Neighborhood “Boy” Makes Good
New Principal of Hale School

By Steve Date, Communications Committee

What does new principal, Steve Uhler, like best about Hale Elementary School? “The easiest and biggest thing to like is the community. I’m biased because I grew up in the neighborhood and live here now,” he added, “but this community really gets behind its schools and supports them.”

Steve grew up on 48th and 15th, and fondly remembers walking to Northrop Elementary (now Hiawatha Academy) with his neighborhood friends. He played hockey in the old Washburn youth program and attended Folwell Middle School and Washburn High School. He’s glad that his own sons are also products of the Minneapolis Public Schools system.

Photo: Steve Date

Continued on page 2

Freeway-related drainage construction along 2nd Avenue

By Dave Aeikens, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Metro Communications and Engagement

The Minnesota Department of Transportation, as part of its I-35W@94 project, will build a drainage-improvement system on state property east of I-35W north in Minneapolis. The drainage system will reduce flooding on I-35W after large rains. Numerous times in the past 20 years, the freeway has had to close because of flooding.

Six large, concrete tanks will be built between 41st and 42nd Street in Minneapolis on the freeway side of the noise wall that runs parallel with 2nd Avenue. The tanks will hold the water and allow the drainage system to gradually take the water north to the Mississippi River. Construction is planned from 2019 to 2022. Field Regina Northrop and Bryant neighborhood residents, especially those who live on 2nd Avenue between 40th and 44th Streets, will see the work happening.

The work this fall will require southbound 2nd Avenue to be closed from 40th to 42nd Streets starting in mid-August through October when a MnDOT contractor will build a retaining wall. The tanks will be built starting in 2020 with completion scheduled in 2022.

Some of the work will cause vibrations and noise in the area. Electronic monitors will be posted to track vibration levels and allow the contractor to make adjustments as needed. About three dozen homes along 2nd Avenue will receive certified letters inviting them to have a contractor inspect their property and record existing conditions and damage. This will create a baseline if a homeowner makes a claim.

Residents might see dump trucks and concrete trucks driving through the neighborhood, sometimes during overnight hours. This will be most common in 2020. Residents could also see large

Continued on page 2

11th-annual Fundraiser
Night on 48th
Saturday, November 2 • 7 p.m.
Turtle Bread Company & Café Levain
48th and Chicago
Tickets $15 in advance; $20 at the door
Tickets may be purchased online at FRNNG.org through PayPal beginning September 1.
Expanded silent auction will have its own space in Café Levain.
Cash bar, buffet dinner, and live music. Come dine with your neighbors and local officials.
We invite individuals and businesses to donate to the silent auction, and to volunteer to help plan, set up, or clean up.
Thank you!
Contact Stearline Rucker, program director, (612) 721-5424, frnng@frnng.org
Current info at frnng.org and www.facebook.com/FRNNG/
Steve Uhler, new principal of Hale Elementary School, continued from page 1

Personal interests and activities? “I grew up playing sports, but I don’t do that as much now. I just love being outside – walking, reading, doing projects.” He has carpentry skills and is a bit of a DIYer. He’s proud of the pizza oven he built in his backyard last year, “not because I like pizza so much, but for the social aspect of it.”

Steve’s been at Hale for the past seven years, as a teacher on special assignment and then as assistant principal, giving him unique insight into his new position. His 15 years of elementary-level classroom teaching, coupled with his administrative experience, positioned him well for the new job.

For many years, Steve loved teaching so much that he didn’t think he’d ever want to do anything else. But when he came back to Minneapolis after three years in Arizona, he decided to take a few steps down the principal-licensure path. He found it appealing and got into a cohort program through the University of Minnesota and the St. Paul school system.

Steve says his biggest challenge is to meet the needs of all 650 students at Hale. The achievement gap is an ongoing issue, and balancing the needs and wants of all the families and staff at a large school can seem daunting. But the job of principal is exactly that. He says that listening to all groups is key. “…and then making decisions, knowing that it won’t please everyone, but being able to explain why the decision is better than the alternatives.”

Steve’s been an educator long enough to remember when schools weren’t so focused on standardized testing, and he believes in a balanced approach. “Academics and standards are important, but other things are important, too. If we want well-rounded individuals, we can’t just push reading and math. Parents and teachers alike want enriching education and the arts, but those are the first things to go when funding is tightened.”

