Building Bridges & Breaking Bread: A 38th Street Bridge Pop-Up Celebration

Please join us on Wednesday, September 11th, from 5 to 8 PM, for Building Bridges, Breaking Bread, a cross-cultural feast for neighbors on both sides of the 38th Street Bridge to come together in community.

This is our second year in a row hosting this event, and we know it will be even more of a blast than last time!

WHAT: A community feast and celebration, with facilitated conversation
WHEN: Wednesday, September 11th, 5-8 PM
WHERE: On the East 38th Street Bridge Between 1st Ave. S. and 3rd Ave. S.
Yes! This event is free. Yes! Dinner is provided.
Host children and youth are welcome! Remember to dress comfortably.

Join us for a sit-down dinner on the bridge, with kid-friendly activities and more! This is an opportunity for neighbors to meet and have intentional conversation around our unique stories and shared future, where all members of the community are empowered!

Thank you to our co-hosts and sponsors:
- Marnita’s Table (marnitastable.org)
- Andrea Jenkins - City Council Vice-President and Ward 8 Representative
- MiDOT (Minnesota Department of Transportation)
- Xcel Energy Minnesota
- Seward Community Co-op
- city of Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board Forestry Department
- Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization (CANDO)
- Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA)
- Sabathani Community Center

The conversation, facilitated by Marnita’s Table, will furnish space for open dialogue and healing, using the table’s Model of Intentional Social Interaction (IZ). A feast appropriate for all, from vegan to carnivore, will be provided by local community businesses.

Composting... Did You Know?
Residents of Minneapolis who live in single-family houses, duplexes, or tripleplexes, and already have a city waste disposal service may sign up for City Carbside Composting pickup at no additional charge.

To register for city composting, go to minneapolis.gov/solid-waste/organics/WCMSP-17641. You will receive a green bin in your trash pick-up location in 2 to 3 weeks, and will receive a welcome kit with tips and free compostable bags by mail.

If you live in a building with more than three units it may also be possible to join the city's pick-up route. To explore your options, please contact Sarah at the Kingfield Neighborhood Association at sarah@kingfield.org or 612-823-5980; be sure to leave your name, address, and a return phone number.

Boomerang Bags, Boldly Working To Stop Plastic Bag Use One Shopper At A Time!

Boomerang Bags is an international, volunteer-fueled project focused on making and distributing reusable shopping bags. Volunteers meet monthly to cut, sew, iron, and silkscreen beautiful bags from upcycled fabrics. The bags are given away free at select stores for people to reuse over and over, or to borrow and return if they forget their own reusable bags. Boomerang Bags has become a movement that is shifting society’s throwaway mentality to a more sustainable revolution of repurposing and re-use, and it is now over 850 communities strong!

This fall a Kingfield chapter of Boomerang Bags is taking root, to be nurtured along by the Linden Hills group that formed over one year ago, and hosted by Butter Bakery Café. You are welcome to attend any or all of these fall sessions, which will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6 to 9 PM at Butter Bakery Café, 3700 Nicollet: Sept. 17th, Oct. 15th, and Nov. 19th.

The format will be causal, so drop in for as much time as you have free. Bring your own machine if you are a sewer, or just show up and help iron, cut, and pin. There will be a host each month to help you start the bag-making process and get oriented to a task. All levels of participation are welcomed, and we look forward to connecting with each other and sharing conversations about how we can all leave a lighter footprint on this beautiful earth!

To find out more about the Boomerang Bag movement, visit www.boomerangbags.org. If Tuesday sewing bees don’t work for your schedule, feel free to attend a session on the 3rd Saturday of each month in Linden Hills. More information is available on their Facebook page at facebook.com/groups/BoomerangBagsMpls.

Citizen Pruners

Interested in learning more about trees? Want to learn how to identify tree species in your neighborhood and implement proper pruning practices? Come attend the Citizen Pruner volunteer training led by the University of Minnesota and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Forestry Department. No prior experience or knowledge of pruning is necessary, and all pruning equipment will be provided for the training.

In a two-session training course, you’ll learn basic tree identification, restricted species, fundamentals of pruning, and receive hands-on field practice. Once you’ve completed the training, you’ll be able to sign up as part of the Kingfield Orchard Team and attend pruning events throughout Minneapolis, where you can apply your new skills and help our community’s trees.

Multiple Miles Of Unrestrained Community Merriment: Nicollet Open Streets is BACK!

Walk and roll down Nicollet Avenue on Sunday, September 22nd, between 11 AM and 5 PM. From Lake Street to 46th Street, it’s a two-mile celebration of our main street, with activities, music, food, and more! So, pump up your tires or lace up your walking shoes (or maybe your dancing shoes?), as the street will be closed to motorized transportation. You can see what’s great about Kingfield and Lyndale neighborhoods from a totally different perspective.

