

MARCH 2025

Fulton Neighborhood News

LUNAR NEW YEAR

FULTON CELEBRATES THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE



This year, the Fulton Neighborhood Association together with Pershing Park staff hosted its first-ever Lunar New Year celebration on February 1, 2025 welcoming the Year of the Snake and embracing the holiday's central theme of "togetherness."

Lunar New Year is a spring festival whose origins date back thousands of years. The holiday marks the beginning of the new year, following the lunar calendar, typically lasting for two weeks; this year it started on January 29th and culminated on February 12th. Many communities across the world celebrate the Lunar New Year, particularly in East and Southeast Asia and by diaspora communities worldwide, including in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and Europe, where festivals and family gatherings honor traditional customs. Minneapolis is home to a diverse array of Asian communities including Chinese, Taiwanese, Hmong, Korean, Malaysian and many others, and Fulton is no exception.

On the day of Fulton's Lunar New Year celebration, under the hands of energetic volunteers, the main room in Pershing Park's fieldhouse quickly underwent a transformation: paper dragons adorned the entrance, tables were covered with red tablecloths, music, and a large backdrop featuring a pagoda helped set the stage for a vibrant festival space.

If one hadn't been fully awake and properly caffeinated on that early Saturday morning, one might have been tempted to say we had been transported from our familiar neighborhood park to a Chinatown destination.

The free event embraced the spirit of "togetherness" with cultural activities led by FNA board members and neighbors alike such as mahjong lessons, silk fan painting, inclusive musical storytelling in three languages Mandarin Chinese, ASL, and English, and a live cooking demonstration of jiaozi (dumplings) and which included how to set the table for the "reunion dinner": the first-holiday meal, featuring traditional foods and auspicious dishes imbued with symbolic meaning to promote a good start of the year. The flurry of activities throughout the rooms at the park included a scavenger hunt, which earned you a hong bao or lucky red envelope filled with an educational flyer and chocolate coins, face painting, and Nex Gen Events photo booth.

If all of this made you tired or hungry, the Hana Bistro Food truck was on hand with a delicious array of Asian-inspired menu choices, and Thirsty Dragon Drinks offered an assortment of delicious bubble teas, also available for purchase.

The event, led by the work of FNA Board Members Sophie Su & Carolina Li, welcomed about 200 attendees of all backgrounds, fostering community and celebrating Lunar New Year traditions. Families and neighbors enjoyed the festivities, with many expressing joy at the opportunity to honor their heritage. As the celebration ended, guests departed with lucky red envelopes and mandarins, sharing warm wishes of "Gong Xi Fa Cai" words of blessing and well-wishing that felt just like a classic Minnesota goodbye.

Upcoming FNA Events

- FNA Board Meeting
April 9, 6:30 pm
- Earth Day at Pershing Park
April 19, 9:30 am
- Buckthorn Workgroup
April 26, 10 am
- Food Drive for Joyce Uptown
Food Shelf April 27
- FNA Board Meeting
May 14, 6:30 pm
- Bike ride to NEW Southwest
Farmers Market
May 17, 9:30 am

Upcoming Pershing Park Events

- Movie & Dinner
Ages 5-12, \$10 per child
March 28
April 11 & 25
May 9 & 23
6-8:30pm
#11313, #11314,
#11315, #11316, #11317
- Kids Karate
Age 8 & Up, Free
Tuesdays, 6-7 pm
#11321
- Kids Prom Night
\$15 per child
May 16, 5:30-8 pm
#11327

Fulton Neighborhood Association

The FNA is a 501(c)3 organization funded by the City of Minneapolis and community donations. Our mission and vision (newly adopted in 2023) is as follows:

Mission: The Fulton Neighborhood Association fosters community connections, supports learning and growth, encourages city engagement, and contributes to the fabric of a stronger community

Vision: A neighborhood where every resident is heard, valued, empowered, and engaged with each other and the broader community.

FNA Board of Directors

- Ray Klahr, President
- Jim Donnelly, Vice President
- Jane Kohnen, Treasurer
- Kristen Ingle, Secretary
- Melanie Heu-Kanow
- John Bender
- Carolina Li
- Jill Lock
- Blaine Miller-McFeeley
- Sophie Su
- Blake Ward
- Steve Young

FOOD DRIVE



Join us for a Food Drive for Joyce Uptown Food Shelf on April 27!

Fulton Neighborhood Association is joining with Tangletown and other Southwest Neighborhoods in a food drive for Joyce Uptown Food Shelf.

Anyone who wants to participate can place donations on their front steps before 10:00 AM on Sunday, April 27. A volunteer will pick up the items for donation and deliver them to Joyce Uptown Food Shelf. **To participate, residents must sign up for donation pick up.**



[sign up here!](#)

Sign-up is required so we can send a volunteer to your home for donation pick-up. We can accommodate donation pick-ups within reason if you live in a nearby neighborhood. The registration deadline is 10:00 PM on April 24.