The pairing with Field Middle School is a plus, Steve says, because of Field’s history of strong arts and extra-curricular programs. “It’s a huge bonus,” he says, “because Field works hard to maintain the programs for which they’ve developed a reputation, and Hale parents value that. We have a really good thing going, but we can’t just sit back and rest on our laurels.”

Steve’s excited about the coming school year, working with the staff he knows so well. “We’ve got a mixture of very experienced teachers and newer teachers that bring a lot of ideas from other places,” he says. The robust parent and volunteer involvement that Hale already has provides more reasons for optimism.

Steve will be busy before school starts, working with his staff in preparation for the first day of school, but he’s really looking forward to keeping his strong connection to the Hale students. He breaks into a big smile and says, “When the kids come – that’s the excitement.”

Freeway-related drainage construction along 2nd Avenue, continued from page 1

machinery and cranes on the freeway side of the noise wall. The freeway will be used to deliver large equipment to the work site. And residents could also see dust and lights. Crews will work to limit disruptions to residents. This work is not expected to cause any general traffic to divert to 2nd Avenue or into the neighborhood.

If you have questions, please contact Dave Aeikens, MnDOT communications 651-234-7511; david.aeikens@state.mn.us; I-35W@94 Hotline: 612-284-6125; Email: info@35w94.com www.dot.state.mn.us/35w94/
By Adam Webster, Northrop neighbor

How long have you served in your current role?
I’ve been president of FRNNG since 2018, and I’m still in my first term.

What other neighborhood- and community-service positions have you held?
I was also involved with the Capital Long-Range Planning Committee (CLIC) for three years, a group that reviewed big capital projects being considered by Minneapolis city government over the next several years.

Whoa! This is some impressive community involvement. But it’s only part of the story, right?

What else keeps you busy?
Well, my wife Megan and I have two children, a dog, a cat, a chinchilla (yes, a chinchilla), and usually provide temporary shelter for small critters from Minnesota Pocket Pet Rescue. We also built a backyard chicken coop in 2013, which has proven to be a popular neighborhood draw. I work for the Macalester College library, too. Between home, neighborhood, and work, I’m pretty busy.

What first inspired you to get involved in neighborhood work?
When we first moved to the neighborhood, I got a postcard promoting the annual neighborhood meeting. I was curious what might be accomplished at the neighborhood level, so I joined up by filling a vacancy for neighborhood representative. It was an interesting experience. People wanted to change, but were unclear on how they might accomplish it.

I saw that communication was a big part of what drove community conversations and thought that might be a good way to help get the right people to the table at the right time.

What are you most proud of in our neighborhood?

When tough issues come up, I’m continually impressed by the quality of engagement I see, especially when people disagree. That doesn’t happen in a vacuum, of course. Our program director, Stearline Rucker, does a lot of work to keep this organization functioning. The board of directors meets monthly to move ideas forward. At its core, though, FRNNG is volunteer-driven. Good ideas come from inclusive conversations between neighbors. We have the funding, communication tools, and voice to make good things happen and provide feedback on larger projects. You can see that in the new plans emerging around redevelopment of Minnehaha Creek, Hiawatha Golf Course, and in enhanced transportation across our neighborhoods.

Give us some Minneapolis hacks, please. What are some services the city makes available that you don’t think enough people utilize?
The Minneapolis 311 app is a great tool for anyone with a smartphone. Take a photo of a problem, geotag it, and track the response. The city, county, and neighborhood group also sponsor home loan programs that are available to residents. More often than not, though, I rely on my neighbors as a resource. You can regularly find me outside of my house, chatting with neighbors. It is great to live in a community where a party can start just by hanging out on my retaining wall.

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

City’s First Strategic- and Racial-Equity Action Plan Approved

The City Council has approved policy priorities for the City’s first-ever Strategic- and Racial-Equity Action Plan, a four-year plan that embeds racial equity principles into all aspects of the City’s work and defines goals that can be objectively measured and inform resource decisions. I am extremely proud of this work!

