Strengthening Community Connections in 2020

By the Communications Committee
Members of the communications committee and board of directors have ideas for making stronger connections and engendering more vigorous involvement within our community in 2020. In addition to our favorite form of communication – in-person conversations – this newsletter and the neighborhood website and Facebook page will continue to be the main methods for sharing information.

Anticipated new content
We have identified three new types of content for the coming year:
• Photo essays
• “Quotes from folks”
• “Get to know your neighbor”

If you think we will need your involvement to “cover” all of these topics, you’re right. Photo essays on a neighborhood-related subject is Christian Fritzberg’s creative idea. Neighbors will submit photos on a selected theme. Some photos will be reproduced in Close to Home, others on the website and Facebook page.

Gathering and posting “Quotes from Folks” is Jason Flaig’s inventive idea. For example, how would someone respond when asked, “What’s your favorite thing about the neighborhood?”

And because we spent 2019 getting better acquainted with existing businesses and non-profits, Steve Date suggested we “get to know our neighbor” and feature “regular people.”

Benefits of the proposed themes
You can imagine the numerous benefits of involving a wide range of contributors to neighborhood communications, but we’re happy to remind you of some of them: Share information; get better acquainted; include as many “voices” as possible; build involvement in neighborhood activities and events; establish an atmosphere of friendliness, pride, and safety; support each other as well as the entities among us; recognize the creativity of contributors; introduce new energy to communications; delight readers; and lighten the load for the volunteers* who produce the newsletter.

Getting involved
Because the fresh New Year inspires fresh thinking, we look for your contributions to the January/February 2020 issue of Close to Home and the FRN website – frnng.org and Facebook page.

The deadline for submissions is midnight, Friday, November 22, the Friday before Thanksgiving. Please email ideas, questions, comments, photos, and more to: editor@frnng.org

PHOTO ESSAY
“The doors of Field Regina Northrop.”
Photos of doors that are distinctive and/or representative of our neighborhood. Indicate the neighborhood in which the photo was taken but not the exact address, which will be removed if it is visible.

Continued on page 2
Neighborhood resource for hard-to-recycle waste

By Sue Filbin and Marcy Darling

When Darling Amalgamated Retail Emporium (D.A.R.E.) opened in July 2018, they were dedicated to local goods and earth-friendly practices. Creative work by local artists and makers is shown, promoted, and sold in the gallery that hosts monthly Gallery Nights. Marcy and Adam Darling find, sometimes refurbish, display, and sell vintage goods. And Marcy operates a single-chair beauty salon in the back of the store that is dedicated to using sustainable beauty products.

In addition to retail and salon-related activities, D.A.R.E. partners with local, national, and international recyclers with a goal of having “as small a footprint as possible.” This perspective led to D.A.R.E. putting out bins every-other weekend, from noon to 4 p.m., for items collected by TerraCycle®. TerraCycle is a social enterprise that accepts hard-to-recycle items such as oral-care waste represented by toothpaste tubes and caps, toothbrushes, and floss containers; hair-care packaging; skin-care packaging such as dispensers and tubes and cosmetics-related containers; cigarette-related waste including extin-
guished cigarettes and packaging; razor blades and razors; and plastic cereal bags and box liners.

When asked how the Darlings decided to collect difficult-to-recycle materials, Marcy wrote, “Beyond it being the right thing to do, we have always been big recyclers in the Darling household, especially as we worry about how climate change and conspicuous consumption are going to affect our daughters’ futures on this planet. So it was natural that we took a reduce, reuse, recycle approach at our business as well. When we learned about TerraCycle and their amazing recycling initiatives, it was a no-brainer to sign on so we could collect some of those hard-to-recycle plastic items, keep them out of our landfills, and have them made into something new. And since we were going to do it anyway, we felt compelled to share it with our community.”

Read more about dates for recycling hard-to-recycle items at D.A.R.E.’s website: darlingamalgamated.com/community-recy-cling/ • 4549 Bloomington Avenue

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.

