



May 2020

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.

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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:

Who's in the 'Hood.....3  
Neighborhood Activity.....4

# Fulton Rallies to Cope with COVID in Positive Ways

We're all living in strange times right now by social distancing, working from home, helping teach our children, exercising in different ways, etc. In thinking about the changes that we are all enduring, we wanted to highlight some positive and creative ways that Fulton neighbors have responded.

**Making Masks:** Laura Walker rallied Fulton neighbors on Nextdoor to make homemade masks for patients and families at Children's Minnesota. Through a donation bin on her front porch, and the generosity of 20 families, Laura and her kids coordinated the exchange of supplies and collected more than 500 homemade masks that were donated to the hospital. What began as a desire to do something as a family ended up bringing the neighborhood together and served as a lesson in generosity for those who participated.



**Making Face Shields:** Russ Durkee saw the call on Nextdoor for Laura's masks and realized he had a different way that he could help provide protective equipment for health care workers. A few days after the schools closed, Russ saw a news story about a small 3D printing company making face shields. Russ had a 3D printer and found a design that did not require elastic (because it was sold out everywhere



to people making masks!) and used overhead projector plastic for the shield. He asked on Nextdoor for donations of plastic and started 3D printing. He quickly had several hundred pieces of plastic donated by neighbors as well as financial donations for printing costs. People started asking for shields for their friends and relatives who work in hospitals, birth centers, dentist offices and local businesses. To date, Russ has made and donated over 500 face shields and is hoping to reach the 700 mark. Russ is amazed at the level of support and generosity of his Fulton neighbors.

*Coping continued on p.2*

## Neighborhood Art Activity on Page 4

Check out the neighborhood activity for "kids" ages 1 to 101! Show us what Fulton neighborhood looks like to YOU! Decorate this map of the neighborhood any way you like — add your house, family, pets, neighbors, school, park, stores, etc. Send it to us at FNA/3523 W. 48th St./Minneapolis, 55410; be sure to include your name and address. We'll create a virtual art showcase and post drawings on our website as well as social media for all to enjoy. **Each entry will receive a \$5 Sebastian Joe's gift card.** Have fun and be creative! Need more than one copy? E-mail us [info@fultonneighborhood.org](mailto:info@fultonneighborhood.org) and we'll send you a link to print more. Adults are welcome to participate, too!



## Support your local businesses!

Local businesses need our help right now more than ever before. Please check out [fultonneighborhood.org](http://fultonneighborhood.org) for a list of local businesses that have helped us in the past and support them with your purchasing power. Check back frequently as the content may change over time.

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

### Coping con't from p. 1

**Whimsy:** 11 year-old Eva began painting rocks as part of her block's art crawl. She displayed them in the bark crevices in her big oak tree next to her front walkway. She enjoyed painting them so much that she continued to paint more and more each day until she ran out of her acrylic paints. Each day she places a couple more out on the tree so people can continue to enjoy the evolving art installation. Luckily her birthday was coming up and new acrylic paint was on the top of her list!



**New Baby:** FNA Board Member Ray Klahr and her husband, Andy Clayton, are navigating the waters of having a new baby during this socially distant time. They have been face timing a lot with grandparents and other family members so they can see the baby grow. They are exploring new streets and walking paths as they social distance to get some exercise and protect a new baby. They have also put a couple chairs on the front lawn so they can enjoy the sun and talk with neighbors (from afar). And, of course, they are learning how to work full-time jobs while caring for a baby!

**Please share your stories!** Do you know someone in the neighborhood who is also mounting a great response or who has a fun anecdote about coping? Email us at [info@fultonneighborhood.org](mailto:info@fultonneighborhood.org). These stories help us celebrate our kind neighbors and help everyone stay optimistic during these times.

