Coping with COVID-19

By The Communications Committee
What we’ve noticed about living during a global pandemic is that the little things really do matter. We may not know each other, but we’re raising a friendly hand as we walk or bike past each other – at a safe distance. We’re checking in with each other and updating contact information on block club lists. Many of us are drawing on our sidewalks.

Plan Update
City of Minneapolis Neighborhoods 2020 Plan

By Jason Flaig, Communications Committee, and Stearine Rucker, Program Director
Minneapolis, home to 81 different neighborhoods and 70 neighborhood associations, may soon see major changes in the way its neighborhood associations are funded and run. In some cases, decades-old neighborhood associations may cease to exist.

Impact on FRN
Depending on the outcome of the city’s plan, the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group and this very newsletter you are reading may no longer have enough funding from the city to continue. The final vote on the issue was expected to happen on April 9 but that could change based on current COVID-19 issues.

Many of the 70 independent non-profit neighborhood associations that represent Minneapolis property owners, renters and guests have paid staff on board. The associations typically hold regular meetings, elect volunteers as leaders to a board of directors and have helped shape decisions at City Hall by working hand-in-hand with elected leaders over the years.

The evolution of NRP
Starting in the early 1990s, the city of Minneapolis used the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) to budget $20 million per year to address housing instability and white flight to other cities. In 2016, the city of Minneapolis replaced the NRP with the Community Participation Program (CPP) to help fund neighborhood associations.

The Community Participation Program has directed $3 million per year to neighborhood organizations for community participation activities, including: identifying and acting on neighborhood priorities; influencing city decisions on policies, procedures, programs and service; and increasing involvement in civic and community life.

In May 2019, the Minneapolis city council voted to adopt a set of recommendations from the Neighborhood Community Relations (NCR) department that will define how neighborhood associations are funded from now on.

Continued on page 2
The city also hired the University of Minnesota’s Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) to study the issue last year after getting rid of a previous plan that would have cut funding to associations that did not have a proportionate number of people of color and renters on their boards.

**The new plan**

Under the new plan approved by the city council, the city will give each association at least $25,000 in base funding per year. Additional funding will be dependent on specific community projects and on how each one plans to serve “underrepresented communities in their area.”

The latest plan from the city aims to do a better job of including people of color, indigenous peoples and renters in planning and decision making by the neighborhood associations. In many cases, the amount of funding for existing neighborhood associations will be reduced and may lead to some of them shutting down for good. From the city of Minneapolis website: The draft Neighborhoods 2020 Program Guidelines are centered on building equity in our community. The City has worked closely with neighborhoods, community members and the University of Minnesota’s Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) on the development of the guidelines. The guidelines align with the City’s adopted Strategic Racial Equity Plan and the Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which states that, “Minneapolis will have an equitable civic participation system that enfranchises everyone, recognizes the core and vital service neighborhood organizations provide to the City of Minneapolis, and builds people’s long-term capacity to organize and improve their lives and neighborhoods.”

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/2020

---

Close to Home

Close to Home is the official publication of the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG) and is published six times per year by the FRNNG Communications Committee.

frnng.org

Contributors
Pat Borzi, Steve Date, John Dorgan, Alejandra Eppinger, Sue Filbin, Jason Flagg, Christian Fritzberg, Jason Lardy, Francesco Marraffa, Patty Miller, Jeannie Piekos, Stearline Rucker, Jennifer Rensenbrink, Tricia Theurer

Editor
Sue Filbin

Layout
Smiling Dog Design

Articles, photos, and announcements are welcome. Please email: communications@frnng.org or call 612-721-5424

The next deadline is Wednesday, May 13

2019-2020 FRNNG Board

President: Chris Schommer

Vice President: David Fronsoe

Treasurer: Laura Dale

Secretary: Open position

Field Neighborhood Rep: Deborah Spiesz

Regina Neighborhood Rep: Alberta Knight

Northrop North Neighborhood Rep: Kate Nyquist

Northrop South Neighborhood Rep: Willie Bridges

Business: Francesco Marraffa

Communications: Pat Borzi

Community and Safety: Marty Koessel

Education: Open position

Greening: Open position

Housing & Community Development: Nate Lansing

Parks: Open position

Open positions (in red) will be voted on at the rescheduled annual meeting. Check our website: frnng.org
FRNNG Meeting

Information

Please call the office at (612) 721-5424 to confirm the date, time, and location of the meeting.

Full Board
3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (LNPC) 17th Avenue and East 46th St. The full board does not meet in July or December.

Business Committee | business@frnng.org
1st Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m., Turtle Bread Company, 48th and Chicago

Communications Committee | communications@frnng.org
2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Sovereign Grounds, 48th and Chicago

Community and Safety Committee | communityandsafety@frnng.org
3rd Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m., Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, 46th & 17th

Education Committee | education@frnng.org
1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., McRae Park and Rec. Center Arts & Crafts Room

Greening Committee | greening@frnng.org
1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Turtle Bread Company, 48th and Chicago

Housing Committee | housing@frnng.org
1st Monday of each month at 7 p.m., Town Hall Tap, 48th & Chicago

Parks Committee | parks@frnng.org
1st Monday of each month at 7 p.m., McRae Park and Recreation Center

This newsletter is produced to provide information about neighborhood activities, businesses, individuals, entities, and citywide policies that affect our neighborhood. The information is intended to enable readers to make decisions, take action, and build connections within our neighborhood.