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Smiling Dog Design

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

The next deadline is Friday, November 22

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Hello FRN,

I get a lot of comments from people who really enjoy this newsletter. It has been five years and 30 issues since we made the switch to color and moved up to twelve pages per issue. Since then we’ve won a national award for what I call our “hyper-local coverage,” but really the history is a long one and like everything at FRN, relies on the work of many dedicated volunteers.

Prior to 1993, the newsletter was printed in black and white. That changed when Jeff Grosscup chaired the communications committee. A logo was designed by Sue Filbin that incorporated illustrations of leaves drawn by Christine Baird. The newsletter was then printed in the same color as that of the logo – a dark blue/green.

For many years, the newsletter was written by a number of contributors, proofread by Linda Rost, and laid out by John Vasilious, with Kirk Anderson and others leading it all. By 2014, they were ready to relinquish their longtime responsibilities. It was at this time I took over as communications chair but lucky for me, existing committee member Sue Filbin was able to take on the challenging task of layout, and Carrie Shilda and Adam Webster joined the committee. Together we were able to put it all together.

Due to advances in printing and the proliferation of digital communications, graphic designer Jennifer Nagorski created a three-color logo that represents our three neighborhoods. Jennifer retained Eileen Matro’s design for the newsletter masthead. At the same time, printing costs dropped dramatically and we were able to improve the printing quality without a change in cost thanks to Greenhaven Printing.

About two years ago, realtor Christian Fritzberg started writing for the newsletter, initially concentrating on his interest and expertise in matters relating to seniors.

In the ongoing changes that time and different responsibilities bring, a couple of qualities about the newsletter remain constant. It truly is produced by neighbors for neighbors. My wish for the future is that, as neighbors, we step in when we can to help share the stories of our community.

As we approach the end of one year and the beginning of the New Year, please consider how you will contribute to building connections or taking action within our neighborhood. We welcome you and your ideas, time, and talent.
Greetings, Field Regina Northrop Neighbors!

It’s been a jam-packed couple of years at City Hall, and I’m excited to keep working with you to make sure our community continues to thrive. Part of my job is to keep you in the loop on key happenings at City Hall. I’ve included a few of them here.

2020 Budget
My colleagues and I continue to work with Mayor Frey on the City’s 2020 budget, a document that will set taxpayer investments in the programs and services. I encourage all Minneapolis residents and business owners to get engaged in this process, especially by sharing your priorities.

From climate action to affordable housing to public safety to senior services (and everything in between), it is important that the City Council hears from you so that we can ensure the budget mirrors our values. Share your input by emailing me at jeremy.schroeder@minneapolismn.gov, and consider offering your perspective in person at an upcoming public hearing.

Folks can testify in front of the City Council on Nov. 7 at 9:30 a.m., on Dec. 4 at 6:05 p.m., or on Dec. 11 at 6:05 p.m. – all in Room 317 at City Hall (350 South 5th Street). Learn more at minneapolismn.gov/budget

Inclusionary Zoning
The City Council is expected to vote in December on the Inclusionary Zoning policy I’m co-authoring with Council President Lisa Bender. This policy will put affordable housing front and center, requiring the addition of affordable units in new development projects. It’s just one tool we have to help fix our housing crisis, but it’s an important one that makes sure we are holding developers accountable to upholding our community values when they build in Minneapolis. Affordable housing is necessary for a healthy city, and I’m doing all I can to make it our reality.

Snow and Ice Removal
This season, please remember that the City has rules for snow removal to ensure all our neighbors can get around safely and efficiently this winter. Property owners are responsible for clearing their sidewalks of snow and ice as soon as possible after it accumulates. Instead, stay on top of shoveling to reduce the need for salt, use sand for traction (it’s the best option when temperatures fall below 15 degrees), and sweep up excess salt or sand that’s visible on dry pavement to help keep it out of our storm drains.

Transportation Action Plan
I’ve heard from many community members about your thoughts on how our transportation system could work better. I encourage you to share your thoughts as part of our Transportation Action Plan process. This plan will be a comprehensive, high-level framework that will shape the future of our transportation system. Public Works staff expects to publish the draft report in early 2020, then open a 30-day public comment period which will include open houses. Visit go.minneapolismn.gov to track updates and see how you can get involved.