Joyce accepts any non-expired shelf-stable food items. Variety is appreciated and popular items include:

- Peanut butter
- Canned fruit
- Whole grain cereal/oatmeal
- Cooking oil
- Toothbrushes/toothpaste

Sturdy paper grocery bags with handles and empty egg cartons are also needed. Please, no expired food or open items.

SMALL GRANTS



Fulton Neighborhood Association's Small Grants Program is open for applications

Every year the Fulton Neighborhood Association's Small Grant Program provides small grants to businesses, groups or organizations in the Fulton Neighborhood. The grants support programs, opportunities, events or experiences that enhance our community engagement. Awards range from \$500-\$2,500.

Applications are open now and close on April 15, 2025.

The application and more information can be found here:



Past recipients include groups at Southwest High School, Lake Harriet Community School PTA, Neighborhood Roots and The Overdressed Duo. The awards will be announced in late May/early June. Please share with organizations you think would have eligible programs. If you have any questions email info@fultonneighborhood.org

FARMERS MARKET



Fulton Farmers Market moving and becoming Southwest Farmers Market

As you may have heard, the Fulton Farmers Market is moving to the Mount Olivet Parking lot (5025 Knox Ave S.) and becoming Southwest Farmers Market starting this spring. Look for your favorite vendors along with more options as this market expands.

Read more about the move here on our website here:



Join us for a bike ride to the NEW Southwest Farmers Market on opening day!!

Meet Kristen & Ray, FNA Board Members, with your bike in the parking lot of the old Fulton Farmers Market location (*Lake Harriet United Methodist Church-4901 Chowen Ave S*) on the opening day of the new Southwest market, **Saturday, May 17 at 9:30 am**. We will ride our bikes together over to the new market!!

More details are coming soon in e-news, and social media. See you then!

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY AT PERSHING PARK

Join us for our annual Earth Day park clean up & spring planting
Saturday, April 19 from 9:30 am-Noon



We will be picking up the trash in the park and surrounding area, getting planting beds ready, putting down mulch, planting spring plants, and other season clean up. Meet us at the Pershing Rec Center to get started. Bring gloves or tools if you have them, but we will provide all needed supplies. Fulton Neighborhood Association will provide donuts and coffee to keep you fueled. Many hands make light work! Hope to see you there to kick off spring at the park! Questions? email info@fultonneighborhood.org

BUCKTHORN WORK GROUP



Fulton Neighborhood Association is starting a Buckthorn Work Group

The Fulton Neighborhood Association Environmental Committee is starting a Buckthorn work group. Buckthorn is an invasive species found around Minnehaha Creek and Lake Harriet. It is an aggressive invasive plant that out competes vegetation and degrades wildlife habitat. Get together with neighbors, enjoy some fresh air, and help get rid of this invasive species!

Join us for our first meeting, **Saturday April 26, 10am-noon**, (rain date Saturday, May 3). We will meet on the west side of Penn Ave S. at the south side of Minnehaha creek by 53rd Street.

A volunteer will show the group how to identify and safely remove Buckthorn. Please bring eye protection and gloves. If you have shovels, pruning saws, and loppers please bring them as well. If you do not, some will be provided for you at this first meeting.

After the first meeting, the work group will determine additional times to meet and continue this work. Questions, email info@fultonneighborhood.org

Thank You Lunar New Year Volunteers

Alex Constantine
Alycia Lund-Busch
Blake Ward
Brooke Fanning
Caro Li
Catherine Wang Yang
Cheryl Robinson
Chinese Language Teachers
Association of Minnesota
Claire Zelaya
Claudia Varela
Daniel Li
Ethan Smith
Jan Donnelly
Jan Hertel
Jane Kohnen
Jason Su
JiaWen Khoo
Jill Lock
Jim Donnelly
Julie Retka
Kristen Ingle
Linda Brandt
Margaret Belew
Melanie Heu-Kanow
Melinda Theisen Behrens
Melissa Lo
Nadia Karim
Pershing Park Staff
Ray Klahr
Sara Hong
Sasha Jensen
Sophie Su
Vasiliki Papanikolopoulos
Wang Laoshi

Thanks to all who helped out. It took many hands to make this happen

Thank You Lunar New Year Vendors

Hana Bistro
Next Gen Events & Design
Music-A-Long with Ms. Rose
Thirsty Dragon Drinks

Fulton Neighborhood Association
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Minneapolis MN 55410

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COMMUNITY PRIORITIES



Fulton Neighborhood Association (FNA) is doing strategic planning for how to spend funds on big-impact projects. Share your thoughts on community priorities by taking our short survey and help shape how FNA allocates public funds.



SAVE THE DATE



Community Dinners, Wednesdays from June 18-August 13 (*no dinner on July 2 or 16*)
Fulton Ice Cream Social, Wednesday, July 16
Beat the Heat Chili Cookoff Wednesday, August 20
Fulton Fall Festival Saturday, September 13

Look for more information in our next newsletter, our e news, fultonneighborhood.org, and our Facebook and Instagram

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