Activities for the day will include live music and DJ’s at multiple stages including Butter Bakery Café in cooperation with KFNA, Roadrunner Records, Driftwood Char Bar, Hola Arepa, Ramen K za, and Revival. Be sure to visit the Facebook page event at Open Streets Nicollet to see the full lineup of all the bands on all the stages, as well as a growing list of special performances. Also not to be missed: physical and mental health stations by lots of great event sponsors including the Blaisdel*/Kemp Outdoor Adventures. A Slow Bike Race will also kick off starting at 11:15 AM. A Slow Bike Race (for Beer, of course) will close out the race day at 1:15 PM. All races will kick off under the blow-up arch in front of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park. If you’re feeling thirsty, be sure to visit the Facebook event page at Open Streets Nicollet.

Nicollet Open Streets Unveils A Trio Of Races!

Run for Beer! Run for Root Beer! Slow Bike for Beer!

Join us on Sunday, September 22nd, for a trio of fun runs and rides as part of Nicollet Open Streets! Races are staggered and will kick off starting at 11:15 AM. A Slow Bike Race (for Beer, of course) will close out the race day at 1:15 PM. All races will kick off under the blow-up arch in front of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

Bo active. Have fun. Give back! 100% of all registration fees go directly to the Kingfield and Lyndale Neighborhood Associations, non-profits committed to developing

Organized and hosted by the Kingfield and Lyndale Neighborhood Associations in cooperation with Our Streets, Nicollet Open Streets has grown into our largest annual festival. Last year this event brought out more than 100 businesses and nonprofit organizations and over 15,000 people. To get ready for this year, KFNA and LNA have been working for months to bring the best of our neighborhoods to you. Although the event YMCAs, getting big news everywhere you look. To continue local involvement, so you will see many of your favorite community partners along the route.

Help bring the biggest annual party in the neighborhood TO the neighborhood... by being a volunteer at Nicollet Open Streets. We can’t do this event without you—from street closings to attendance tallies to compost and waste educating, sign up here: bit.ly/2M4gfU5.
The Rewards Of Being A KFNA Board Director

Seven-plus years ago, I attended my first KFNA annual meeting. I showed up to cast my vote for a block neighbor weaving a ribbon around a chair. This is who I pictured as a member of the Board of KFNA, and I brought one of the four dishes I know how to cook to the potluck. Joining the KFNA Board of Directors was nowhere on my radar that day. But as I sat in that room with my fellow MLK Park neighbors and was encouraged to help making our neighborhoods a better place, I made a snap decision to declare my candidacy. I was elected along with my block neighbor to my first two-year term.

I had no idea that ahead of me in those next seven-plus years would come some of my proudest accomplishments in life. I’ve met some incredible, talented, passionate people along the way—some of whom have become close friends. My biggest takeaway from KFNA? That there’s nothing special about my neighborhood or Park and that, beyond it, all there is an idea or two others pledging their support to help shape and develop it. That’s it. You don’t have to get involved in every committee or project—you just have to want to help with and you have fun with it.

Professionally, I’m a promotions guy, so I’ve always had a passion for ensuring that people become informed, excited, and motivated. There are so many amazing events and events that occur in Kingfield, and I’ve always wanted to make sure that everyone was aware of as much as possible, because you can never join in on something that you want to benefit your neighborhood and beyond, all it takes is an idea and one or two others sharing their passion to help make sure people get excited and motivated.

I was grateful to all of those who helped me start and sustain the idea that I brought to KFNA: the three So Alive dance parties. I’m proud to benefit The Aliveness Project, the Kingfield Polling Party where we vote at MLK Park, and the “We Are Kingfield / We Vote At MLK Park” yard sign campaign. These are among my proudest accomplishments, because all of them brought us closer together.

But, for all the things I had a direct hand in developing, I’m going to share a little secret: Kingfield PorthCrest might never have happened. In 2014, it was an idea brought forth by a fellow Board Director, but unfortunately it never got the volunteer support and shape to execute. The following year, I knew it was something we needed to do, so I stepped up and I pushed to inspire other Directors to bring it to Kingfield. I did very little work, other than ensuring that what has become a magical tradition. That was a nearly effortless part of my commitment to KFNA, and it can be yours, too.

I’d love to meet you for a drink and perhaps a bite (I know how to cook only four dishes, remember?) to talk to you about how you could become a KFNA Board Director. Send me an email at scott@kingfield.org and let’s talk.

Kingfield, it’s been an honor and a blast to serve you on the Board of Directors of KFNA. I will be hosting the Minneapolis Election Program and will work full or partial shifts and are needed for elections in 2020 on March 3, August 11, and November 3. You only need to be available on one of these dates to become an election judge.