Keep In Touch!
One of my primary goals as your elected representative at City Hall is to be available and accessible to all Ward 11 residents and business owners. From the beginning, I’ve pledged to meet folks where they are. That’s why I’ve hosted more than 50 Community Conversations, where folks can drop in and share their questions, ideas, and concerns about our community – and, it’s why I’ll keep hosting these events going forward.

I hope you can join me at Sovereign Grounds (813 East 48th Street) on Tuesday, Dec. 3, from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Keep an eye out for more Community Conversation events in my email newsletter.

Subscribe at tiny.cc/ward11newsletter
You can always reach me by phone at 612-673-2211 or email at jeremy.schroeder@minneapolismn.gov. I’m humbled and grateful to represent you, and I look forward to staying in touch.
Getting acquainted with David Fronsoe

By Christian Fritzberg, Communications Committee

Do you know of someone who wears many hats? Those who know David Fronsoe will likely think of him first when asked this question. David leads a very full life, one that’s been largely devoted to service – to his congregation and the community.

As pastor since 2003 of the Evangelist Crusaders Church at 43rd and 4th Avenue – a multi-racial Pentecostal Church, David has been in our neighborhood almost on a daily basis, although he does not live in FRN. (He’s lived in the same home for 34 years in Powderhorn neighborhood.) For the past couple of years, David has been involved with the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG) first serving as the Regina neighborhood representative and then becoming vice president last year.

During David’s tenure with FRNNG, he’s assisted with our neighborhood clean-up days and other events and has worked with two committees – community and safety, and communications. Currently, as vice president, he’s working on special projects for FRNNG. Other hats that David has worn include being a night-club musician in his younger years and also serving as a long-term cook at Little Sisters of the Poor.

When not volunteering with FRNNG, David enjoys writing and performing gospel music on the piano and organ, evangelizing (David often volunteers to lead religious services in prisons), and spending time with his wife, three daughters, and son-in-law.

Winter Crime Prevention

By Jennifer Neale, Crime Prevention Specialist, Sector 3

Winter is fast approaching and with our dropping temperatures comes an increase in cold-weather crimes. Listed below are some ideas for you and your neighbors to consider this coming season.

**Preventing Package Theft**

Package theft is a problem in many communities. Unfortunately, these thefts increase during the winter because of the amount of purchases and deliveries the holiday season brings.

- Track packages and ship them to a location where you or someone you trust is available to receive it, such as your work, a neighbor, or family.
- Require a signature on deliveries.
- Ship packages to a local store that offers this service.
- Call 911 if you see someone stealing a package. If it is not an immediate threat, call 311 to report the theft and make a report. When in doubt, call 911.

**Home Security During Winter Travel**

If you are traveling during the holidays, take additional steps to secure your home. Because burglars target homes that look unoccupied, it’s a good idea to make your home look lived in while you are away.

- Use light timers on lamps, set in different rooms and at random times.
- Place a hold on mail, newspapers, and packages.
- Do not announce your travel plans on social media before or during your time away. You can post when you return.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to look after your home – to shovel snow, bring out/in garbage bins, and to contact you if an emergency arises.

**Vehicle Security**

Crimes involving our cars can be a real pain during the winter months. Whether your vehicle is parked on the street, in a parking lot, or in your garage, your car is vulnerable to criminals.

- Remove all items from your car – extra keys, cash, important documents, shopping bags and gym bags, laptops, and phone chargers. Thieves will be tempted to take it ALL!
- Remove the garage opener at night if you park on the street or your driveway.
- Never leave your car running while unattended!

Jennifer Neale, Crime Prevention Specialist

jennifer.neale@minneapolismn.gov
612-673-2839
www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/
Feature: Restaurants, Entertainment, and Foods & Beverages

Bagu Sushi & Thai
By Steve Date, Communications Committee

Chue Vang has been at Bagu Sushi & Thai since it opened 12 years ago. Chue, who is Hmong, learned the business from his friend, mentor, and partner, who was Thai. The Sushi menu came about “because it’s good food and it’s popular,” he says. Three years ago, he bought out his partner and took over the business.