Additionally, the City Council adopted eight goals earlier this year to guide the plan and four City enterprise goals, in December 2018, as part of the action plan: increasing the retention of racially and ethnically diverse employees, diversifying the City’s vendor base, improving the use of racially disaggregated data in policymaking, and improving the capacity of the City’s boards and commissions to advance racial equity work.

As for next steps, the City’s Racial Equity Community Advisory Committee will provide an annual evaluation report to the community on the City’s progress in closing racial disparities. The City’s Racial Equity Steering Committee will also monitor the City’s progress and provide regular updates to the City Council.

The METRO Orange Line Project Received Full Federal Funding

I can’t begin to express my enthusiasm for the full funding of the METRO Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit project. Cities thrive when people have access to reliable, safe, accessible transit options. The METRO Orange Line is a 17-mile bus rapid transit route that connects Burnsville, Bloomington, Richfield and downtown Minneapolis, providing faster, more frequent bus service to tens of thousands of riders every day.

Bike Lanes on 42nd Street

Thank you to engaged residents who helped usher change on 42nd Street with the addition of painted bike lanes, from Portland Ave to 17th Ave S. The Ward 8 office worked with residents, neighborhood groups and the City’s Public Works department to extend existing bike lanes on 42nd Street, bringing us a step closer to our multi-modal transit goals, and helping to ease longtime concerns for neighborhood safety due to speeding vehicles and misuse of parking lanes as traffic lanes.

As always, please feel free to contact me at the Ward 8 office, (612) 673-2208 or andrea.jenkins@minneapolismn.gov. Visit the Ward 8 website: www.minneapolis.gov/ward8/index.htm
Education Committee

By Jason Flaig, Communications Committee
The Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG) is made up of numerous committees that rely on volunteers to help improve the quality of life in our neighborhood. Right now, the education committee has an opening for the chair position.

The goal of this committee is straightforward: to enhance the learning environment of area schools, to improve the perception of those schools, and to encourage neighbor and volunteer involvement with the schools in the neighborhood.

The committee has participated in many activities over the years. They have helped collect back-to-school backpacks and supplies, helped acquire land for a charter school playground, and have provided new windows, a new electronic sign, and new aluminum fencing for a public school. The education committee also played a major role in a community event in 2017 honoring the paring of Hale/Field schools back in 1971.

If you live in Field Regina Northrop and have an interest in the schools here or education in general, you may want to consider volunteering for the chair position.

The time commitment is minimal, with just one committee meeting per month along with one board meeting per month. If you are not interested in being the chair of the education committee but would like to be involved, feel free to attend the monthly meetings. The education committee typically meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the arts and crafts room at McRae Park.

If you are interested in the position or would like more information, you can email frnng@frnng.org or call 612-721-5424.

Safety Tips for Young People

By Jennifer Neale, Crime Prevention Specialist, Sector 3
The Minneapolis Police Department wants all family members to be safe. Kids and teens can be especially vulnerable to crime. Whether at home, walking to or from a friend’s house, working, or enjoying fun in a park or neighborhood, young people can stay safe by reviewing these tips.

Home Alone. Don’t do anything that you aren’t allowed to do when a trusted adult is there.

Out and About. Tell a trusted adult where you are going, who you’re going with, and when you’ll return. Going in a group is always safer that going alone.

Social Media. Never plan to meet with someone you know only through social media. Talk to a trusted adult or friend about who you are communicating with and if there are concerns.

Strangers. If a person you don’t know approaches you in a car or while walking, get away from them quickly! Never accept anything they have to offer such as money, candy, or a pet. Tell an adult right away if you were in this situation.

Job. Be sure not to work alone, especially after hours. Use the buddy system for walking in parking lots or at bus stops. While at work, keep your phone, wallet, or purse locked up.

Know Our Curfew Hours. Curfew is in place to keep our young people safe. It’s not just a good idea, it’s the law. Hennepin County has a curfew. Sunday through Thursday, kids under 12 need to be home by 9 p.m., 12- to 14-year-olds by 10 p.m., and 15- to 17-year-olds by 11 p.m. On Friday and Saturday nights, the curfew is an hour later for all ages. Jennifer.neale@minneapolismn.gov 612-673-2839 www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/
**Minneapolis Greater Crisis Nursery**

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee

The Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery opened in 1983 and returned to its location near Field School on 48th and 4th Avenue in 2013. Almost 4,000 phone calls annually come to the crisis line of this non-profit whose mission is to end child abuse and neglect and create strong, healthy families.