• If you have served as an election judge in the past and want to do so again, we encourage you to sign up through Kingfield and help support our work in election day election.

• If you have never served as an election judge in the past and want to help make voting accessible to all neighbors in 2020, please contact KFNA to learn more about how election judges can work full or partial shifts and are needed for elections in 2020 on March 3, August 11, and November 3. You only need to be available on one of these dates to become an election judge.

Contact Sarah Linnens-Robinson, KFNA Executive Director at sarah@kingfield.org or 612-823-5980.

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If you are another local non-profit interested in the CORE Program, the Minneapolis Election Program, or the Kingfield Polling Party, the KFNA office would be happy to share more information with you. Of particular interest are election judges that can help diversify the workforce at the polls to better reflect the neighborhood being served on Election Day, including people with fluency in Spanish, Hmong, Somali, Amharic, and Oromo. Please contact Tina Schroeder at the KFNA Office for more details on the program at 612-673-313...
**Little Kids’ Soccer Program Reaches New Mark**

The program KFNA started in 2002 to draw families with young children back to MLK Park is achieving its goal, even 17 years later. Our Little Kids’ Soccer program—Kingfield volunteers leading kids, 4-9 years old, in fun games with soccer balls each week—continues to draw a large number of kids, and their parents, summer after summer. This year, we registered more than 100 kids for the first time ever.

The continued partnership with the MLK Park director Peter Jaeger and his staff, and the use of the “baseball” field #1 and the green shed at backstop #2, made it possible for the KFNA volunteer organizers and coaches to draw 70+ kids to the park each Wednesday evening, to produce fun and excitement for the little kids and their moms, dads, grandparents, aunts, and uncles.

Despite the strong and growing interest in the soccer program, having enough volunteer coaches to start the summer season continues to be a problem. We always have lots of enthusiastic parents once the season begins in June. But we need at least 12 coaches initially to get trained in the “silly” games and cleared with the MPRB before we can start each year. Recruiting, reaching, and getting clearance for this minimum number of coaches still baffles us each year. We run the program with a nine-coach potential each night this summer.

A big thanks to all our volunteers! In the coaches pool this summer: Jordi Gatlle, Noah Factor, Jake Freeberg, Josh Krohn, Jim Oliver, Luke Shors, Trent Senske, Michelle Steffen, Michael Vanderford, Tess Wetjen, Luke Wolter, Katagiri Yoshi. Hosting the registration table were Larry Fraser and Karen Poetzel.

— Michael Vanderford

**GRAND AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION**

**Neighbors, Nature, And A Cause Come Together At The Donation Garden At MLK Park**

Since the beginning of May, volunteer gardeners have gathered weekly to grow a variety of vegetables for The Aliveness Project’s kitchen and food shelf. North from the gardens on Nicollet Avenue, The Aliveness Project is a community center for and driven by people living with HIV.

In addition to partnering with this Minneapolis-based organization, the Donation Garden volunteers also have the opportunity to learn and apply different gardening techniques. Led by Hennepin County Master Gardeners, the group has learned about everything from fertilizing to harvesting herbs to combating Japanese beetles. The group has also been a lot of experimentation with different mulches (wood, leaves, burlap sacks) and efforts to find the right hungry bunnies with artful garden “fencing.” This year the gardening group is particularly proud of the new cucumber tower, the long eggplants, and the bountiful green beans now.

Coming up this September and October, the group will continue the harvest and learn about taking down the garden to prepare for winter. Everyone is welcome to come out to see whether you’re thinking by for a single gardening topic or interested in coming every week. We hope to see you Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at MLK Park. You can also check out the Facebook page (“The Donation Garden at MLK Park”) for specific on weekly events and gardening tips!

— Annika Bergen

**CITIZEN PRUNERS • Continued from page 1**

The first training session (indoor), will be held on Thursday, September 26th, from 6:30 to 9 PM at the Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Southside Operations Center, 3800 Bryant Ave. S. The second session (outdoor field work) meets Saturday, September 28th, from 9 AM to 3 PM.

The cost of training is $25 (If financial assistance is needed, contact Calli at Clhoshn@minneapolisparks.org). To register visit: www.mntca.umn.edu/citizen-pruner/minneapolis-citizen-pruner. Contact Calli at: Clhoshn@minneapolisparks.org.

Citizen Pruners are responsible for submitting 10 volunteer hours a year or attending 3 city-hosted events, and must recertify every 3 years by completing an updated recertification assessment.

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**KFNA CONSIDERS CHANGES TO BYLAWS**

Like all nonprofit corporations, KFNA maintains a set of internal rules and procedures (called bylaws) that govern the general operation of the organization and define eligibility for membership and service on the Board of Directors. From time to time, organizations like KFNA will review their bylaws or amendments to determine whether updates or amendments are necessary or advisable.