Chue was living in St. Paul when he first began working at Bagu. He remembers being surprised because he didn’t know about the 48th and Chicago business node before that. “This neighborhood has kind of changed since then. There weren’t as many offices and businesses as now,” he says, but the potential was here because of the people who lived in the area. In fact, he cites “neighborhood support” as the number-one key to Bagu’s success. “Most of our customers live nearby. We have many regular customers and we’ve gotten to know some of them very well.” He keeps a wall of customer photos to show his appreciation and friendship.

Chue told me that the general public is becoming more knowledgeable about Sushi, but there are still some misconceptions out there. “Some people immediately think ‘fish’ and ‘uncooked,’ but that’s not true. The word ‘sushi’ really means ‘vinegar rice,’ and most people can find something they like. The key to our success is that we use the freshest, highest-quality ingredients we can find.”

The patio out back provides a lovely outdoor space when the weather permits. Bagu serves Sushi and Thai dishes from 5-9 p.m. during the week and until 9:30 on weekends.

4741 Chicago Avenue • bagusushi.com

El Burrito Minneapolis
By Jason Flaig, Communications Committee

It has now been a full year since El Burrito Minneapolis opened and replaced a long-time neighborhood staple, Pepitos, which held down the middle of the block on 48th and Chicago for 45 years.

“We are so grateful to be in the neighborhood,” said co-owner Milissa Silva-Diaz. “It’s been quite a rollercoaster and not totally what we expected, but we’ve made some changes and are getting positive responses from our neighbors. That makes us happy.”

Silva-Diaz said they will close on Mondays but will now be open at 11 a.m. Tuesday-Sunday for lunch. Other changes include a different menu from the opening months that features more burritos, tacos, enchiladas, and tamales. The refreshed decor and patio space make the location great for a family outing, group gathering, or date night out. The restaurant also has “La Cantina” available for groups of 10-30.

El Burrito Minneapolis is the latest location of a 40-plus-year, St. Paul Mexican restaurant destination, El Burrito Mercado. Silva-Diaz and her sister, Suzanne Silva, are the owners of the Minneapolis location.

“We love being in south Minneapolis,” Silva-Diaz said. “We’d love to connect and engage with more local schools and organizations. We recently partnered with Hale School for a fundraiser and we’d love to do more of that.”

4820 Chicago Avenue • elburritompls.com/

Carbone’s
By Jason Flaig, Communications Committee

One of the pleasures of living in a neighborhood is getting to know about the great things it has to offer – and Carbone’s happy hour deals would certainly be on that list. Every weeknight (except Fridays), Carbone’s offers pizza slices, appetizers, and beer and wine at reduced prices. The happy hours have proven to be extremely popular since Carbone’s made the move across Cedar Avenue four years ago. “It’s been perfect,” owner Dan Magnuson said. “We’ve thought about changing it up, but why? It works for everybody.”

Carbone’s has a long history in the neighborhood. The Magnuson family opened their outpost of Carbone’s in 1986 on the west side of 47th and Cedar Avenue. In 2012, the Magnuson parents retired, selling the restaurant to son Dan and his wife Jessica.

Dan grew up working in the restaurant and met Jessica while the two were in college. They now have two children, ages 11 and 8.

In 2012, when the opportunity presented itself for Carbone’s to stay in the neighborhood and double its space, Dan and Jessica purchased the former office building/dry cleaner located on the north end of the Bergan’s SuperValu parking lot. “We’ve loved everything about the move. This is what I had in the back of my mind about 15 years ago for this slice of Cedar Avenue,” Magnuson said. “I think the restaurant appeals to so many people, from little kids to older folks. It’s a very comfortable place for a lot of people. We have a great staff and that’s been very good for us. We have a lot of people who come in to connect with staff members whom they’ve gotten to know.”

4705 Cedar Avenue • www.carbonespizzeria.com
**Green Bee Juicery**
By Jason Flaig, Communications Committee
Green Bee Juicery, located near the corner of 46th and Bloomington since 2018, changed owners this past summer. Two brothers bought the business from previous owners, sisters Michaela Smith and Mallory Madden.

Green Bee cold-presses their juices from fresh local produce. They source their produce from local farms whenever they can. The farmers and growers in their partnership use organic methods and environmentally sustainable practices.