Newsletter nameplate: Eileen Matro
Logo and newsletter template design: Jennifer Nagorski

We thank our partner in producing this newsletter – Greenhaven Printing, (651) 639-9822, greenhavenprinting.com

FRNNG Meeting
Hello Neighbor,
Ordinarily this space contains information from Chris Schommer, president of the neighborhood board of directors. But we all know these are not ordinary times. Responsibilities related to family and work are absorbing Chris’ attention. He sends greetings to all for your well-being.

Vibrant communications
A vibrant new team of contract professionals has been hired to collaborate with the volunteers of the communications committee to cross-pollinate communications among the three formats of our website, social media, and this newsletter. Contact the team with questions, suggestions, and contributions to neighborhood communications, and read about these capable individuals on page 7.

Connect
Pat Borzi, Chair, Communications Committee communications@frnng.org
Steve Date, Website/Social Media Manager social@frnng.org
Jeannie Piekos, Editor/Project Manager Close to Home newsletter editor@frnng.org
Stearline Rucker, Program Manager frnng@frnng.org 612-721-5424

Annual meeting postponed
Elections for volunteers who serve on the board of directors and as chairpeople of committees constitute a portion of the agenda at the annual meeting. That meeting is the best opportunity all year to learn about the neighborhood from involved neighbors, elected officials, and others.

Notice the volunteer positions listed in red ink on page 2 and consider contributing your talent and time to our neighborhood. We’re learning through this COVID-19 crisis the value of connections and of helping each other. You and our neighborhood will gain something valuable when you become involved in sharing ideas and activities.

Future activity
Marty Koessel, chair of the community and safety committee, proposes a future activity during which neighbors pick up litter while walking together. Participants will get acquainted and extend their sense of community while cleaning up our actual community.

Community garden
Several families in Regina neighborhood are collaborating on planting, tending, and harvesting a community garden. Check social media or the next newsletter for info about this and Marty’s idea.

Elected officials
Subscribe to receive an eNewsletter from our elected officials

City council vice president, 8th Ward Council Member, Andrea Jenkins
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ward8/index.htm

11th Ward Council Member, Jeremy Schroeder
www.minneapolismn.gov/ward11/index.htm

5th District Parks Commissioner, Steffanie Musich
www.minneapolisparks.org/about_us/leadership_and_structure/commissioners/steffanie_musich/ —The Communications Committee

Annual celebration postponed
The bounce house is flat and the ponies are in the pasture, waiting for the rescheduled date for the annual neighborhood celebration. Volunteers are essential for hosting this event. Contact Stearline, program manager, to get involved.
Annual classic car show anticipated

By John R. Dorgan Esq., Vice President of South Chicago Avenue Business Alliance
The South Chicago Avenue Business Alliance (SCABA) will host its 11th-annual Classic Car Show on Sunday, June 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the intersection of 48th Street and Chicago Avenue in south Minneapolis. (Car registration begins at 9 a.m.)

As in previous years, the car show will feature a wide variety of classic cars and trucks from the 1940s through the 1980s, and hopefully some cars even older than that! The car entry fee remains the same at only $10 per car and spectators will be admitted free! Everyone is invited to stop by and “stroll through the past” while dreaming about the cars from yesteryear!

SCABA’s classic car show has become a true south Minneapolis “summer neighborhood celebration.” There are always different cars to view and appreciate and different car owners to talk with, reminiscing about the “good ol’ days” when cars are full of chrome and not full of computers! SCABA’s members are excited about welcoming everyone to this year’s show.

All types of classic cars and trucks are welcome to enter the show. Trophies will be awarded in various classes, and door prizes will be given away throughout the day. The car show will feature a bounce house for kids as well as a D.J. spinning “classic ’50s - ’80s tunes, plus a “paint truck” for the kids to work on during the show. Of course, all of that would be in addition to the great restaurants and stores around the 48th and Chicago business node that will be open during the car show.

Anyone interested in entering the car show should visit the SCABA website at www.48chicago.org for more information. We hope to see you on June 14!

Email: jrd@jdorganlaw.com

New team; new table

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee
At the March communications committee meeting, we welcomed two new people who will produce our Close to Home newsletter, starting with the July/August issue. Notice the artful 10-foot table, made by Hakan Sezer, owner of

Sovereign Grounds coffee shop. Hakan said he made the table to encourage people to get to know each other – another way to “strengthen community connections,” the theme for our neighborhood this year.

Kids have fun painting an old car with Tempera Paint at SCABA’s annual Classic Car Show.

From left to right: Peggy Zetah, designer; Jeannie Piekos, editor/project manager; Stearline Rucker, program director; Jason Flaig, writer; Christian Fritzberg, writer; and Pat Borzi, chair, communications committee. Steve Date, writer, and Patty Miller, proofreader, are not pictured. More on page 7.
Little Libraries

By Francesco Marraffa, Chair, Business Committee

I would like to thank all the residents who reached out to express an interest in having a little library in their yard, and also to those who offered to help in a number of ways with the project! I am pleased to inform you the project has been funded, allowing us to place a good number of libraries in our community.

The project is still evolving. We think it would be great to have two doors per library (or possibly two libraries per post) – one providing access to books in English, the other for Spanish and other language books. It’s a work in progress but we would love to hear your thoughts.

Finally, we are reaching out for more help, but hopefully this helps you parents a little! We will run a competition for your kids to enter. We are looking for fun designs to decorate the libraries. Selected designs will need to be painted by the artist. We will then coat the art with a waterproof coating and place the decorated libraries in the yards of people who have requested them. All designs will appear on the FRNNG Facebook page and finalists will appear in an issue of this newsletter.

