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) and Community Participation Program (CPP).

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 Finance is a committee of FNA that implements neighborhood improvement projects. Committee meetings are held at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month at Pershing Park.

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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Palmisano Presents: A Conversation on the Future of Neighborhood Associations and Funding

6:30-8 p.m.

Tues., Mar. 24

City Church

Main floor

1501 W. 54th St.

Funding for neighborhood associations across the city expires at the end of 2020. The City Council is considering options for an ongoing framework for the work of neighborhood associations and future funding. Council Member Palmisano will host a community discussion about the future of neighborhood associations like Fulton Neighborhood Association (FNA) on Mar. 24. FNA works hard each year to best represent the needs of Fulton neighborhood with things such as events, environmental initiatives, security upgrades, communications (like this newsletter you are reading!) and advocacy with the city and other partners. We hope you will join Council Member Palmisano in this important discussion and support the ongoing work of neighborhood associations.

**2020 Census**

The 2020 Census will be launched on Apr. 1. and is a count every ten years of every person living in the United States. The census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution and is about fair representation, funding and redistricting. Taking part in the census is your civic duty— it’s a way to participate in our democracy and say “I count!” The census directs the distribution of $800B in federal funds, or $2,800 per person per year. According to statistics from the City of Minneapolis, it is estimated that Fulton neighborhood will be undercounted by 700 people. That’s the equivalent of $19.6M in federal funds that will be lost.

It is very difficult to get a complete count of the population. Undercounted groups include renters, people of color, immigrants and refugees, the homeless, the LGBTQ community, people on fixed or little income, college students and snowbirds. And the largest undercounted group in Minnesota is expected to be children under the age of five. Because the census helps determine which areas qualify for critical resources that many children and their families rely on, their proper count is critical to their future. Resources are allocated for the following ten years potentially affecting Head Start programs, food assistance, child care and health insurance. Many services such as SNAP, WIC and even Pell grants rely directly on census data to allocate federal funds appropriately. It is vital to communities that all children are counted.

You will receive a postcard in the mail in mid-March inviting you to complete the census. What can you do to help? Complete the census and be counted! Count all of your children. Make sure your college students and snowbird parents are counted. Talk to other family members, your neighbors and co-workers and tell them to be counted, too!
Meet the FNA Board: Jane Kohnen

Jane has been on the board of the FNA for eight years serving as a member, Vice President, and President; she has also served on the zoning and finance committees. She was instrumental in getting input on what Fulton neighborhood residents wanted to do along the Minnehaha Creek Corridor in Fulton prior to the recent Minnehaha Creek planning process by the Minneapolis Park Board.

Jane is a design engineer at Medtronic and has lived in the Fulton neighborhood for nearly 30 years. Her husband, Rich Nyquist, has served on several Community Advisory Councils (CACs) including the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District CAC and was a representative for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District on the Minnehaha Creek planning CAC.

Jane is in two book clubs, loves playing Mahjong, and likes to bike and ski.

Fulton Block Contacts Needed

Fulton Neighborhood Association uses a system of designated Block Contacts to welcome new neighbors and occasionally pass on important information to their block. Many times, our Block Contact is the same person as the MPD designated Block Leader, but sometimes they are not. The Block Contact gets the fun job of welcoming new neighbors with a small gift from FNA – a logo coffee mug and packet of coffee. We have volunteers on many of the nearly 120 blocks in Fulton, but have several openings. If you’d like to be the Block Contact for your block, please contact us at info@fultonneighborhood.org and we will gladly put you to work!

Here are the blocks where there is a need:

Draft Southwest Parks Master Plan Released

*45 day public comment period open until Apr. 5.*

The draft Southwest Parks Master Plan has now been released; the plan contains updated park designs that will guide development of all Southwest Minneapolis neighborhood park properties over the next 20+ years.

The design team approached Pershing Park not only as an individual site, but also as part of a four-park interconnected group with a strong focus on athletics, primarily field and diamond sports; the other three parks are Armatage, Kenny and Linden Hills.

Pershing will host both field and diamond sports facilities, which are popular in this area for youth sports programming. From a design and programming perspective, this park will balance recreation opportunities well with nearby Linden Hills Park. The existing diamonds and fields will remain, along with the existing batting cages. New pitching mounds will be added. Updated play areas will remain in the same location and will be separated by a new splash pad with shade structures which replaces the wading pool at the end of its lifecycle. An improved community gathering/event plaza bridges the space between the play area and the recreation center entrance. The picnic area next to the entrance is enhanced, as is the picnic area in the semi-wooded space to the east of the parking lot. Tennis remains in its existing location, while the full-court basketball surfacing is expanded to include a new adjacent multi-use court. Got to minneapolisparks.org to provide comment.