There's no cooking happening at Green Bee; their juice and nut milks are always raw and are never heated or pasteurized. This method allows the most nutrient-dense, rich juice with the best health benefits. This process also allows for peak enzyme activity, meaning the juice you drink delivers live, active nutrients to your body.

The juices use many different fruits, vegetables, and herbs. The “Happy Belly,” for example, contains purple cabbage, apple, parsley, lemon, and ginger. Green Bee currently offers about a dozen juices, four nut milks, and two “extras” including a cold-pressed coffee.

1526 East 46th Street
concierge@greenbeejuicery.com

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**ie – Italian Eatery**
By Jason Flaig, Communications Committee
It has been four years since ie – Italian Eatery – made its debut on Cedar Avenue, and in the ensuing years it has become a mainstay of the busy neighborhood that it now anchors.

Eric Carrara, who was raised in a large Italian family in Pennsylvania, practically grew up in the business: his family has owned a “red sauce” neighborhood joint since the 1930s. After moving to Minneapolis for college, he soon found his way back to the industry he knew so well and has helped open and run almost 20 restaurants in the Twin Cities during the past 15 years.

It was on a trip to Italy – where he proposed to wife Vanessa – that the vision for ie began to take shape. Charmed by the neighborhood squares (or piazzas) and warm, community-focused restaurants, Eric and Vanessa began to plan for a beautiful space with handmade pastas, seasonal dishes, an excellent wine list inspired by their travels in Italy, and a great beer list with local, craft, and Italian beer.

The space now includes patio seating, a bar, a space for private parties, and free parking. Vanessa, who grew up by Lake Nokomis, is thrilled to be able to serve the community in which she grew up.

The couple recently opened their second restaurant, Due Focacceria, in St. Paul’s Highland Park neighborhood. It’s a more casual space than ie and features meat and cheese boards, salads, and sandwiches. The Carraras also own a space adjacent to ie and plan to turn it into another restaurant soon. And yes, it will be Italian.

4724 Cedar Avenue • www.italianeatery.com

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**Sift**
By Jason Flaig, Communications Committee
Sift Gluten Free Bakery will celebrate one year in business at the end of this year. Proprietor Molly Miller developed a dedicated following from the Kingfield and Mill City farmers markets, where she sold her baked goods for four years before opening Sift.

The extensive buildout boasts a large commercial bakery in what has been a long-empty space that was formerly a doctor’s office and a retail space in the old Sisters’ Sludge coffee shop.

The retail space is open and bright, with a cozy and warm feeling. Miller credits that to her father and brother, who lent their skills as finish carpenters to the custom maple woodworking. “I wanted it to be an inviting, welcoming space for people who are gluten free to enjoy – and people who aren’t can also enjoy it just as much. It’s exactly what I imagined – my dream come to life,” says Miller.

The bakery menu features a farmers’ market favorite, cinnamon rolls, along with scones, muffins, breakfast bites, and donuts. “I’m just so excited,” said Miller. “It’s a long time coming. Minneapolis has such a vibrant food scene and it’s great to be part of it, and part of this neighborhood.”

4557 Bloomington Avenue
siftglutenfree.com/

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**Elbow Room**
735 East 48th Street
www.ramacsammys.com
frnng.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/25_1_2_2019_frnnng.pdf

**Grand Ole Creamery**
4737 Cedar Avenue
grandolecreamery.com/site/

**Mei Inn**
4215 Bloomington Ave. • www.meiinn.com

**Pumphouse Creamery**
4754 Chicago Avenue
www.pumphouse-creamery.com

**Tom’s Popcorn**
4708 Cedar Avenue
www.tomspopcornshop.com/index.html
Sovereign Grounds
By Steve Date, Communications Committee
As you come in the door, you’ll notice that Sovereign Grounds is no ordinary coffee shop. It’s likely that you’ll be greeted with a smile and a handshake over the counter from owner Hakan Sezer. It’s also likely he’ll remember your name the next time you stop in.

