



**January 2015**

The Fulton Neighborhood's boundaries are 47th Street to 54th Street and France Avenue to Penn Avenue.

*Fulton Neighborhood News* is published bimonthly by the Fulton Neighborhood Association (FNA) with funding from the Fulton Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP).

FNA is a nonprofit organization created by and for the residents and businesses of the Fulton neighborhood. Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m., at Pershing Park. All meetings are open to the public.

Fulton NRP is an organization of FNA that implements neighborhood improvement projects. Committee meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m., at Pershing Park.

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All FNA meetings and events are accessible. Requests for accommodations are welcome. Please make requests at least ten days in advance.

**Inside:**

- Fulton Programs*.....3
- Safety Tips*.....4

**Radon Testing Results**

Over the past several months, Fulton Neighborhood Association (FNA) has partnered with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to educate Fulton residents about radon gas and provide free test kits for home use. Radon is a colorless, odorless radioactive gas that is found in nearly all soils. Levels in outdoor air are usually much lower than indoor air.



Houses draw up air from the soil, which allows radon gas to enter the home. A home testing kit can measure the amount of radon in an individual home and give guidance as to whether further action is needed. A result of 4.0 picocuries (pCi/L) or above warrants certified mitigation to reduce levels; a result between 2 to 4 pCi/L warrants further testing and consideration of mitigation. Historical data in Fulton neighborhood suggest that approximately one-third of homes have radon levels at or above 4 pCi/L.

Throughout the course of the summer and fall, FNA gave away approximately 200 free home testing kits and we asked residents to let us know the results of their testing. We had a few people call or write in to say they used the test and the results were in the safe range; three people reported results in the 2 to 4 pCi/L range. All three of those residents indicated that they will pursue follow-up testing. Anecdotally, two residents indicated that they had pursued radon testing previous to FNA's educational campaign and they both had extremely high levels. Both residents pursued mitigation from a certified vendor and the cost was \$2,100 - \$2,800.

**Radon, see page 2**

**Lake Harriet Winter Kite Festival**



Sat., Jan. 17 (back-up date Jan. 24)  
Noon-4 p.m.  
Lake Harriet, near Bandshell

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) will host the 13th Annual Lake Harriet Winter Kite Festival on Jan. 17 on the north end of Lake Harriet near the Bandshell, located at 4135 W. Lake Harriet Parkway. Kites of all shapes, sizes, colors and themes will fly over frozen Lake Harriet. Admission is free.

Minnesota Kite Society experts will demonstrate their skills flying spectacular kites throughout the day and offer their expertise to kite flying enthusiasts and to those who are new to the pastime. Bring your own kite, or buy an inexpensive one at the lake.

Tips Outdoors will teach kids ice fishing skills and safety tips. Equipment and permits for children will be provided.



**Sign up now for our monthly e-newsletter to stay informed about neighborhood and city happenings. Visit [fultonneighborhood.org](http://fultonneighborhood.org) and fill in the form on the left side of the page.**

West 47th Street

### Publication Information

To submit article suggestions, please contact the Fulton Neighborhood Line at 612-922-3106 or send an e-mail to [info@fultonneighborhood.org](mailto:info@fultonneighborhood.org)

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West 54th Street

France Avenue South

Penn Avenue South

### Radon, from page 1

MDH was able to report on a random sample of 50 test kits given to FNA. Of those 50 kits, only 23 had been used and analyzed for results. Of those 23 kits, 7 homes were below 2 pCi/L, 7 homes were in the 2 to 4 pCi/L range and 8 homes were above 4 pCi/L. These results correlate closely with the historical data.

Although MDH indicates that a 50 percent return rate is good, FNA would like to see 100 percent of the tests used and returned for analysis. We hope for good individual results but recognize that there is a 2 in 3 chance your home may need further testing and a 1 in 3 chance that your home may need mitigation.

FNA does not have any more kits to distribute, but they are readily available at local hardware stores or from the MDH website ([www.health.state.mn.us/radon](http://www.health.state.mn.us/radon)).

## Fulton Winter Farmers Markets

Brighten a cold winter day with a festive visit to the January Winter Farmers Market at Bachman's! The Fulton Farmers Market will be indoors at 6010 Lyndale Ave. S from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Jan. 24. Stored root vegetables and greenhouse herbs will be available along with local meats, cheeses, preserves, baked goods and more. Enjoy music and a glass of wine or beer while you shop! Mark your calendars for the final two winter markets on Feb. 28 and March 28. You don't have to wait for spring to stock up on all the local products you enjoy! For additional details, visit the farmers market website at [www.neighborhoodrootsmn.org](http://www.neighborhoodrootsmn.org).

## Organics Recycling

The recently passed 2015 City of Minneapolis Budget calls for citywide organics recycling, but this won't be rolled out until some time in 2016.



In the meantime, did you know that you can drop off recyclable organics waste at many Minneapolis Parks locations? They will accept all food scraps, most non-recyclable and food-soiled paper, certified compostable plastics and more. Organics must be contained in a certified compostable bag or in a paper bag prior to it being brought to the residential organics drop-off. Large paper items such as pizza boxes, wax-coated boxes and egg cartons do not need to be bagged.

The closest site for Fulton residents is Armatage Park. Visit the Residential Organics webpage for more information and learn how to signup: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/organics/index.htm>.