Southwest High School Spotlight Musical

**A Chorus Line**

*7 p.m. March 12-14 and 19-21
2 p.m. March 15 and 22*

A celebration of those unsung heroes of the Musical Theatre, the chorus dancers, valiant, over dedicated, underpaid and highly trained troopers who back up the star and often make them look more talented than they are. The characters portrayed in "A Chorus Line" are, for the most part, based upon the lives and experiences of Broadway dancers. This show is dedicated to anyone who has ever danced in a chorus or marched in step anywhere.

Tickets will be available at the door or online at southwest-high-school-theatre.ticketleap.com.
Who’s in the ’Hood: Wuollet Bakery: Fulton’s Own Pocket of Ambrosia

By Carolina Li

Who’s in the ’Hood features the unique people and places of Fulton neighborhood

Is there anything better than the smell of freshly-baked pastries in the morning? While the sun is rising over the trees of Pershing Park, bakers are kneading dough, and soon, trays of delicious breads, flaky pastries, and mouth-watering donuts emerge steaming and golden-topped for customers to enjoy. If you live in Fulton, you have probably enjoyed these baked goods at our well-known neighborhood gem, Wuollet Bakery.

Though the bakery is a neighborhood fixture, not many people know its story. Reino Wuollet, a young man from a Finnish family in Minneapolis, worked for Federal Bakeries. When Reino fell ill in December 1943, he vowed that when he got better he would open his own bakery and be sure to help his employees if they ever faced such a struggle. Reino and his wife, Aggie, found Fulton neighborhood a great fit for their new business. The bakery's doors opened in 1944, where Broder's Cucina Italiana stands today. Reino’s vision was to provide high-quality baked goods and superb service, with customers leaving happier than when they walked in. It is this “wow factor” that sets Wuollet apart to this day, says Laura Fickes, who has worked at Wuollet for the last nine years. “When someone brings a Wuollet product to an event, people immediately know it’s special. It’s a celebration.”

75 years later, Wuollet still relies on traditional, old world, handcrafted techniques. “We do not use pre-made mixes; everything is made in-house, from scratch,” asserts Fickes. Sheeters are used to laminate, and bun rounders to roll buns; but the cutting, scaling, and mixing are still done by hand with the traditional techniques, as is every step that impacts quality. Reino’s original recipes for Lady Baltimore Cake, yeast-raised donuts, and many cookies are still in use today, unchanged, and every element of the iconic Princess Torte is made from scratch at the Wuollet Fulton location, including the roasting of the almonds, the marzipan, and the raspberry filling.

Three generations of Wuollet family members have worked in and led the bakery since its founding. When Reino retired in the late 1960s, his son Jim carried on the legacy, followed by Doug Wuollet and cousins Mike and Jim Jurmu. Wuollet expanded to new stores in St. Paul (1977), Wayzata (1991), Robbinsdale (1995), and downtown Minneapolis (2011). In 2019, the Wuollet family sold the business to longtime friend and Minnesota native, Eric Shogren, whose grandmother had worked at Wuollet. Shogren met the Wuollet family years ago and his admiration for Wuollet means he will not be making many changes. Wuollet lead baker Mike Jurmu and eight other Wuollet family members continue to work at Wuollet, and many of the cake decorators have been employed there for nearly 40 years. Last fall, Shogren opened Wuollet Bakery and Coffee in Uptown, trying to appeal to the younger generation.

Clad in their white uniforms, Wuollet’s bakers and decorators busily prepare 3,000 loaves of bread and 40,000 hamburger buns each month and 150,000 cupcakes each year! They also do custom cakes and very large cookie orders with only one day of turnaround. Through all the changes in the neighborhood, Wuollet remains a tried-and-true fixture of Fulton, providing us with exquisite cakes and decadent sweets so that Fulton families still gather together in celebration around delicious Wuollet treats. So if you haven’t been to Wuollet, yet, and you’re new to the neighborhood, step inside the heritage landmark to this world of desserts, sparkling like jewels in the display case. You won’t be disappointed.