Up to 20 children, from newborns through age six, can be housed for up to three days at a time at the nursery. The children receive nutritious meals, engage in playtime in the gym or playground, and participate in activities. Because most children staying at the Nursery have experienced chronic stress and trauma, staff members work with the children on skills to manage stress, work toward social and emotional-development goals, and meet developmental needs.

Many of the crisis conditions faced by families occur due to circumstances such as extreme poverty, single-parent households, homelessness, mental-health concerns, and substance abuse issues. Under the Nursery's two-generational approach, the children's parents may be invited to participate in a home-visiting and mental-health program that includes meeting with a social worker to receive support to achieve long-term goals to stabilize their family. The Nursery also partners with local and national agencies and programs to connect families to appropriate resources. And the Nursery enthusiastically welcomes volunteers and donations.

Emily Burke (Crisis N.), Carrie Shidla, & Maggie Snetting contributed to this article.

4544-4th Avenue South • 763-591-0400 main office • www.crisisnursery.org • 763-591-0100 crisis line

**Linkage Childcare Center**

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee

In this language-immersion Spanish-curriculum childcare center, director Iris Mescio, M.S., noted that directions, lessons, and conversations are conducted by trained Spanish-speaking personnel. Gestures also show children what to do, ensuring that children who are unfamiliar with the Spanish language encounter no communication problems.

Three age groups of children are served by the childcare center: Infants, toddlers, and pre-school children. Perhaps most beneficial for the children are the ratios of children to adults. For infants, the ratio is 1:4; for toddlers 1:5 (state mandates are 1:7); and pre-schoolers 1:7, with state mandates at 1:10. Iris stated the progress a child makes with more attention from licensed teachers and assistants is “amazing.”


**St. Joseph’s Home for Children**

By David Fronsoe, Vice President

Located in Northrop neighborhood, Catholic Charities’ St. Joseph’s Home for Children (St. Joe’s) serves children who can no longer reside at home or in foster care because of abuse, neglect, or other traumatic experiences they have suffered. Opening first as the Minneapolis Catholic Boys Home, Catholic Charities has run programs on this site since 1885.

Along with dedicated staff and volunteers, Jon Stumbras, LICSW, who serves as St. Joe’s Senior Program Director, seeks to fulfill the long-time mission of Catholic Charities, which is to help those in our community who are most in need. The St. Joe’s team works with children who are referred through Hennepin County’s child-protection and children’s welfare programs, treating nearly 1,000 children annually. St. Joe’s offers a safe space where children can work through mental health and other challenges, gaining stability so they can return to their families or to foster care. Most of the children are immediately placed with family members, while some stay longer until their situation stabilizes.

For more information about St. Joe’s, please visit: www.cctwincities.org/contact Jon Stumbras (jon.stumbras@cctwincities.org), or call 612-204-8250. St. Joe’s receives funding from public as well as private sources. For information about in-kind donations, visit: www.cctwincities.org/donate/wish-list-for-people-in-need/ For financial contributions, visit: www.cctwincities.org/donate/ To volunteer, contact Mary Schoelch at 612-204-8250.


**McRae Park**

By Chris Schommer and Sue Filbin

McRae Park director, Heather Susag, began in December 2015 but she first started working for the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) as a 16-year-old and has been involved ever since. Much of Heather’s experience is in the area of youth development and the “Youthline” program that provides youth mentorship, education, and recreation programs all over the city. Programming at McRae expanded this spring when naturalist Sherry Taplin joined the staff. Sherry also volunteers as the chair of the parks committee. A list of classes and activities at McRae is available here:

906 East 47th Street • mcrae@minneapolisparks.org 612-370-4909

www.minneapolisparks.org/parks__destinations/parks__lakes/mcrae_park/
**Ensemble Music**

By Adam Webster; updated by David Fronsoe and Jessica Lee

Founded in 2000 by Jessica and Tom Lee, Ensemble Music started with classes held near their home in the Bancroft neighborhood and grew out of a desire to connect the larger community through music-making. In 2004, the couple opened Ensemble Music Studio at 46th and Bloomington.