Hakan and his wife, Kris, expanded, remodeled, and reshaped the place during the past two decades into a neighborhood institution. “I try to bring my Turkish cultural style and attitude into it,” he says. For him, that means a personal approach, casual atmosphere, fresh baked goods and healthy food options (including Mediterranean salads), and several gluten-free baked items. Last (but foremost) is the great coffee, made from beans that Hakan roasts on-site. He also sells a wide variety of beans, including Turkish and Anatolian roasts.

There’s also a play room for young children. Sovereign Grounds is a popular R & R stop for new parents and caregivers. The room is full of toys, all donated from customers (as is all the furniture in both rooms). “This neighborhood has been very good to me, and I am so grateful for that,” he told me. “Neighbors bring in all kinds of things, from furniture and toys to rhubarb and tomatoes and other things from their gardens for me to put in some of the food items.” Another room, which many people don’t notice, serves as a quiet, private space and can be reserved for groups or organizations to hold meetings.

Sovereign Grounds has been a family place for Hakan’s three sons, who grew up roaming around the smaller pre-expansion shop. Two of them now work there, and little Charlotte, Hakan’s granddaughter, often shows up to help Dad and Grandpa with their work.

813 East 48th Street • sovereigngrounds.com

Town Hall Tap
By Shelly Larson, Manager, Town Hall Tap, and Steve Date, Communications Committee
Town Hall Tap opened in 2010 as the second location in the Town Hall family. The first was Town Hall Brewery in 1997 at Seven Corners in Minneapolis. We’ve also added Town Hall Lanes in south Minneapolis and Town Hall Station in Edina. Town Hall is known for its award-winning craft beer and scratch-made food.

Our bar was built in 1890 out of quarter-sawn oak and is the focal point of the restaurant. One wall at “The Tap” is covered with antique beer signs from the collection of Town Hall founder, Pete Rifakes, who has an addictive hobby of collecting domestic beer signs and vintage serving trays.

The best feature of our location is the front garage doors and French doors that open to the public and bring the outside in. It makes the whole restaurant feel open and fresh. We know how important patios are for Minnesotans!

We like the neighborhood feel that this area has. The Tap is thriving because of the support by our neighborhood regulars and those making the trip to the 48th and Chicago Avenue area for a night out. This is becoming a destination neighborhood. The newly remodeled Parkway Theater brings great shows to the neighborhood and we definitely get a push from them. We’re so lucky to have such great people around us.

We’re happy to say that construction has finally started on the former Adrian’s location! The new space will be a separate entity from the Town Hall brand and will have a different approach. Details are still coming together, and we will announce our plans very soon as the new space is slated to open in late 2019.

4810 Chicago Avenue • townhalltap.com
Restaurants, con’t.

Turtle Bread Company and Café Levain
By Adam Vickerman, Chef, Café Levain
Turtle Bread Company (and Pizza Biga) have been neighborhood institutions for the past 15+ years – and in some regards, some things never change – but, as we have found out with Café Levain, some things needed to change.

Since it shuttered in 2016, Levain has been (relatively) dark save for public forums, city meetings, and a wedding shower here or there. But those memories of classic French cuisine and bustling weekend nights were never forgotten.

I came back to Levain (for the fourth time…can’t stay away, it seems) this past spring with the hopes to dust off the room, turn the lights back on, and cook some food for the neighborhood that has supported us all these years. We have been holding monthly public Sunday Suppers – a tribute to all those previous Sundays years ago with three-course menus designed with classic Levain (French) fare. They have been a lovely success thus far, with more incoming with each passing month. We invite you all back in (via online ticketing, of course) to reminisce, enjoy good food, good drink, and good friends in a familiar south Minneapolis setting.

We are also here to serve any private event needs you may have. I don’t think Harvey (owner Harvey McLain) or I have the physical demands to operate Levain as a full restaurant, but we love entertaining groups, gatherings, birthdays, and wedding receptions within that classic dining space once again.

It may just sound like an ad, but I like to think FRN readers needed to know what we have been up to here this past summer and going forward. It seemed worth a mention that Café Levain is back in a capacity fit for many different occasions – public or private.