## Future of Neighborhood Funding

The City of Minneapolis has proposed drastic cuts to neighborhood funding. Fulton Neighborhood Association (FNA) will lose half of its funding by 2023. We use those funds for a variety of programming, events, communications and a part-time staff person (10 hrs./week) to pull it all together. We recognize that other neighborhoods have more needs and deserve more funding, but we are asking the city to fund ALL neighborhoods at a base amount that allows them to continue operating at all. Read the plan at [fultonneighborhood.org](http://fultonneighborhood.org) and provide comment by July 15 to [neighborhoods2020@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:neighborhoods2020@minneapolismn.gov) and [linea.palmisano@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:linea.palmisano@minneapolismn.gov). Thank you for your support of our efforts to make Fulton neighborhood a great place.

## Fulton Farmers Market Opens May 16

Farmers are essential workers. Farmers markets are essential services. Building a stronger and more resilient local food system is more important than ever. Staff is working closely with vendors, volunteers and other partners to create neighborhood marketplaces that protect the health and safety of our community. Visit [neighborhoodroots.mn.org](http://neighborhoodroots.mn.org) for more information on changes being made for the 2020 market season.

# Who's in the 'Hood: PennPals

By Carolina Li

*Who's in the 'Hood features the unique people and places of Fulton neighborhood.*

It's amazing how much life has changed in Fulton in the last two months as the Coronavirus pandemic has spread. At times like this, it is encouraging to see friends and neighbors stepping up to the occasion and helping one another. As Mr. Rogers was known to say, "When I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" And on Penn Avenue, those helpers quietly and kindly extending their generous help are known as PennPals.

A few weeks ago, Caroline Stacey and her family founded PennPals to run errands and deliver supplies to neighbors in need on Penn Avenue and Queen Avenue. Having lived on Penn Avenue for 20 years with her husband and children, now teenagers, Caroline became concerned that this crisis would have a big impact on our Fulton community. She mentioned her concerns to her family and recalls, "I talked to my kids about the idea that we could and should be helping others in our neighborhood and that I wanted it to be a family endeavor." The inspiration for the program came from Caroline's own parents who lived through World War II – in the United Kingdom – and shared stories of "ordinary people doing extraordinary things." Inspired by how Britons helped one another at a time of great need, Caroline came up with the idea of a volunteer delivery program; her son suggested the name; and her daughter designed the flyers. All three of them help with pickups and deliveries.