For centuries, before the advent of recording, the vast majority of music that people heard was created by amateurs in their own neighborhoods and homes. Ensemble Music is on a mission to bring music back into the home and to get parents to “do music” with their children rather than for everyone simply to be music consumers. “Families at our studio learn how to play with music and support their children in their musical growth,” Jessica states. “Music is in all of us and it is at the heart of Ensemble Music to bring it out.”

Ensemble Music offers several different programs to support the various stages of music development beginning in utero with prenatal music classes and music-therapy-assisted childbirth. From there, the school offers families an opportunity to enjoy each stage of music development through their Music Together® program for children birth through age 8. Their Suzuki piano program starts with students as young as three years old on through advanced piano study. They have also newly added Canta y Baila Conmigo®, Spanish-immersion music classes for children birth through kindergarten.

1520 East 46th Street • ensemblemusic.net


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**Field Community School**

By Jason Flaig, Communications Committee

The many commuters who drive past Field Community School, on 46th Street and 4th Avenue South, may not be aware of the long and rich history of the handsome brick building. It has been a part of the Minneapolis school system since 1921.

Field started as an elementary school and now serves students in grades 5-8. Most of them move on to attend high school at Washburn. Students at Field can take part in certain activities at Washburn – band and choir, junior varsity athletics – while still in middle school, which helps students with their transition to high school. Last year Field had an enrollment of more than 500 students.

One of the most important dates in the history of Field School is 1971. That’s the year that Field and Hale partnered to help desegregate Minneapolis schools. Field became the upper campus, with students in grades 5-8, while Hale was turned into the lower campus with students in grades K-4. Hale and Field have remained partner schools ever since.

Field Community School is a part of the Hale-Field School Foundation. In existence since 1995, the foundation supports long-term instructional programs at both schools. Funding for the foundation comes from school parents and community members, donations from area businesses, and non-profit grant awards. Employer matching donations are another source of funding.

Like all Minneapolis public schools, Field is always looking for volunteer tutors, musicians, media and office help, testing monitors, and assistance with fundraisers.

field.mpls.k12.mn.us

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**Hiawatha Academies**

By Libby Stegger, Chief Advancement Officer

Hiawatha Academies first opened its Northrop campus in 2014 with 78 kindergarten students. The campus is now home to an elementary and middle school at the intersection of 46th Street and 17th Avenue.

Hiawatha Academies is a family of five public, non-profit charter schools in south Minneapolis. The schools offer rigorous academics in a diverse and inclusive school community. Hiawatha Academies creates learning communities that are challenging, joyful, and that build student agency.

For three years, the middle school on the Northrop campus was home to Hiawatha Collegiate High School before the high school community moved to its permanent location in the Longfellow neighborhood. This past spring, 100 percent of that class were admitted to college. Most are the first in their family to attend college.

100-percent college admission is remarkable in Minnesota, a state with one of the nation’s lowest high school graduation rates for students of color. Hiawatha Academies aims to ensure access to college as a path to eliminate educational disparities between students of color and their white peers.

While Hiawatha Academies focuses on the students, families, and staff in the school community, it has not forgotten its neighbors. Children are welcome to play on the Hiawatha Academies lawn and playground during non-school hours. Community members volunteered in the schools and donated books to create a new library inside the school. Hiawatha continues to seek ways to maintain an open-door policy with residents.

hiawathaacademies.org/our-schools/hla-northrop/
frnng.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2017-
11-12-frnng.pdf
Bubbly Paws
By Christian Fritzberg & Carrie Shidla
Communications Committee
Have a muddy pooch or has your dog rolled in something it shouldn’t have? Never fear, Bubbly Paws is near! With four metro locations – one right here in FRN at 48th and Chicago – there’s a Bubbly Paws close for your pet grooming needs.

Open since January 2018, Bubbly Paws offers both self-service dog-washing services as well as professional grooming services for your four-legged family member. Large or small, Bubbly Paws can clean them all. Elevated tubs, and all of the supplies you could ever want to clean your pet right at your fingertips make cleaning your dog a breeze. If you run into an issue, kind staff are there to assist. Doggie won’t have to go home wet as there are drying rooms with specialized dryers. No mess for you along with a clean, beautiful dog to enjoy – definitely a win-win for dog owners in FRN!