4762 Chicago Ave., behind Turtle Bread Co. on 48th St. • cafelevain.com

Entertainment

Parkway Theater
By Steve Date, Communications Committee
Ward Johnson and Eddy Landenberger had high hopes when they took on the task of renovating and reopening the Parkway theater a couple of years ago. Now, a bit more than a year after they opened, Ward is more optimistic than ever. “Things are going really well – better than we even imagined,” he told me.

For this venue, variety is key – from movies to live music, comedy shows, book signings, private and corporate events, and even a couple of weddings. “We knew what we wanted to do, but we’ve also learned some things along the way,” Ward told me. “For instance, we didn’t originally plan on having live podcasts, but they’ve become very popular.” Movies have also been a big success, often ’70s-'90s nostalgia films, many with live music before the show, and a signature theme-related cocktail for each movie.

Bookings at the Parkway have steadily increased. Some of the booking success is due to becoming more well known in a city where live-show venues are very competitive. They’ve had a few high-profile acts, that draw an audience from a wider area, but Ward cites the neighborhood as being the strongest source of both the theater’s popularity as well as its purpose. “We’re heavily neighborhood focused,” he says, “especially for movies and local music. The neighborhood support has been tremendous.”

When Ward and Eddy took over the Parkway, it was in need of a major overhaul, including crumbling walls, roof replacement, water problems, and seats in need of new upholstery. But it’s been truly a labor of love. “We completely re-did the place, trying to embrace the original Art Deco decor of the 1930s,” Ward told me, adding, “Neither Eddy nor I pay ourselves.” He lives just a few blocks away and has long wanted to see this building survive and thrive as a theater again. Now it’s happening.

4818 Chicago Avenue • theparkwaytheater.com
Cork Dork
By Jason Flaig, Communications Committee
Russell Fay has owned the Cork Dork on Cedar Avenue for the past seven years. The shop moved across Cedar Avenue, next to Carbone’s, in 2015. The newer space offers more room and the visibility of the shop is greatly improved from the previous location.

Fay was first called a “cork dork” by a liquor distributor when he was opening The Craftsman (4300 East Lake Street, Minneapolis) in 2004. The man was trying to sell Fay on lower-quality wine that had a high-profit margin. When Fay told him that he wasn’t interested, he made the comment that Fay must be one of those “cork dorks” who wouldn’t compromise on quality. The name stuck.

Since he started, Fay’s goal has been to help people know that you can find good and bad wine in any price range. He says his job is to find only good wine, especially at lower price points. Fay says that placing good values in a space with an unpretentious feel helps his customers trust that they get quality products at great prices.

Fay has lived in the Longfellow neighborhood for about 15 years. He grew up in the Camden neighborhood of north Minneapolis. He says that he “has the city in his blood and he couldn’t be prouder.”

4701 Cedar Avenue
www.corkdorkwineco.com

Ken & Norm’s Liquors
By Steve Date, Communications Committee
Arpad Nagy, owner of Ken & Norm’s Liquors, expanded the store three years ago for two reasons. The rising popularity of local and national craft beer brands made having more cooler space necessary. “We carry some of the big brands,” Arpad told me, “but that’s not our focus.” He now stocks a surprising number of small labels. “There are now more than 100 breweries just in Minnesota,” he says, and it’s hard to keep up with the growing market.”

It’s not only the beer market that has changed. Due to new laws and licensing costs, Minnesota is also experiencing a craft distillery boom. Customers in FRN increasingly ask for locally made gin, whiskey, vodka, and other spirits. “This part of town has changed over the years,” says Arpad, “and there are many customers with sophisticated tastes.” Arpad and store manager, Vitalii Zub, try to carry the brands that neighborhood customers want and provide the advice they seek.

Even though consumer desires and the liquor industry are evolving, Arpad, originally from Hungary, never forgets the history of his store. When he bought the store 10 years ago, he kept the existing name as a memorial to the original owners, two postal workers who were the first African Americans granted a liquor license in Minneapolis. He still maintains a warm relationship with the family of Ken.

4801 Chicago Avenue
www.facebook.com/kenandnormsliquors/

Neighbor Writes Second Book
Northrop neighbor, Mark Scannell, responded to questions about his new book.