Please send or email all entries to:
1620 East 46th Street, Minneapolis, MN, 55407 or business@frnng.org

Thank you.

We look forward to seeing some great, fun and wonderful designs. All entries need to be submitted by Friday, June 5.

Summer safety, especially for children

By Alejandra Eppinger, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Southside Community Health Services

While we’re all working hard on social distancing and washing our hands, take time to also consider family wellness. Now is a great time start thinking about summer.

First, it’s time to consider summer programs for your children: The YMCA, community education, and Urban Ventures all provide educational programs that offer healthy amounts of activity to improve bone development, team building, and social skills. Meal programs are also available through Summer Eats Minnesota – just text “Summer Meals” to 97779 or text “Food” to 877877.

Second, don’t forget sun protection. It is best for children under six months of age to avoid direct sunlight and also to wear breathable clothing. Children over six months of age should use a sunscreen of SPF 30 or higher. Be careful when applying sunscreen near the eyes, and re-apply sunscreen every two hours and after swimming.

Third, never leave children unattended near bodies of water, even shallow beaches or swimming pools. Consider swimming lessons to build your child’s strength and safety in and near water, and to prevent accidents or drowning. There are many swim schools including both Foss Swim School and the new Phillips Aquatic Center.

Last, when heading out this summer, don’t forget to keep a water bottle handy, or head to the public library to escape the heat and fill up at the water fountain.

Keeping healthy just takes a little preparation, and knowing your resources is important. Check in with your local clinic with questions, and enjoy your summer.

Parks-related information

Hiawatha Golf Course
www.minneapolisparks.org/park_care__improvements/park_projects/current_projects/hiawatha_golf_course_property_master_plan/

20-Year Neighborhood Park Plan
www.minneapolisparks.org/about_us/budget_financial/20-year_neighborhood_park_plan/

From the eNewsletter sent by Steffanie Musich, 5th District Parks Commissioner

Parks response to the pandemic
www.minneapolisparks.org/coronavirus-covid-19-information/

Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail
www.minneapolisparks.org/park_care__improvements/park_projects/current_projects/minnehaha_parkway_regional_trail_master_plan/

Subscribe to Commissioner Musich’s eNewsletter: us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?
Legacy neighbor and home, Part 2

By Christian Fritzberg, Communication Committee

It’s likely you’ve seen or met our next legacy homes featured subject, Diane Moe. Diane is frequently out on the parkway trails with her two German Shepherds, Otis and Rio, walking many miles with them each day throughout FRN. What you may not know about Diane is that she resides in the same house that she grew up in. Well, the second house.

Diane originally grew up in a home at 54th Street and 2nd Avenue South. Her family had to move in the fall of 1961 as the house was slated for demolition for the construction of I-35W. Since September of 1961, she’s called the stately Tudor on the 4900-block of Park Avenue home. Diane and her four brothers were raised in the house. Diane was the one chosen to buy it from her father in 2001 when he transitioned into assisted living. Diane enjoys the spacious home as do her canine companions. When not exercising, or working her day job in recreation for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Diane enjoys her other hobby, quilting. The generously sized bedrooms on the upper level contain Diane’s quilting studio, including a very large quilting machine.

So what has kept Diane in our neighborhood? The friendliness of the neighbors, the central location and low crime have all kept Diane calling our neighborhood home.

Editor’s note: If you have a story about a long-time neighbor and their home, please contact us at editor@frnng.org

Northrop neighbor blogs about gardening

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee

More than five years ago, this newsletter ran an article written by Northrop neighbor, Jennifer Rensenbrink, about rain barrels. A link to Jennifer’s website expanded the article and revealed an intrepid explorer who investigated and wrote about the fields (pun intended) of gardening; food production, preparation, and preservation; yard-related projects; bicycle commuting, photography; family adventures; dogs, book recommendations; and more. If that list seems expansive, it’s not complete.

In recent years, the focus of Jennifer’s blog has narrowed to gardening – especially growing food and supporting wildlife with native plants. The name of the blog – Stacking Functions – refers to a permaculture concept of choosing plants that are multifunctional, supporting wildlife as well as looking good.

With the theme of communications this year being Strengthening community connections, it seems worthwhile to revisit someone who lives in our neighborhood, and whose pursuits may resonate with those of many readers, particularly during these unsettled times. Walks through our neighborhood reveal many raised-bed gardens “sprouting” from wood frames, indicating future gardens. Of the many sources available to us, who better to learn from than a neighbor who reveals the mistakes she’s made along with the rewarding revelations? In that spirit, we invite you to get acquainted with master gardener/author, Jennifer Rensenbrink, and explore with her by reading the posts on her website: stackingfunctionsgarden.com/

For daily photo updates, follow Jennifer on Instagram @jenniferrensenbrink.

Diane Moe, with her German Shepherds Otis and Rio, grew up in the house in which she still lives on the 4900-block of Park Avenue in Field neighborhood.

Diane’s home in the 4900-block of Park Avenue.

Diane’s family in 1962.

Jennifer Rensenbrink

Diane Moe’s home in the 4900-block of Park Avenue.

Jennifer Rensenbrink

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee

More than five years ago, this newsletter ran an article written by Northrop neighbor, Jennifer Rensenbrink, about rain barrels. A link to Jennifer’s website expanded the article and revealed an intrepid explorer who investigated and wrote about the fields (pun intended) of gardening; food production, preparation, and preservation; yard-related projects; bicycle commuting, photography; family adventures; dogs, book recommendations; and more. If that list seems expansive, it’s not complete.