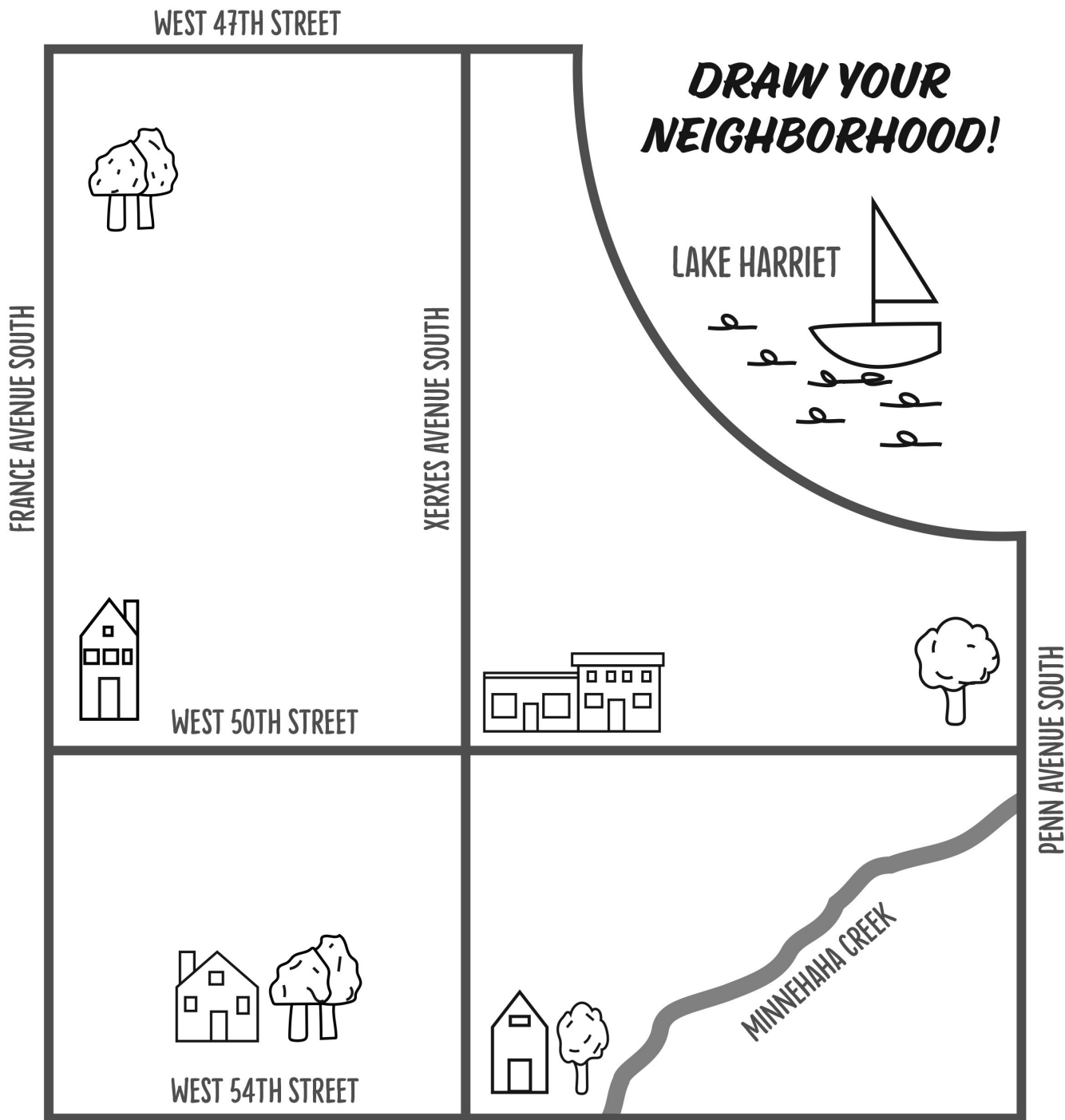
"Initially, we had relatively few requests for help," Caroline says. "However, several neighbors reached out expressing gratitude for the connection and for the idea of a neighbor support network." As more people realized the importance of social distancing, shopping trips became more stressful and especially scary for older people and those who are immune-compromised. "That's why we're happy to do it on their behalf, appropriately masked and gloved, of course," she explains. More recently, PennPals expanded to include another neighbor, a physician, who volunteered to help neighbors with medical needs.

How does it work? PennPals volunteers to pick up food and grocery items, prescription medications, incoming and outgoing UPS and USPS mail, etc. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Neighbors can place a request by 9 p.m. the night before the errand. They provide a receipt for every item they pick up, and text when they are ready to deliver. When delivering, they are masked and wearing gloves and keep a socially safe distance. While the services are aimed at older neighbors, families with young children, people with conditions considered at-risk, or the immunocompromised, they are happy to help anyone who is in need.

The pandemic has brought out the best in many of us. A program like PennPals can easily be replicated on other Fulton blocks (ask how at [pennpalsmpls@gmail.com](mailto:pennpalsmpls@gmail.com)) or there may be unique needs in certain pockets of the neighborhood that could allow for a different approach. The important thing is to be specific about how you can help, how to get in touch, how to do it safely, and making sure early on that people feel comfortable reaching out. After all, as Caroline says, "Knowing that someone is available and willing to help shows that you care and that is almost as important as running the errand itself." Sounds like a true neighbor!



Please see our website ([fultonneighborhood.org](http://fultonneighborhood.org)) for lots of helpful COVID-19 resources that you can share with your block.



# F·U·L·T·O·N Neighborhood

**First Name:**

**Age:**