What’s your book’s title and what’s it about?
The new book is entitled Resilience: The Ability to Rebound from Adversity.

What motivated you to write this book?
My motivation was seeing and feeling all the conflicts, divisions, and polarities in the world today. The audience is anyone who has ever experienced adversities, challenges, defeats.

How is your first book, The Element of Gratitude: A New Look at the Serenity Prayer, doing since it was published in 2015?
I continue to sell copies of that book. I am amazed by how powerful giving thanks can be in avoiding slipping into negativity – resentments, regrets, depression, frustration, hopelessness. In fact, in the new book, I suggest that a regular practice of giving thanks is one way to develop resilience.

What recommendations do you have for authors?
What was most helpful was hiring an editor to help me with the writing and the mechanics of getting the book published. Marly Cornell was very, very helpful.

How do you spend your non-writing time?
I continue to be a block club leader on 18th Avenue between 45th and 46th Streets. I also volunteer at St. Joan of Arc Church where I am co-chair of a group for seniors called Sages. I umpire softball and kickball; I officiate at weddings; and I enjoy being a regular at Sisters’ Sludge in the morning for coffee with a regular group of coffee drinkers.

Where can people find your books?
My books are available through Mark@gasscann@bitstream.net, through Amazon, and at my website: marktscannell.com/index.html
Planning projects for the Minnehaha Creek Corridor, Hiawatha Golf Course property within Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park, and Shoreline Restoration at Lake Nokomis are all underway. Each individual project has a project page at www.minneapolisparks.org/park_care_improvements/park_projects/current_projects/ where you can subscribe to updates and catch up in detail on what’s happened since my last update to you in March.

Minnehaha Creek Corridor planning has progressed to the second phase of draft design. Designs have been released and feedback is being gathered from the community. It is important to note that these concepts are not yet final, nor have they been approved by the board of commissioners. This project is being done in concert with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the City of Minneapolis to ensure that investments made by all agencies are coordinated to provide the greatest benefit to park users and the ecological health of the creek.

If you have not already done so, I would recommend reviewing the concepts and providing feedback on specific design elements that you find appealing, or not, to the design team and community advisory committee using the survey found on the project page that can be found here: www.minneapolisparks.org/park_care_improvements/park_projects/current_projects/minnehaha_parkway_regional_trail_master_plan/.

The proposed modifications to parkway flow with regard to redirecting through traffic to other roadway segments were withdrawn from consideration by the community advisory committee and design team at their last meeting. The latest update provides more detail on that and next steps: www.minneapolisparks.org/project_updates/next-steps-for-the-minnehaha-parkway-regional-trail-master-plan/.

Hiawatha Golf Course property is being master planned around a reduced pumping scenario with the assistance of a Citizens Advisory Council (CAC). Initial draft concepts were shared with the community last winter. The CAC has recommended what elements of those concepts will be included in a refined concept to be released this fall.

Shoreline Restoration is underway at Lake Nokomis. Shoreline Restoration and Carp Removal efforts funded through State of Minnesota grants help improve water quality in the lake.

My newsletter, the 5th District Dispatch, is a great resource for more-frequent updates about the parks. I send out the newsletter once or twice a month to help keep my constituents informed. You can subscribe at eepurl.com/QZ_-9. I’ll see you in the parks!

Glad Creations Quilt Shop at 3400 Bloomington Avenue South closed in March 2019 after 42 years, leaving hundreds of devoted customers bereft.

Three former Glad Creations employees are using the cooperative business model to bring the shop back to south Minneapolis at the same location. One of the three entrepreneurs is Jennie Baltutis who has lived in the Northrop neighborhood for 33 years. The fabric co-op will be a full-service quilt shop offering fabric, notions, patterns, and classes for the beginning sewist and quilter through the expert level.

More than 230 previous shoppers have signed on as member-owners of the new store, slated to open in spring 2020. The pre-opening goal is for 500 more members. Individuals can become co-op members by purchasing a one-time member share. Members will help bring this creative concept into being, shop locally, and create local jobs. Of course, the shop will be open to the public as well as to members. See more information at our website www.quiltshopcoop.com. Please join us!

Greetings Field, Regina, Northrop Neighbors!

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