In recent years, the focus of Jennifer’s blog has narrowed to gardening – especially growing food and supporting wildlife with native plants. The name of the blog – Stacking Functions – refers to a permaculture concept of choosing plants that are multifunctional, supporting wildlife as well as looking good.

With the theme of communications this year being Strengthening community connections, it seems worthwhile to revisit someone who lives in our neighborhood, and whose pursuits may resonate with those of many readers, particularly during these unsettled times. Walks through our neighborhood reveal many raised-bed gardens “sprouting” from wood frames, indicating future gardens. Of the many sources available to us, who better to learn from than a neighbor who reveals the mistakes she’s made along with the rewarding revelations? In that spirit, we invite you to get acquainted with master gardener/author, Jennifer Rensenbrink, and explore with her by reading the posts on her website: stackingfunctionsgarden.com/

For daily photo updates, follow Jennifer on Instagram @jenniferrensenbrink.

Diane Moe, with her German Shepherds Otis and Rio, grew up in the house in which she still lives on the 4900-block of Park Avenue in Field neighborhood.

Diane’s home in the 4900-block of Park Avenue.

Diane’s family in 1962.

Jennifer Rensenbrink

Diane Moe’s home in the 4900-block of Park Avenue.

Jennifer Rensenbrink

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee

More than five years ago, this newsletter ran an article written by Northrop neighbor, Jennifer Rensenbrink, about rain barrels. A link to Jennifer’s website expanded the article and revealed an intrepid explorer who investigated and wrote about the fields (pun intended) of gardening; food production, preparation, and preservation; yard-related projects; bicycle commuting, photography; family adventures; dogs, book recommendations; and more. If that list seems expansive, it’s not complete.

In recent years, the focus of Jennifer’s blog has narrowed to gardening – especially growing food and supporting wildlife with native plants. The name of the blog – Stacking Functions – refers to a permaculture concept of choosing plants that are multifunctional, supporting wildlife as well as looking good.

With the theme of communications this year being Strengthening community connections, it seems worthwhile to revisit someone who lives in our neighborhood, and whose pursuits may resonate with those of many readers, particularly during these unsettled times. Walks through our neighborhood reveal many raised-bed gardens “sprouting” from wood frames, indicating future gardens. Of the many sources available to us, who better to learn from than a neighbor who reveals the mistakes she’s made along with the rewarding revelations? In that spirit, we invite you to get acquainted with master gardener/author, Jennifer Rensenbrink, and explore with her by reading the posts on her website: stackingfunctionsgarden.com/

For daily photo updates, follow Jennifer on Instagram @jenniferrensenbrink.

Diane Moe, with her German Shepherds Otis and Rio, grew up in the house in which she still lives on the 4900-block of Park Avenue in Field neighborhood.

Diane’s home in the 4900-block of Park Avenue.

Diane’s family in 1962.

Jennifer Rensenbrink

Diane Moe’s home in the 4900-block of Park Avenue.

Jennifer Rensenbrink

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee

More than five years ago, this newsletter ran an article written by Northrop neighbor, Jennifer Rensenbrink, about rain barrels. A link to Jennifer’s website expanded the article and revealed an intrepid explorer who investigated and wrote about the fields (pun intended) of gardening; food production, preparation, and preservation; yard-related projects; bicycle commuting, photography; family adventures; dogs, book recommendations; and more. If that list seems expansive, it’s not complete.

In recent years, the focus of Jennifer’s blog has narrowed to gardening – especially growing food and supporting wildlife with native plants. The name of the blog – Stacking Functions – refers to a permaculture concept of choosing plants that are multifunctional, supporting wildlife as well as looking good.

With the theme of communications this year being Strengthening community connections, it seems worthwhile to revisit someone who lives in our neighborhood, and whose pursuits may resonate with those of many readers, particularly during these unsettled times. Walks through our neighborhood reveal many raised-bed gardens “sprouting” from wood frames, indicating future gardens. Of the many sources available to us, who better to learn from than a neighbor who reveals the mistakes she’s made along with the rewarding revelations? In that spirit, we invite you to get acquainted with master gardener/author, Jennifer Rensenbrink, and explore with her by reading the posts on her website: stackingfunctionsgarden.com/

For daily photo updates, follow Jennifer on Instagram @jenniferrensenbrink.

Diane Moe, with her German Shepherds Otis and Rio, grew up in the house in which she still lives on the 4900-block of Park Avenue in Field neighborhood.

Diane’s home in the 4900-block of Park Avenue.

Diane’s family in 1962.

Jennifer Rensenbrink

Diane Moe’s home in the 4900-block of Park Avenue.

Jennifer Rensenbrink

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee

More than five years ago, this newsletter ran an article written by Northrop neighbor, Jennifer Rensenbrink, about rain barrels. A link to Jennifer’s website expanded the article and revealed an intrepid explorer who investigated and wrote about the fields (pun intended) of gardening; food production, preparation, and preservation; yard-related projects; bicycle commuting, photography; family adventures; dogs, book recommendations; and more. If that list seems expansive, it’s not complete.

In recent years, the focus of Jennifer’s blog has narrowed to gardening – especially growing food and supporting wildlife with native plants. The name of the blog – Stacking Functions – refers to a permaculture concept of choosing plants that are multifunctional, supporting wildlife as well as looking good.