# Two Upcoming Programs for Fulton Neighborhood Association

## ***Fulton Small Grants Program***

The inaugural class of grant recipients will be announced Jan. 15. Please check the FNA website (fultonneighborhood.org) for a list of recipients and watch for more information in the March Fulton Neighborhood News. We are pleased with the variety of applications received and the dedication that residents have to making Fulton neighborhood a great place to live. Fulton residents are doing good work in their community supporting the needs of youth, families and the arts.

## ***Fulton Home Improvement Loan Program***



FNA is proud to announce that a redesigned home improvement loan program will be available to Fulton residents this spring, just in time for construction season. Low-interest home loans will be available for nearly all exterior, interior and energy efficiency home upgrades. The program will also have a no-interest Emergency Loan component for those residents meeting financial criteria and suffering a major home failure (roof, furnace, sewer, etc.)

Watch your mail for a postcard this spring and start making plans now!

*Community Education*

### **"Tin Chef" Cook Off Wed., Feb. 25**

Calling all food enthusiasts!

You're invited to the second annual Southwest Community Education "Tin Chef" Cook Off! Similar to popular cooking competition shows Top Chef and Chopped, we'll transform our kitchen classroom into contest central as three teams battle it out for the winning dishes!

Join in the competition or watch from the audience as teams prepare two dishes from scratch, complete with the chaos of surprise ingredients and outlandish comedy and entertainment throughout!

Professional chefs are encouraged to join to help act as judges.



### **Family Sock Hop Fri., March 6**

Rock-n-Roll! Southwest Community Ed will be sponsoring its annual Family Sock Hop on Fri., March 6, and YOU'RE invited! You and your children and/or grandchildren are invited to an evening of great music (50s, 60s & 70s), great games, treats, prizes, and lots of fond memories for rock-n-rollers of all ages. You'll be able to have your picture taken in front of a '57 Chevrolet and buy some take-out snacks at our own version of "Porky's Drive-In." The gym will be decorated for the occasion, and they'll be spinning those 45s from 7 to 9 p.m. The entry fee is \$3 per person. Please consider bringing a food donation for the Metro Food Shelf. All youngsters must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please wear soft-soled shoes or tennis shoes, or be prepared to wear stockings in the gym.

# Safety Tips

by Minneapolis Police Department Crime Prevention

Because of property safety concerns expressed by many residents, here are some helpful safety tips for auto and garage concerns.

## ***Preventing Auto Theft and Theft from Auto***

There are nearly seven vehicles stolen per day in the city. Another fifteen vehicles are broken into in order to steal items from them. Purses, wallets, laptops, GPSs and other electronics are commonly stolen.



1. Don't leave valuables in your car. Even small items such as loose change can be tempting to a thief.
2. If you must leave valuables in your car, lock them in the trunk before reaching your destination.
3. Lock your car doors and close your windows.
4. Never leave your car running unattended.
5. Don't hide keys in your vehicle.
6. Park in a garage or a well-lit area.
7. Consider installing a car alarm or an anti-theft device such as a steering wheel bar lock, an engine disabler switch, etc.
8. If you have an after-market stereo, take it with you when you leave the car.
9. Be aware of identification theft if items stolen contain personal information.
10. Keep an updated record of all valuables in your car.

## ***Garage Security***

Garages can contain many valuable items such as lawn mowers, snow blowers, tools, and bikes in addition to cars. To lessen the chance of a burglary to your garage, follow these recommendations:



**Service Doors:** Secure a service door as you would any door on your home. If the door is paneled or hollow-core, reinforce it. Use a deadbolt lock with at least a 1" throw, a solid metal free-spinning cylinder guard which is difficult to grip with pliers or a wrench and no tie screws exposed to the outside. If the door contains glass or is within 42" of a window, use a double cylinder deadbolt lock or reinforce or cover the glass with a screen, grille, or high-impact-resistant polycarbonate material. Otherwise, a burglar can break the glass, reach inside, and turn the knob. Cover any gap between the door and frame with a latch guard. Reattach, replace, or reinforce the door frame as necessary. Install a maximum-security strike plate that will reinforce the door frame. The strike plate should be attached with 3" or longer screws that extend into the stud behind the door frame. This will make it difficult for a burglar to rip the plate away from the frame.

**Overhead Doors:** Overhead doors often have locks that are easily defeated by force. Many detached garages with overhead doors don't have service doors, which creates a security problem. The only good form of security on such garages is an electric garage door opener. Treat the garage door opener as though it's your house key. If your garage has a service door, you can secure your overhead door by installing a padlock 1/4" above a roller when the door is closed. **Never leave your overhead garage door open, even when you are working in the garage. Close it at least halfway so passersby cannot see your valuables.**

**Double Doors:** Install a heavy-duty hasp and padlock made of case-hardened steel. The shackle should be at least 3/8" in diameter and have a locking mechanism on the heel and toe. (If it does, you will see a notch on both sides of the shackle when the padlock is unlocked.) File off any key number on the padlock, to reduce the possibility of unauthorized key duplication. (Record the key number elsewhere.)

**Windows:** Cover garage windows so burglars can't see what you keep in your garage (i.e. curtains, blinds, frosting, etc.). Keep windows locked. Options for securing garage windows include placing a grille or bars over them permanently. You can also nail, screw, or board them shut or replace it with glass block.