rooftop bee hives. KFNA also supported an educational event in partnership with Hemepin County Master Gardeners, and a communal garden at MLK Park that benefits The Aliveness Project food shelf.

In 2017, KFNA again biked to more than 50 block parties and brought Kingfielders the sweetest National Night Out experience ever…free locally made ice cream by Sebastian’s Ice Cream.

The Kingfield Community Outdoor Oven held its first fall season of events, April through October. This included monthly community pizza events, student concerts by CFPA tenants, bread baking experiments, and the first ever “Improv in the Garden” with local theatre artists performing in the outdoor space!

In September, KFNA hosted and co-organized (with the Lyndale Neighborhood group) the 4th annual Nicollet Open Streets, 14,000 people spent the afternoon walking and biking the 2.5-mile stretch of Nicollet Avenue from Lake Street down to 46th Street on a gorgeous fall afternoon.

In November, KFNA’s outreach to the community on Election Day included two tents full of tasty treats, hot coffee, and cheerful neighbors—with a goal of thanking all voters. In an effort to increase voter turnout, what is traditionally a low turnout year, KFNA worked in partnership with 3 other neighborhoods to create a joint community values statement and plan a southside mayoral forum. KFNA also covered the neighborhood with more than 400 yard signs reminding neighbors to vote. These efforts resulted in an almost 14% increase in voters over the last municipal election four years ago.

Throughout 2017, KFNA maintained our regular communications including the website at www.kingfield.org, the e-newsletter KFNA eNews, and the printed and mailed quarterly Kingfield News, and special events such as the Lyndale newspaper to increase communication. We also continued our weekly presence at the Kingfield Farmers’ Market to keep neighbors informed of upcoming events, issues, and opportunities right here in Kingfield.
How Can We Help the Homeless?

Have you ever wondered what you can do to help someone who is panhandling? Who should you call if you find someone living in a car, or in a doorway, or in an encampment? When winter arrives and the temperature plummets, who can people turn to when they need help finding somewhere to sleep and a way to stay warm from the cold to stable housing? Call the Outreach Team!

The St. Stephen’s Street Outreach Team helps people experiencing homelessness find the housing and services they need to end their homelessness and improve their lives. The team serves people who sleep outside, in their cars or abandoned buildings, and in other places not meant for human habitation. They connect people to available housing, supportive housing, community resources, emergency shelters, drop-in centers, food shelves, and meal sites. For those who cannot find suitable shelter, St. Stephen’s Human Services provides emergency gear, builds their trust by checking on their welfare, and helps them to find safe housing and the services needed to stay in their housing.

What can you do if you are worried about someone who may be homeless, or if you are approached by someone panhandling? The Outreach Team has these tips:
- Acknowledge the person (smile, nod, say hello, or wish them the best).
- If you are comfortable speaking to the person, give them information about St. Stephen’s Street Outreach Team. The organization has a pamphlet you can print and carry with you: ststephensmpls.org/programs/emergency-shelter/street-outreach.
- Call the Outreach Team and leave a message anytime at 612-879-7624. Put this number in your cell phone!

For more information, go to ststephensmpls.org.

Dear Kingfield Neighbor:

There are a lot of needs in this world, and we know that Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA) isn’t the biggest one. But as we engage residents and businesses in action, issues, and solutions, we are working on the biggest idea of all: making sure each and every person feels they are a valuable part of moving our collective community toward a more just and engaged position in this world.

This past year we have seen so many people inspired to action—in work with local organizations that deal with immigrant and women’s rights, gender and racial equality, affordable home and access, and fair and humane treatment for all species and our earth. These are the issues that KFNA cares about as well. They are what we spend our time and money on as we work to connect neighbors to issues, causes, and organizations and help lead them onto a path of greater involvement in our society.

In our neighborhood we are constantly creating new, fun, and creative ways for neighbors to come together. Think of Election Day Polling Parties, Get Out the Vote reminders, Empty Bowls, PorchFest, Garden Tours, Open Streets, and the Community Outdoor Oven Pizza Parties. Through these activities KFNA is addressing issues of food and housing access, and affordable housing and homelessness, as well as building community and strengthening local relationships between neighbors and other local nonprofits.