With the theme of communications this year being Strengthening community connections, it seems worthwhile to revisit someone who lives in our neighborhood, and whose pursuits may resonate with those of many readers, particularly during these unsettled times. Walks through our neighborhood reveal many raised-bed gardens “sprouting” from wood frames, indicating future gardens. Of the many sources available to us, who better to learn from than a neighbor who reveals the mistakes she’s made along with the rewarding revelations? In that spirit, we invite you to get acquainted with master gardener/author, Jennifer Rensenbrink, and explore with her by reading the posts on her website: stackingfunctionsgarden.com/

For daily photo updates, follow Jennifer on Instagram @jenniferrensenbrink.

Diane Moe, with her German Shepherds Otis and Rio, grew up in the house in which she still lives on the 4900-block of Park Avenue in Field neighborhood.

Diane’s home in the 4900-block of Park Avenue.

Diane’s family in 1962.

Jennifer Rensenbrink

Diane Moe’s home in the 4900-block of Park Avenue.

Jennifer Rensenbrink

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee

More than five years ago, this newsletter ran an article written by Northrop neighbor, Jennifer Rensenbrink, about rain barrels. A link to Jennifer’s website expanded the article and revealed an intrepid explorer who investigated and wrote about the fields (pun intended) of gardening; food production, preparation, and preservation; yard-related projects; bicycle commuting, photography; family adventures; dogs, book recommendations; and more. If that list seems expansive, it’s not complete.

In recent years, the focus of Jennifer’s blog has narrowed to gardening – especially growing food and supporting wildlife with native plants. The name of the blog – Stacking Functions – refers to a permaculture concept of choosing plants that are multifunctional, supporting wildlife as well as looking good.

With the theme of communications this year being Strengthening community connections, it seems worthwhile to revisit someone who lives in our neighborhood, and whose pursuits may resonate with those of many readers, particularly during these unsettled times. Walks through our neighborhood reveal many raised-bed gardens “sprouting” from wood frames, indicating future gardens. Of the many sources available to us, who better to learn from than a neighbor who reveals the mistakes she’s made along with the rewarding revelations? In that spirit, we invite you to get acquainted with master gardener/author, Jennifer Rensenbrink, and explore with her by reading the posts on her website: stackingfunctionsgarden.com/

For daily photo updates, follow Jennifer on Instagram @jenniferrensenbrink.
I’ve had my own graphic design business for 26 years. With a commercial art degree from Hennepin Tech College, and a B.S. in advertising design from Utah State, I find it rewarding to understand a client’s message, organize the information, and present it in an appealing, meaningful manner.

The newsletter looks good now, but I look forward to seeing what it can become. It will be interesting to test modifications to see if people notice. And the dynamic sharing of content among the newsletter, website, and social media platforms will keep neighbors informed and connected.

I am definitely a word person! I love writing poetry and creative nonfiction. Most recently I published Buoyancy: a memoir that won the Midwest Independent Publishers Association’s award for best memoir/autobiography in May of 2019. I was also the subject of the documentary, Buoyancy: Living Between Dualities, which premiered at the Parkway Theater in November 2018. Connecting with people through my writing or video is one of my greatest pleasures.

For the majority of my professional career I have worked as a freelance writer and video producer as well as a communications professional in the nonprofit world. When I am not reading or spending time with my five grandkids, you will find me walking along Minnehaha Creek with my beloved dog, Pearl.

I look forward to working with the community as we share in Close to Home the news and stories of our lives. editor@frnng.org

Peggy Zetah, Designer
By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee
When my husband and I lived in the Kingfield neighborhood – just across i-35W from Field Regina Northrop – I loved building community; getting people involved. That’s what appeals to me about working with the editor, proofreader, the social media manager, and communications committee chair and members to produce the newsletter. I believe the more people know, the more we can reach out and look for each other.

I’ve had my own graphic design business for 26 years. With a commercial art degree from Hennepin Tech College, and a B.S. in advertising design from Utah State, I find it rewarding to understand a client’s message, organize the information, and present it in an appealing, meaningful manner.

The newsletter looks good now, but I look forward to seeing what it can become. It will be interesting to test modifications to see if people notice. And the dynamic sharing of content among the newsletter, website, and social media platforms will keep neighbors informed and connected.

Introducing the new communications team

Jeannie Piekos, Project Manager/Editor
I am thrilled to be a part of the communications team for FRNNG. I have lived in the neighborhood for 18 years. I love living near the creek and in walking distance to so many fabulous eateries. Before I moved to Northrop, I was a longtime Powderhorn resident where I was engaged in many neighborhood and literary activities including developing and managing the Powderhorn Writers Festival.

I am definitely a word person! I love writing poetry and creative nonfiction. Most recently I published Buoyancy: a memoir that won the Midwest Independent Publishers Association’s award for best memoir/autobiography in May of 2019. I was also the subject of the documentary, Buoyancy: Living Between Dualities, which premiered at the Parkway Theater in November 2018. Connecting with people through my writing or video is one of my greatest pleasures.

For the majority of my professional career I have worked as a freelance writer and video producer as well as a communications professional in the nonprofit world. When I am not reading or spending time with my five grandkids, you will find me walking along Minnehaha Creek with my beloved dog, Pearl.

I look forward to working with the community as we share in Close to Home the news and stories of our lives. editor@frnng.org

Patty Miller, Proofreader
It was October 4, 2000 at 7 a.m. I was in my yard waiting for the movers and so excited to be in my new home just steps from the creek and 48th and Chicago business district. As I waited, my across-the-street neighbor came trotting over in her bathrobe to introduce herself and welcome me to the neighborhood. Later that day, another neighbor stopped by with a bouquet of mums from her garden That’s when I knew I’d landed in a great place!