4737 Chicago Avenue • 612 315-0330

Minnehaha Animal Hospital
By Bobbi Soule, D.V. M.
Minnehaha Animal Hospital has been a mainstay in the neighborhood for many years, first opening its doors in 1983. We have clients who have been coming to us since day one, but we also welcome newcomers to check us out.

Minnehaha Animal Hospital separates itself from others in numerous ways. We have multiple veterinarians on staff, several with over 10 years’ experience. Doctors have special interests and discuss cases together. Patients can have their own doctor but get the skill and experience of all.

Our clinic follows Fear Free protocols, and all of our veterinarians are Fear Free certified. To make the visit easier for you and your anxious pet, our skilled and caring team uses gentle handling, calming music, pheromones, non-slip surfaces, and lots of treats! If your pet is especially stressed, we offer medication that you can give at home prior to the visit to make your pet’s visit as stress-free as possible.

Cold laser therapy is a newer treatment modality we have available. Laser therapy can be especially helpful for post-surgery healing, chronic pain and arthritis, chronic ear infections, bladder inflammation, wound healing, back injuries, and more. We have some clients who are referred to us strictly for laser therapy!

We are a full-service animal hospital that offers wellness appointments, surgery, dentistry, geriatric care, acupuncture, and many other services. Please stop in and check us out. We would be happy to see you and your special pet!

4809 Chicago Avenue • 612 825-4427
www.minnehahaanimalhospital.com

Professional Services

AFSCME 2822
(American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) AFSCME is the largest and fastest-growing public-services-employees union in the US with 1.6 million active and retiree members.

Analytik International
Bergstrom Tax Services
Carlos Lachmansingh
H&R Block
Nokomis Printing
SRC Computers Inc.
Wells Fargo
Wings Financial Credit Union

Note: On pages 9 and 12 of the July/August issue of Close to Home, we invited businesses engaged in professional services to contact us. We heard from the three on the next page.

Continued on page 9
Afternoon Printing
By Jessi Storms, Afternoon Printing
In the two years since Kristen Sassenfeld and I moved Afternoon Printing from our Loring Park location to 48th and Chicago, a lot has changed. We have welcomed wonderful new neighbors and expanded our own workforce to include another full-time printer, Sofie Matzen. We’ve also become a regular space for interns from Minneapolis College of Art and Design to spend time during their senior year.

We have loved meeting and working with our neighbors in south Minneapolis! The space has given us so many opportunities; we’ve met challenges and learned to hone our skills, processes, and approach to printing in order to become more efficient. We inspire each other every day, both to work hard and to find a balance in our lives for mental and physical health. Our favorite part of our new-found visibility is that people get to see women in the screen-printing business. We do it all, top to bottom – artwork and design, pre- and post-production, printing and finishing. Our hands are on every project, every step of the way. We’re so excited to make our mark, and make our presence known.

In the September/October 2017 issue of this newsletter, we were quoted as saying, “We’re just out here to serve people. Whatever they want to do, we want to help them do it.” That’s still our stance, and we look forward to meeting more of our neighbors in the coming years!  

737 East 48th Street  •  612-259-7346  
www.afternoonprinting.com  

Jones Financial Group
By Corrie Perez, Jones Financial Group
Patricia Jones and her staff at Jones Financial Group are delighted to announce their Grand Re-Opening at the same address (4748 Chicago Avenue) in a beautiful new office at the front of the building. The new space will allow the firm to better serve its clients, handle future staff expansion, and be more visible to the community. Jones Financial Group will be open for business at the new location September 1, 2019.

Over seven years ago, Jones Financial Group planted its roots in this community, committed to serve as a local financial services firm, helping people like you with sound advice about financial planning and investing. Patricia says, “We are proud of the partnerships we have developed by living and working in this community. It has been a pleasure to host free financial/economic workshops and give back by supporting local organizations that make a difference. We are grateful that the community has responded in kind, helping our business continue extending its reach.”