Recently, KFNA was presented with a cause to review their bylaws: Specifically, KFNA received an inquiry from a young person seeking an opportunity to become more involved in the community; the board now anticipates voting on an amendment to the definition of membership, to change the requirement from individuals of “voting age” to individuals “aged 16 and older.” The change, if adopted, would allow younger community members to serve on the board.

Under KFNA’s current bylaws, the proposed language implementing this change will need to be presented to the board for contemplation and may be voted on at the next regular meeting thereafter (likely in October).

In addition to and in conjunction with this potential change, KFNA has convened a small group to review the bylaws in their entirety, to determine other potential revisions or amendments that may be appropriate. This review will focus on adding clarity to existing bylaws where needed, or substantive amendments to improve the bylaws. KFNA will better reflect KFNA’s values, with a particular emphasis on transparency and inclusion. KFNA anticipates more substantive discussion of additional amendments heading into the 2020 annual meeting.

**MKL Park News**

It was a fun summer here at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Recreation Center! We hosted youth camps every week, from archery and fishing to Battlebots and 4-H. The pool was full of kids and parents on those hot evenings, and there were too many family barbecues to count. Neighbors came together for an Ice Cream Social and Pizza Farm, and to celebrate Our Beloved Community local leadership, identifying and solving local issues, and building a stronger community in our neighborhoods and within the city!

Your registration includes the Fun Run, swag/giveaways, 1 free beer or root beer from your choice of select vendors along Nicollet Avenue, bragging rights, and event posters along Nicollet starting at 11 AM. Arrive by 11 AM to warm up with your fellow runners led by the Blaisdell YMCA before the 5K race begins at 11:15 AM. There is parking in the MLK Park parking lot off 40th Street, and nearby street parking on 42nd and 40th Street. We always encourage carpooling and safe, designated drivers.

Get more information on the Nicollet Open Streets run Trio and other runs organized by the Minnesota Brewery Running Series at brewruncherunningseries.com/minnesota. Contact KFNA Executive Director Sarah Limes-Robinson at kfna@kingfield.org or 612-823-5980.

**RUN FOR BEER, support your community and local non-profits, and have fun!** We’l see you at Nicollet Open Streets!

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Now we transition into fall as your kids go back to school, and we will have lots going on. Weekly classes and archery classes are offered for the entire family. Flag Football teams are in full swing, and coaches are preparing for the upcoming basketball season. We are open for teens every Friday night from 8 to 11 PM. We offer open gym every day for kids and families, even on Saturdays and Sundays. Don’t forget that the park is a great place for a family get together or birthday party, and ask about our toy rental geared towards younger kids.

For a complete listing of fall activities, go to www.minneapolisparks.org, or call the park for more details at 612-370-4908.
It’s Been An Amazing Opportunity…

When I first relocated to Minnesota from Florida, people thought I was crazy, and I was a little concerned myself…but once I found the Kingfield neighborhood, I knew I had found my new home. I signed on to volunteer for the 2013 Empty Bowls, and that’s when I really fell in love – an amazing event with fabulous people for a wonderful cause. As fate would have it, my timing was perfect. A part-time position became available, and I found myself in the new role of Project Organizer for the Kingfield Neighborhood Association! I have loved all of the fun activities and meaningful events we have created for the neighborhood, but most important, I have enjoyed the many interactions with neighbors and businesses, partners and resources (and our Kingfield honeybees).

Now I have the opportunity to begin another new adventure – spending winters back in Florida with my new granddaughter! So, October 31st will be my last day working with and for all of you. I will remember fondly the kind, caring people I have met during my six years with KFNA and hope each of you cherishes this supportive and diverse neighborhood. There aren’t many like it anywhere!

– Most sincerely, Cheryl DeGroff-Gunter

KINGFIELD EMPTY BOWLS 2020 PLANNING BEGINS

Kingfield Empty Bowls 2020 will be here before we know it, and we are looking for volunteers to help create another wonderful experience. Please let us know if you would like to be a part of the team that hosts this great event that both celebrates our community and supports those who have lived with housing insecurities.

Once again, the profits from Kingfield Empty Bowls will be donated to Nicollet Square, located in our neighborhood at 3700 Nicollet Avenue South. A project of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, Nicollet Square provides a safe, affordable, and supportive housing option for youth who have experienced long-term homelessness or have been in the foster care system.

Empty Bowls volunteers may decide to host a Paint-a-Bowl Party, or work with local potters and pottery studios to create unique bowls for the event. Also needed are volunteers to help with general event planning. (It’s fun, we promise!)

Our first planning meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 2nd, 7 PM, at MLK Park Recreation Center. If you are interested in volunteering, please send your contact information to info@Kingfield.org, and we will be sure to find something you can do to help!