Maintaining that sense of community is so essential; that’s why I’m delighted to offer my skills as a writer/editor/communications specialist.

For more than 40 years, I’ve been a professional communicator, serving on the staff of daily newspapers and major local corporations. In 1990, I launched Laughing Cat Communications, providing communication that’s the cat’s meow to clients ranging from Land O’Lakes to Medtronic to my family’s favorite campground. I’m also part of the Public Affairs team at Mayo Clinic. Although I’m the Top Cat, my current staff are my black cats, Alphonse and Émile.

When not in the office, I’m in my garden, teaching water fitness at the YWCA, hosting parties for friends, savoring the outdoors and enjoying my front-yard terrace.

Steve Date, Website and Social Media Manager
I’m a retired Minneapolis Public Schools teacher. Now I make documentary films, legacy films, and promotional videos. I also serve on the staff of daily newspapers and major local corporations.

When my wife, Karen, and I moved into the neighborhood four years ago, we knew we wanted to contribute to the community. One way I’ve done that has been to volunteer on the FRNNG Communications Committee as a writer and photographer for our newsletter. I’ve loved doing that and it’s brought me in touch with neighbors and local businesses, schools and organizations in new ways.

My interest in the website/social media position grew as I observed how our neighbors like to get information about our neighborhood. Our newsletter is first-rate, but it has limits. Because of production and printing deadlines, the content is at least a month old when it arrives in our mailbox. As we know all too well, the world changes quickly and online media are ways to access information more quickly. Social media can be particularly effective and rapid for two-way communication. I see all three forms – the newsletter, website and social media as essential, each with its own strengths and capabilities. I’m excited about all of them and look forward to helping them to connect everyone in our community. I hope to hear from you! social@frnng.org
State representative for 33 years in District 63B

Jean Wagenius retires from public service

By Steve Date, Communications Committee, and Website/Social Media Manager

After serving District 63B for more than 33 years, Minnesota State Representative, Jean Wagenius, is leaving the state legislature after this session.

From the beginning, she’s been especially interested in environmental issues and policy, working her way up to the Chair of the Energy and Climate Finance and Policy Division.

When I spoke with her in late February, Jean was putting much of her time and energy into the writing and passing of a major bill that would use state surplus one-time funds to address energy efficiencies in schools, homes, businesses and transportation.

Jean moved into the Northrop neighborhood from the suburbs in the early ‘70s. She and her husband, Dwight, did a lot of looking for homes and settled on the Field and Northrop neighborhoods as an area of focus. They had a frustrating time with a realtor, though, “who wouldn’t show us houses north of Minnehaha Creek” – a lingering effect of years of segregationist red-lining practices in Minneapolis. But they knew what they were seeking, and their assertiveness paid off, eventually finding the house in which they live today.

While working as a staff attorney in the court of appeals in the 1970s, Jean also became active in the neighborhood, working toward improving the 48th and Chicago business area. She was part of a neighborhood group that fought to keep the Parkway Theater from becoming a pornography theater.

Neighbors and friends urged Jean to run for the State House and she won her first election in 1986. While her political interests are varied, she became a leading voice for clean-air and clean-water legislation.

“In the state legislature, as you get on committees, you have to specialize,” she said. In the early days of her legislative career, the going was tough for environmental legislation as there were fewer people working on those issues at that time. But that didn’t stop her, and her legislative record is impressive.

Jean acknowledges that the current polarized political climate has made it difficult to get bills passed. “Some things shouldn’t be controversial, but they are,” she says, and describes the recent years as “the great darkness.”

Nonetheless, she’s optimistic. “The group of legislators elected in 2018 is very strong,” and she feels that grass-roots support for what they’ve been doing is growing – and it’s what’s needed.

Jean holds the details of her post-legislative plans close to the vest, but it’s clear that she’s going to continue to be an active presence in “retirement.” She wants to continue to work on the same issues she’s always championed, but from different angles. “All I’ll say,” she told me, “is that this is an opportunity for me to serve in new ways.”

Seeking volunteers

By Tricia Theurer, Outreach Manager, Nokomis Healthy Seniors

Nokomis Healthy Seniors, a local non-profit that supports older adults in the Lake Nokomis area of south Minneapolis in staying independent, is looking for volunteers. Our greatest need is for volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments or grocery shopping. Providing even one ride a month is helpful! Or, be a friendly visitor or help with house or yard work. Background check required. Call the office Monday-Thursday at 612-729-5499 to get started, or email bbeeskow@nokomishealthyseniors.org

Coffee Meetings

are financial, educational and open to the public

2020 Dates:

March 24 • May 26 • June 23
August 25 • September 22
9-10 a.m.

Coffee Meetings are financial, educational and open to the public.

2020 Dates:
March 24 • May 26 • June 23
August 25 • September 22
9-10 a.m.

David K. Porter
More than 30 years experience
Wills
Probates
Real Estate
612-722-1001
5208 Bloomington Avenue
Probater@Earthlink.net
Walking in the time of Coronavirus

By Steve Date, Communications Committee, and Website/Social Media Manager

Due to publishing and delivery timelines for this newsletter, I’m writing to you from behind a one-month time warp. From here, we’re still in the early stages of coping with COVID-19. You now have much newer information. I hope it’s good news.

