



**November 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.

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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 and NEW Distance Learning Rebates

Fulton Neighborhood Association is committed to support community engagement and neighborhood youth activities, including distance learning. We are relaunching our Fulton Small Grants Program and starting a new, limited-time Distance Learning Rebate Program. Both applications are available on the FNA website ([fultonneighborhood.org](http://fultonneighborhood.org)) and are due by Jan. 31, 2021.



**Small Grants:** We are looking for organizations or individuals based or operating in the Fulton Neighborhood that have programs or projects that align with our youth education and community engagement strategies. Examples include a youth or school group or a neighborhood group supporting community-building. Grants are available for \$500-\$2,500. Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate how the funding will have a positive impact on

the Fulton community, and priority will be given to grants that stress partnerships and innovative approaches to youth education or community involvement.

**Distance Learning Rebates:**

The purpose of this program is to provide a rebate to Fulton residents incurring out of pocket costs for **NEW** educational expenses associated with distance learning during COVID-19 that were not necessary before the pandemic. All households in Fulton neighborhood with children attending K-12 public school in a distance learning or hybrid model qualify to receive a rebate. Rebates are limited to \$250 per household; the fund pool is \$20,000. Rebates will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis as funds are available.



## Personal Safety Tips from MPD

With crime and safety on the minds of many, community members are encouraged to review common crime prevention tactics such as those below. Please see our website ([fultonneighborhood.org](http://fultonneighborhood.org)) for a full list of tips.

- Keep the doors to your car locked when you're inside. This prevents someone from opening your door to grab you, a bag or phone from inside.
- Be aware of your surroundings, look at who and what is around you and take note of anyone approaching you or your car. A person "heads down" looking at their phone is much easier to take by surprise.

**Safety Tips continued on page 2**



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

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Fulton Neighborhood Communication Disclaimer: FNA publishes this newsletter to enhance public access to neighborhood information. While we try to keep the information timely and accurate, we make no guarantees. Readers should be aware that information in this publication may not reflect official positions of the Fulton Neighborhood Association Board of Directors or its individual members. *Fulton Neighborhood News* does not print unsolicited input from readers, though it welcomes any comments or suggestions readers may wish to provide.

West 54th Street

## Friends of Fulton Lifetime Achievement Award: *John Finalyson and Dave Delvoye*

This special award is going to John Finlayson and Dave Delvoye upon their retirement from Fulton Neighborhood Association after three decades of service.



John Finlayson has held several positions for FNA including Board President, Vice President, Zoning Chair, Finance Chair and has also served on both the Safety and Transportation Committees. Outside of FNA, John has volunteered his time for the City of Minneapolis as well as other civic organizations throughout the Twin Cities.

Dave Delvoye has also served as Board President, Safety Committee Chair, Finance Committee Member and on countless other FNA initiatives. Dave has dedicated himself to the safety and well-being of his neighborhood. Dave spent a great deal of time generating monthly safety reports for all of southwest Minneapolis. These reports were the envy of many other neighborhoods and news publications, who frequently asked how they could replicate his work – and they never did because they didn't have a volunteer as dedicated as Dave.



We will deeply miss John and Dave and will have to work very hard to fill their shoes.

### **Safety Tips continued from page 1**

- Never leave your car running while unattended and never leave a key inside a parked vehicle.
- Keep some distance between yourself and a stranger who approaches you. Staying more than arm's length away means someone can't grab your bag, or you, as easily.
- Be alert if someone approaches you to ask a question like what time it is or if you have a cigarette. This may be a ruse to get close to you.
- Don't carry your cell phone in your hand. Keep it out of sight in an inside pocket or zipped in a bag.
- Don't give your cell phone to anyone who approaches asking if they can use it to make a call. This is a common ruse used to get control of the phone by a thief who promptly runs off with it.



France Avenue South

Penn Avenue South

# Spotlight on Fulton: Hats for the Homeless

*Spotlight on Fulton features the unique people and places of Fulton neighborhood.*

Winter has come early this year, as Minnesota experienced its earliest October snowfall since 1905. In Fulton and throughout the city, homeless residents face a daily struggle to find shelter and stay warm. Barb Melom, a 35-year Fulton resident, found a way to help, giving the gift of warmth through a project that has become known as Hats for the Homeless.