Patricia finds her work gratifying, and it comes with the side benefit of having the option of biking or walking to work! In keeping with her values-based philosophy, Patricia’s approach to business revolves around the firm’s core values, which she describes this way:

- Partnership – Align our strategies with your goals and values.
- Knowledge – Encourage lifelong learning via personalized consultations and free workshops open to the community.
- Community – Engage and give back to our community.

People matter to Patricia, and she uses her knowledge and experience to help clients clarify their goals. She works hard to cultivate lasting relationships that benefit her clients and her company.

4748 Chicago Avenue  •  612-326-1800  
www.myjonesfinancial.com

The Rachel Greenhouse Agency
By Rachel Greenhouse, RGA
In business for 15 years and now settled in our beautiful offices at 48th and 4th, The Rachel Greenhouse Agency (RGA) offers a rare and valuable resource to the FRN community. My team and I have provided strategic guidance, innovative solutions, and creative execution to dozens of small businesses in our neighborhood and beyond. And we partner with business owners at a variety of stages. Whether they are ready to launch something new, struggle with the challenges of growth, or are considering a pivot/re-launch, our commitment from the very first strategy session is to get to know each client’s unique circumstances, their brand “difference,” and their most pressing needs.

With a thoughtful and highly-customized plan in place, we then support clients by connecting them to key resources and providing a comprehensive range of flexible and innovative creative services including brand strategy, copywriting and logo development, digital communications planning and execution, website audits and design, sales and other print collateral, tradeshow materials, signage and space design, event planning, and much more. We also have a multi-use space with a kitchen available to rent for workshops, networking, launches, retreats, photo shoots, and client appreciation.

404 East 48th Street  •  612.501.5565  
www.rachelgreenhouse.com  

Featured themes for the November/December issue of Close to Home:
Restaurants, music & entertainment, & hospitality-related products & services such as foods & beverages

To participate, email: editor@frnng.org
By Beck Woollen, 2019 graduate of Washburn High School

Editor’s note: Coinciding with the themes of kids and schools, and to add content from contributors who are younger than typical neighborhood volunteers, the communications committee asked the principal of nearby Washburn High School, Emily Lilja Palmer, to recommend a student whose perspective would be enriching for readers of this newsletter. The article reproduced below – with the writer’s permission – first appeared in the June 2019 edition of The Grist, the student newspaper.

It has become widely accepted that 2030 represents the ecological tipping point at which cumulative greenhouse-gas emissions will have exceeded the ecological balance and sent Earth into an unpredictable, uncontrollable, and irreversible tailspin. While the window to keep below this climatic tipping point of 2°Celsius is still open, this is only the case for 129 more months. While it goes without saying that drastic changes are required within the next 11 years, the intention of this article is to highlight a simple, cost-free way that can help remove CO2 from Earth’s atmosphere: switching to Ecosia.

Ecosia is a search engine compatible with Google Chrome (as an extension), Bing, and Microsoft Edge. Additionally, the browser is accessible as an application in both the Google Play Store and App Store. By donating 80% (monthly average) of its surplus revenue to 21 non-profit reforestation organizations worldwide, the browser has planted nearly 53 million trees since its conception in 2009. In my experience using Ecosia (I have had it since January 2019), it has performed equally as well as Google Chrome, with any differences hassle-free, and negligible for the common user.

It is worth noting that while Google has been carbon-neutral since 2017, Ecosia is essentially carbon negative; via its financial contribution toward the aforementioned reforestation initiatives, Ecosia contributes to the removal of more carbon than that which it emits. Ecosia is powered primarily by Microsoft, which pledges to be 75% renewable by 2030, and 100% in the following years. In short, the trees make up the rest and then some. The difference between Ecosia and Google Chrome is that of not putting carbon into the atmosphere versus helping take it out. Both Ecosia and external sources indicate that a tree is planted approximately every 45 searches.

According to National Geographic author Christina Nunez, tropical tree cover alone can account for nearly 25% of the goals set by the 2015 Paris Accord. Despite reforestation efforts, on a global scale, deforestation has continued to accelerate in recent years; this provides all the more reason to switch to Ecosia. As the Brazilian environmental activist, Davi Kopenawa, explained in an interview with the Harvard Gazette, “We have to protect the forest because we depend on the forest. Our children and grandchildren and future generations need the forest, and further that if the rainforest dies, if water dries up, poverty and disaster will hit us.”