In city, county, and statewide matters, we ensure that Kingfield has a seat at the table and a voice in the debate. Think of the Southside Neighborhood 2017 Mayoral Forum, Reopen Nicollet, the redevelopment of the 40th Street Pedestrian Bridge as an artful bikeway and part of the River Lake Greenway, and 2020 and 2040 City planning and surveying. Through KFNA’s involvement on broader initiatives such as these, we assure that the community’s desires and needs aren’t left out of the planning or implementation of these projects.

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 bare bones operation. The board of directors and committee members do not receive financial compensation for their work in the community. The board members and other volunteers are coordinated by only two part-time, paid staff. This structure is designed to take advantage of the time, talents, and interests of residents in the neighborhood, as well as provide a place for people to test their leadership muster.

Your contribution to the Kingfield Neighborhood keeps this work happening in your community. You can make this work happen with a one-time donation by mailing a check directly to us, or donate via Razoo, a safe online nonprofit giving tool, which is linked from our website at www.kingfield.org. Please also consider becoming a sustaining member this year with a monthly recurring donation at a set amount. We have giving levels to fit the needs of many different neighborhoods, including:
- The Kingfield Block Builder at $5 per month
- The Good Neighbor at $10 per month
- The Kingfield Leader at $15 per month
- The Community Builder at $20 per month
- The Kingfield Neighborhood Hero at $50 per month, or more!

KFNA is working to connect each and every neighbor at the utmost local level into an action or cause, because we know that to create a One Minneapolis / One Minnesota / One United States will require each person being a part of the solution. It can begin at the local level in every community.

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

Thankfully,
Your Kingfield Board of Directors

Want to do more to change the world?
Niccollet Square, our primary Empty Bowls funding recipient, was developed by Beacon, an interfaith collaborative of congregations committed to ending homelessness through housing, shelter, and advocacy. Beacon always welcomes new volunteers. Their website at www.beaconinterfaith.org.
Also see the story, “How Can We Help the Homeless?” at the top of this page.
As Kermit crooned, It Ain’t Easy Being Green... always remembering to bring your reusable water bottle with you, arriving at a meeting spotted in sludge and tainting road salt from your morning bike commute, spending the end of every party elbow-deep in the garbage can, sorting out the compostables and recyclables that got tossed in there by accident. Because we at KFNA know that many of our neighbors care about the environment, part of our mission for the new year will be trying to shift more attitudes about environmental actions. Ideally, we would give up feeling that green habits are an extra effort and practice them without even thinking about it, essentially developing a greener lifestyle. KFNA will focus on creating change in the areas of home and business composting, waste reduction when hosting outdoor events, increasing pollinator habitat, incentivizing and supporting walking and biking, and more. We welcome you to bring your interests and ideas to the table and to be a part of our team as well!

If you are interested in being part of the green-washing in Kingfield, give us a shout at info@kingfield.org or 612-823-5980.

GET YOUR SHOVELS READY: The National Weather Service predicts a wetter than normal winter for the Northland

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 of snow and ice within 24 hours after a snowfall. Apartments and commercial buildings are only granted four 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 you still don’t see positive results after this effort, you can report the snowy/icy sidewalk to the City online or by calling 311.

Free sand for sidewalks is available from the City 24/7 (you must bring your own shovel and pail). The closest sand station to Kingfield is on West 60th Street between Lyndale and Harriet.

If you own a vehicle, please understand the parking restrictions of Minneapolis Snow Emergencies. Full details can be found online or by calling 348-SNOW (7669). Minneapolis Snow Emergencies have three phases, meaning you may require that all sidewalks be cleared completely of snow and ice within a 24-hour period. Look at the color of your surrounding street signs. If they’re blue, they are Snow Emergency Routes and will be plowed overnight on Day 1, which always begins at 9 PM. If they are brown or green, they’re non-Snow Emergency Routes and will be plowed during Day 2 or Day 3.

Going on vacation and leaving your car parked on the street? Leave your keys with a 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 to help them avoid a ticket and tow.

My favorite thing about heavy snowfalls in Minneapolis is that I see so many of my neighbors outside reconnecting and helping each other out. Let’s make this a great and safe winter for all in Kingfield!

-- Scott Mueller