Hats for the Homeless began in December 2006, when Barb was part of a group from the First Universalist Church scheduled to serve the Christmas Eve meal at Simpson Housing Services' shelter. Barb and her friends wanted to take a gift to everyone, so they contacted knitters they knew and asked for 60 hats. They wound up getting 300 instead! In the 14 years since, the number of donations has increased every year, and the project has grown to include knitters from around Fulton and the rest of Minneapolis as well as snowbirds as far away as California, Texas, and Louisiana. Many local church congregations have knitting groups who contribute as well. In 2019, they set a new record, surpassing 2,000 hats and scarves. So far in 2020, they have already surpassed 1,000. The hats are as varied as their knitters. "It started as dark-colored hats for men. But people like to knit with colors, and small hats come in too."

The ongoing pandemic has increased the number of unsheltered people and the need for winter clothing. The drive behind Hats for the Homeless is simple: the need is there and it is increasing. As Barb put it simply: "Everybody needs a hat to get through a Minnesota winter." Many agencies that were drop-off sites in the past are closed this year, so Hats for the Homeless routes hats to food shelves because they are open. Schools are especially important for distribution this year, as students come to pick up their lesson plans and parents come to pick up food, so Hats for the Homeless enlisted the help of a social worker from Minneapolis to select the schools of greatest need.



Many people want to get involved but don't know how or where. Barb uses a variety of platforms to connect with volunteers. Some, like Facebook and Nextdoor, are no doubt familiar to Fulton residents. Ravelry, a social networking site specifically for knitters, crocheters, and weavers, connects the project volunteers and also provides free patterns for them to knit. Volunteers often knit in groups at places as diverse as the Fulton Farmer's Market, Harriet & Alice, and Ingebretsens Scandinavian Gift Shop. With the onset of the pandemic, volunteers also use Zoom to meet virtually for knitting groups and Barb hosts a regular Zoom at 11 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month. The project's website, [hats4thhomeless.blogspot.com](http://hats4thhomeless.blogspot.com), has a list of drop-off locations for the completed hats and directions for sending hats via US Mail. Of course, non-knitters can always donate a store-bought hat as well! For more information about Hats for the Homeless, to volunteer, or to get patterns, reach out to Barb at [barbmelom@gmail.com](mailto:barbmelom@gmail.com) or at (612) 598-4919, and give the gift of warmth!

# Fulton Neighborhood Conversations on Racial Equity

Fulton Neighborhood News is devoting a section of each newsletter to racial equity including: ways to take action or be involved, ongoing learning and a book club.

## 5 Tips for Confronting Racism in Conversation

Talking about race and racism can feel uncomfortable, especially when it is a new topic. It can feel fraught - "what is the right way to say this?" Even more challenging is confronting racism - but this is a key step allies must make. How do you confront racism in a conversation, especially with friends and family?

1. Educate yourself and share those resources with others.
2. Try educating others or drawing boundaries around what is and isn't appropriate: "Have you heard how that statement can be interpreted as racist?," "We don't use that term anymore, we say \_\_\_\_\_."
3. Humanize the other person. Try to understand intentions and their experiences.
4. Ask clarifying questions: "What did you mean by that?" "What makes you say that?" "Where did you hear that?" "Can you tell me more about that?"
5. Remember growing and making mistakes is part of the process. Sharing your own journey can help: "You know, I used to think the same way you did. But I know, like me, you care about people. And I want you to hear why I believe differently," "I used to think like that and someone told me/or I realized I was..."

## Education

### For Adults:

Learn about approaches to have conversations about race and racism.

- Read *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo
- Podcast: "How to talk to your parents about racism" (NPR's LifeKit)
- Check out resources at [frameworksinstitute.org](http://frameworksinstitute.org)

### For children:

- *The Other Side* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Be Who You Are* by Todd Parr
- *Malala's Magic Pencil* by Malala Yousafzai

## Taking Action

- Join the book club (see sidebar)! Email [rayklahr@gmail.com](mailto:rayklahr@gmail.com) for the event invitation.
- Take the Harvard Racial Bias test to unpack your own bias.
- Attend a virtual event from the YWCA. They host 2+ racial justice events a month.



**Sat., Dec. 5 (virtual)**

*So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo

Email Ray Klahr at [rayklahr@gmail.com](mailto:rayklahr@gmail.com) for the event invitation.