It’s late March here. The governor’s “Stay At Home” order went into effect today. We can still walk, run and bike, so I will continue to do that, while keeping a healthy physical distance from you.

The weather over the past few days has been glorious, with people outdoors in large numbers. Some observations:

• Children at home doing a lot of window and sidewalk drawing and writing – including one 105-square hopscotch game!

• Most of the walkers I’ve seen have already developed an informal protocol to step off the sidewalks or cross streets when they approach each other. A wave or smile is common.

• Those who stop to chat with neighbors have usually kept their distance, but there have been exceptions that made me uncomfortable.

• Families, families, everywhere. Many parents are either working at home or not able to go to work and they’re getting the kids outdoors.

• Business owners are grateful for their “take-out” customers.

• The general atmosphere is hard to describe. There’s an odd quietness, with less airplane noise and fewer cars on the streets. I often see joy in passers-by about being outside the house, while some walk with heads down and an air of uneasiness.

We’re all looking for bits of evidence upon which to build optimism. I’m building mine on “us” – people risking their own lives to help the sick, people going to work so we can get the food supplies and services we need, and yes, even those of us who are fortunate to be able to stay near home and do the only thing that is required of us – keep a distance from one another to stop the spread of this.

I hope you are well. See you on the other side of all this, when things are improving. We’re in this together – and we always will be.

Social Justice Education for 46 Years

Southside Family Charter School

By Steve Date, Communications Committee, and Website/Social Media Manager

Southside Family Charter School, 4500 Clinton Avenue (they rent space from St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church), has been in existence in one form or another for 46 years, the last 15 of those years as a public charter school.

In late February, I met with teachers Pete Oppenheim and Brynne Macosko Paguyo, along with school leader Phillip Gray. Pete and Brynne told me about the school’s history, philosophy and curriculum. Pete has extensive organizational knowledge as he was one of the school’s founders in the early ’70s and has been there every step of the way.

Southside Family School offers a K-8 program serving about 120 students. They’re able to keep class sizes small, especially in grades K-4, averaging about
Hiawatha Academy has high expectations

By Steve Date, Communications Committee, and Website/Social Media Manager
Hiawatha Academy Charter School (H.A.) has grown from its kindergarten and first-grade beginnings in 2007 to a multiple-campus, five-school, K-12 entity whose website claims will eventually serve an impressive “6.2% of all Minneapolis students.” The Northrop campus incorporates the old Northrop Elementary School building and stretches from 46th to 47th Streets between 16th and 17th Avenues.

H.A.’s philosophy of providing a “rigorous, well-rounded environment” and of welcoming diversity – racial, economic, cultural and linguistic – has been a big draw for the families who have chosen the school.

With the help of Chief Advancement Officer, Libby Stegger, I had a conversation with Nate Manen and Beda Martinez, two of the Academy’s current leaders.

Nate Manen is the principal of the K-4 Northrop Campus. He came to Hiawatha Academy after six years as a principal in Chicago. He exudes enthusiasm about the school. “We have a focus this year on reading,” he told me. “We're using a holistic approach and embedding our social studies subject matter into the reading program.” He strongly believes in that approach and that it will pay off in the future.

Beda Martinez is the interim principal in the College Prep middle school program, which this year only serves 5th-graders but will ultimately be a grades 5-8 school. She was born and raised in Wisconsin, and worked in Las Vegas and Chicago before coming to Hiawatha Academy. Beda says that she relates to this student population because of her own personal experiences growing up, and that it “feels like home here.”

Both principals cite parent support and family partnerships as reasons for their optimism, along with a strong educational staff. “We have a collective commitment to make things happen,” said Nate.

When asked if they’d welcome a stronger connection to the surrounding neighborhood community, they both smiled and gave a big “Yes!” Most of their current students live outside of FRN, but they would love to have more students from the neighborhood.

Another way that neighbors can get involved is to volunteer at the school. Reading with 3rd-4th graders is a high priority right now, but there are many other opportunities as well. Call Hiawatha Academy Northrop Campus or email to ask about volunteer opportunities.

Travel Studies have always played a big role in student learning. When we met, they were busy preparing for their triennial spring Civil Rights Trip for 6th-8th-graders. This experience is an exciting and often life-changing opportunity for all their middle-school students to travel by bus on a 10-day excursion to many of the Civil Rights-era sites in the southern states.

Phillip says Southside Family School staff heartily welcome volunteers, many of whom are part of “Experience Corps,” adults age 50+ engaged as literacy tutors. The school would also like to invite more families from nearby neighborhoods to choose Southside Family School for their children. There’s a waiting list for enrollment applications, but he encourages anyone who’s interested to get on the waiting list and schedule a tour of the school.

Southside Family Charter School, continued from page 9

only 15 students per classroom. The student population is culturally and ethnically diverse, which all three educators point to as one of the enduring strengths of their program.

The school’s mission statement stresses teaching “critical thinking, problem solving, political and social activism and creative expression.” Pete says the way they do that is “entirely based on social justice.” He’s glad to see that other public schools have finally started emphasizing social justice and racism, but it’s what their school has been doing all along. It provides the basis for all the curriculum areas, even behavior and classroom management. Teachers use a “restorative justice” program to teach students how to get along with each other as well as be productive and respectful members of the school and the greater community.

St. Mary’s Cemetery
A neighborhood cemetery
A serene place within the community

4403 Chicago Avenue
(651) 488-8866
catholic-cemeteries.org
TheCatholicCemeteries

www.southsidefamilyschool.org
612-872-8322
"We put our customer experience above all else,” Wolfe said. “We always want to treat our customers like they are family.”