Ecosia is dedicated to planting trees in areas that need it most, primarily the global south. As the Amazon rainforest is cut down for agricultural and resource-based reasons, many of the region’s indigenous species teeter on the edge of endangerment, even extinction. Ecosia supports two reforestation operations in the Amazon. Similarly, in Indonesia, rain forests are being clearcut at a rate that may expunge these ecosystems entirely within the coming decades. Ecosia backs three non-profits in Indonesia. Worldwide, millions of lives have already been changed by climate change, and we ought to do everything in our power to help combat it. With a president in office who actively denies climate change, top-ranking politicians corrupted by fossil-fuel companies, etcetera, the responsibility to take action toward a greener future falls upon us.

While browsing the web ought not to be anywhere near the peak of our fight against climate change, using Ecosia offers a cost-free means of contributing to the most important fight in human history.

Beck Woollen is now a freshman at Carleton College in Northfield, MN, where he will study environmental science and polsci, with the goal of becoming an environmental lawyer.

Neighbor Wins Coveted Award

By Sue Filbin, Communications Committee

Northrop resident, writer Jeannie Piekos, recently won a prestigious book award. The Midwest Independent Publishing Association selected Jeannie’s book, Buoyancy: a memoir, as the first-place winner in autobiography/memoir—the most crowded category, with submissions from a 12-state area.

www.jeanniepiekos.com
Business Committee

By Francesco Marraffa, Chair, Business Committee

“When can I race my bike again?” This is the question I have been answering ever since my six-year old son crossed the finish line of his first Southside Sprint Bike Race last year. Last week, as he wheeled around the course again for the annual tradition and proudly hung his medal on the wall (thanks to Family Dental Clinic for the cool goodie bag and now-favorite toothbrush found inside), I was reminded once again of why I love our neighborhood.

When I first moved to the Field neighborhood, I did not put much thought into what made the Field Regina Northrop neighborhood tick. After about three years, I began to look forward to reading the FRNNG newsletter and connected with the community events and local business news.

What recently sparked more interest and involvement were the Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan meetings. It was invigorating to discover the deep sense of community and to witness the energy and passion of people coming together for a common cause. It was inspiring to get to know my neighbors, with their incredible knowledge and business experience as well as their interesting and diverse backgrounds, and to know these people create the fabric of our neighborhood. This also afforded me the opportunity to meet local business owners and to consider the future of the businesses in our community. From enjoying movies at the Parkway Theater, to eating at various great small restaurants, I feel it is integral to support each other and the entrepreneurs who bring so much vibrancy right to our doorsteps.

Growing up in England and Italy, I was always busy, working everywhere from local grocery stores to family-owned sandwich shops. My professional career has included working in large global corporations as well as launching small and large companies and brands all over the world. Ultimately, I decided to trade in my Delta Diamond status to spend more time on local soil with my wife (Rebecca) and three kids (Luciano 6, Francesca 3, Santino 1). I am delighted to have landed in this neighborhood; getting a free coffee after my punch card is complete and helping local businesses and people connect and thrive is more rewarding than any first-class upgrade.

Southside Sprint Impresses Racers, Fans

By Jason Lardy, race cofounder and Northrop neighbor

Over 200 racers and nearly 800 fans lined the race course throughout the neighborhood. Restaurant patios along Chicago Avenue hosted hundreds of spectators and lawn parties swelled along the course. The annual Southside Sprint was again the largest sanctioned road bicycle race in MN and awarded the MN State Criterium Championships each year.

The highlight of the day, as always, was the Family Dental Clinic Dash – the free kids fun race. 150+ little rippers roared through the streets of our neighborhood – some with parents in tow. The free event offered a fun introduction to bicycle racing and has launched the racing careers of a number of currently active junior racers.

The Southside Sprint was applauded by racers for its urban setting, enthusiastic crowds, and plentiful dining and shopping options on the course. “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.

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A trusted neighbor for your mortgage needs.

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Inside this issue

New principal at Hale Elementary School  Page 1

Freeway construction along 2nd Ave.  Page 1

Safety tips for young people  Page 5

Kids, schools, pets, professional services  Pages 6-9

Google alternative helps environment  Page 10

New chair of business committee  Page 11