



May 2016

The Fulton Neighborhood's boundaries are 47th St to 54th St and France Ave to Penn Ave.

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 at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month 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 at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month at Pershing Park.

Fulton Neighborhood
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.

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FNA Small Grants: Lake Harriet Upper Campus

The 7th grade students from Ms. Hansen's class at Lake Harriet Upper Campus read *The Diary of Anne Frank* and then used the proceeds of a 2016 FNA Small Grant to see a live production of the same named play. Students attended a production at Park Center Theater in March, allowing them an opportunity to be exposed to the Twin Cities' art, theater and history cultures.



Small Grants continued on p. 3

Fulton Zoning Committee is Here to Help

The Fulton Zoning Committee exists to advise Fulton Neighborhood Association (FNA) on applications for zoning variances within the boundaries of Fulton Neighborhood and to provide a forum for neighbors in that process. The Committee receives notice of each variance request, discusses it during its monthly meeting, and makes a site visit to visually inspect the property in question. Then it recommends to FNA to "oppose" or "not oppose" the request; the final decision rests with FNA as the committee is advisory only.

When a variance is requested, the property owner is required by the city to notify all other nearby properties within 350 ft. of the request. If you receive notice of a neighbor's variance request, we would love to hear your feedback so that we understand all viewpoints and can make the most informed recommendations. To provide feedback, property owners can e-mail the committee at zoning@fultonneighborhood.org.

The Zoning Committee would also be happy to speak with a property owner before the variance request is made in order to clarify the process. Meetings occur about once a month on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at Pershing Park. Email zoning@fultonneighborhood.org to inquire about the next available meeting time.

The City of Minneapolis "Land Use and Zoning Overview" explains variances as well as rezoning and conditional use permits and is available online. If you believe your project may require a zoning variance, contact the Fulton Zoning Committee zoning@fultonneighborhood.org.

Save the Date!

Fulton Fall Festival



Sat., Sept. 10

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

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West 54th Street

Announcing the 10th Annual BLEND Awards



Submissions are now being accepted for the 10th annual BLEND Awards, recognizing homes and businesses that blend into their Minneapolis neighborhoods.

The BLEND Award encourages and rewards home owners, architects and builders who aesthetically blend newly remodeled or constructed homes and businesses into the existing neighborhood. In addition, EcoBLEND Badges will be presented to BLEND Award recipients who apply eco-friendly design and sustainable building practices to their projects. New this year, one project will be selected as "Best in Show," recognizing a particularly exceptional example of the BLEND philosophy.

A resource for anyone looking to remodel or build while maintaining the character of the neighborhood, BLENDaward.org includes award submission guidelines and entry forms, a gallery of previous winners, and more. Submission deadline is July 31.

The annual awards ceremony will be held Sept. 26 at Fulton Brewery and will feature keynote speaker Michael Evangelist, a photographer whose work is celebrated in the recent book, "Downtown: Minneapolis in the 70s."

Southwest High School Performing Arts

Join our talented community of students and enjoy wonderful Southwest Performing Arts. This May you can attend a student-directed play or come to our annual series of Lake Harriet Bandshell concerts: choral, orchestra, and dance (concerts at Southwest High School Auditorium if raining.)

For more information, visit southwesttheatre.org or swhsmusic.com.

Minneapolis Police Department Fifth Precinct Open House

5-7 p.m.
Wed., May 17
3101 Nicollet Ave S



Join the MPD for a fun, free, family friendly event. This is a great opportunity to learn about the Minneapolis Police Department.

Please join us and bring your family and friends! For questions, call the precinct at (612) 673-5715.

France Avenue South

Penn Avenue South

Small Grants Cont. from page 1

Students also completed a reflective scrapbook/diary in order to better understand the effects of genocide throughout the world. These diaries were put on display for the entire school to view and help educate other students and staff. Congratulations to these 7th graders for a job well done.