By the way, KNO stands for Kristin, Nick and Odin and is pronounced “Kay-En-Oh.” Odin is Nick and Kristin’s dog, who has a fenced-in yard to call home.

KNO Woodworks, which is owned by Nick Jentsch and managed by Brent Wolfe, recently moved into an office building that was previously an insurance agency.

The business started back in 2013 when Jentsch, a carpenter, built a fence around his house for his dog. A neighbor asked Jentsch to build a fence for him and that was the beginning of a full-time business.

The majority of the jobs that KNO Woodworks does comes from the general neighborhood where they are now located. “Most of our business comes from word of mouth,” Wolfe said. “We’ll put up a fence and the neighbors will ask who did that work, and then we’ll get calls from those neighbors about their own homes.”

The business has been around for about seven years. It was based in Jentsch’s house but eventually the two men needed more space. They have three crews that handle work during building season, which typically runs from early spring through late fall.

“We put our customer experience above all else,” Wolfe said. “We always want to treat our customers like they are family.”

By the way, KNO stands for Kristin, Nick and Odin and is pronounced “Kay-En-Oh.” Odin is Nick and Kristin’s dog, who has a fenced-in yard to call home.

www.knowoodworks.com
612-226-5172

Bikes and Pieces Goes Mobile
By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee
After more than 10 years in two storefronts at 48th and Chicago, Mike Kmiecik’s bicycle shop will be making housecalls.

www.bikesandpieces.com & Facebook

Volunteer opportunities are available for racer registration, kids race registration, corner marshals/crossing guards and venue set-up and tear-down. Most volunteer shifts are 4.5 hours long (7:30-12 or 12-4:30). Set-up shifts run 6-8 a.m. and tear-down shifts run 3-5 p.m. All volunteers receive a T-shirt, lunch and beverages.

The Southside Sprint is applauded by racers for its urban setting, enthusiastic crowds and dedicated volunteers. “I was impressed with the crowds, the support, the staffing, the businesses and the neighbors. This is the largest crowd I have seen at an amateur race. And, without a doubt the most fan support I have ever been privileged to witness,” noted USA Cycling Official, Steve Haugh.

Email: info@bigwatersclassic.com
bigwatersclassic.com/southside-sprint/

10th-Annual South Minneapolis Bicycle Race Returns July 19

Southside Sprint Bike Race Seeks Volunteers
By Jason Lardy, Race Co-founder and Northrop neighbor
The 2020 Southside Sprint bike race seeks volunteers as it returns to its popular south Minneapolis course July 19. Volunteers are essential to bringing exhilarating bike racing to the streets of the Field Regina Northrop neighborhood. Positions are available for people of all ages and abilities.

The 2020 Southside Sprint bike race seeks volunteers as it returns to its popular south Minneapolis course July 19. Volunteers are essential to bringing exhilarating bike racing to the streets of the Field Regina Northrop neighborhood. Positions are available for people of all ages and abilities.

By Jason Flaig, Communications Committee
If you stop into KNO Woodworks on Bloomington Avenue and 47th Street looking for woodworking supplies, you won’t find what you need. They don’t stock or sell tools for do-it-yourselfers. If you are, however, in the market for a custom wood fence, pergola or deck, you’ll be in the right place.

KNO Woodworks, which is owned by Nick Jentsch and managed by Brent Wolfe, recently moved into an office building that was previously an insurance agency.

The business started back in 2013 when Jentsch, a carpenter, built a fence around his house for his dog. A neighbor asked Jentsch to build a fence for him and that was the beginning of a full-time business.

The majority of the jobs that KNO Woodworks does comes from the general neighborhood where they are now located. “Most of our business comes from word of mouth,” Wolfe said. “We’ll put up a fence and the neighbors will ask who did that work, and then we’ll get calls from those neighbors about their own homes.”

The business has been around for about seven years. It was based in Jentsch’s house but eventually the two men needed more space. They have three crews that handle work during building season, which typically runs from early spring through late fall.

“We put our customer experience above all else,” Wolfe said. “We always want to treat our customers like they are family.”

By the way, KNO stands for Kristin, Nick and Odin and is pronounced “Kay-En-Oh.” Odin is Nick and Kristin’s dog, who has a fenced-in yard to call home.

www.knowoodworks.com
612-226-5172

Bikes and Pieces Goes Mobile
By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee
After more than 10 years in two storefronts at 48th and Chicago, Mike Kmiecik’s bicycle shop will be making housecalls.

www.bikesandpieces.com & Facebook
Close to Home is produced for neighbors by neighbors. The next deadline is Wednesday, May 13.

We welcome your comments, complete articles, and hi-res photos. Please contact us: editor@frnng.org

A sign that reads, “We are in this together,” displayed, along with a herd of paper hearts, in the window of the HealthPartners Nokomis Clinic near 48th Street and Chicago Avenue.

THE FIELD REGINA NORTHPROP NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP NEWSLETTER

1620 East 46th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Your neighborhood newsletter produced for neighbors by neighbors.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN PERMIT #1342

Inside this issue

City of Mpls. Neighborhoods 2020 Plan
Page 1

D Line Bus Rapid Transit Update
Page 1

Overview and Resources
Page 3

11th Annual Classic Car Show June 14
Page 6

Meet our new communications team
Page 7

Shake Rep., Jean Wagner, retiring
Page 8

Check our website and Facebook page for updates about rescheduled events and much more! Please find these and much more on our Facebook page.

May/June 2020