Reflections of a 7th Grade Student

“This was a very interesting project to do on Anne Frank. I would think it would just be a book report or a poster. The diary was a nice and interesting touch to the Anne Frank project. I also like how there is variety in the diary. There is the artistic cover and the research project. Anyway I loved this project overall.” ~ student in Ms. Hansen’s Class

Fulton Farmers Market Opens May 21

Another great season of locally grown fruits and vegetables, artisan foods, live music and fun activities is in store during the 2016 Fulton Farmers Market, which will run from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays from May 21 through Oct. 29 in the parking lot at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, 4901 Chowen Ave S.



Early season highlights at the market include spring greens, kale, rhubarb, fresh herbs, asparagus, radishes, plant starts and pea shoots. More and more veggies will appear each week at the market as the warm weather progresses. Throughout the entire season, shop for fresh goat cheese, local pork, eggs, chicken and a wide variety of baked goods, preserves, sauces and more. Exciting new products at the market this season include ginger beer, paleo nut bars, and paella. Enjoy live music every Saturday at 10 a.m. and don't miss story time each week at 9:30 a.m.

Regular folks from the neighborhood make the market happen. If you are interested in volunteering at the Fulton Farmers Market this season, email us at volunteers@neighborhoodrootsmn.org.

Metro Blooms 2015 Best Alley Garden Award:

4805 Drew Ave S

by Metro Blooms

Second in a two-part series

Previous issue: Best Formal Garden

When Mary Lynn McPherson moved into her house on Drew Ave 18 years ago, she says she knew nothing about gardening. Looking at her yard now, one would never guess that was the case. This home's yard is full of surprises around every bend. From the front of the house, there is no clue to the spectacular view from the back.



The house is built into a hill, and as one rounds the house around to the back yard, the sloping backyard and its many terraced levels gracefully curve down to the alley garden at the bottom. The alley garden does not have a clear demarcation between it and the rest of the backyard. From the alley, one sees a unique blend of structure and meandering curves, inspired by Asian design. An informal series of bamboo-slatted fences – meant for architectural interest, not privacy – separate the alley garden from the backyard gardens. Structure is provided by yew hedges, and there are curves of small garden pods, which are surrounded by copper rings, each providing a sort of formal structure, but without sharp lines of typical formal

gardens. Each pod features a type of plant or ground cover, such as pachysandra, wild geraniums, and nasturtium. Several of these pods are along the alley itself.

Mary expresses her admiration and gratitude to the landscaper who designed these gardens years ago, and who continues to advise and inspire her to see this yard as a work in progress. His name is Stephen Kung, of Urban Oasis Landscaping, and his design, along with Mary's ingenuity for getting the work done efficiently, is an inspiration indeed. The basic bones of the yard were there when she moved in 18 years ago, such as the stone wall terraced areas, but they were being choked out by overgrown vinca and other plants. Mary dug out this overgrowth by hand so she could begin with a clean slate. Stephen not only provided the design but gave her the idea of having a Garden Party, where friends came and helped install the garden. She advises that this is an excellent way to save some money on costly professional installations while having fun with friends. People learn from each other, bouncing gardening ideas around, and she highly recommends this and would do it again this way in a heartbeat. Throughout the years, Stephen has become a teacher, mentor and friend.

Each level of the garden, starting with the alley, has its own feel, ranging from flowering plants to slate walking paths surrounded by moss to a terrace with pea gravel and large stones inspired by Zen-like Asian gardens. The copper theme of the rings surrounding the mini-garden areas is repeated in the copper stones used to keep the water draining out of the downspout away from the house; copper is also reflected in the bark of amur cherry trees.



Mary said the challenges of weeding have become less over the years. It took time and dedication to replace weeds with groundcovers such as creeping jenny. Bunnies have been an issue and Mary is constantly looking for natural ways to deter them from devouring her hostas. An irrigation system has been helpful at keeping everything healthy as well.

Through the years, Mary has learned much about gardening. She's accustomed to trial and error. Mary doesn't believe in privacy fences and loves sharing her garden with friends and neighbors, who must be thrilled with the opportunity to see such loveliness as they stroll down what could be just an ordinary alley!