



March 2006

The Fulton Neighborhood's boundaries are 47th Street to 54th Street and France Avenue to Penn Avenue.

Fulton Neighborhood News is published every other month 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. Its board meetings are held: **The second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at Pershing Park. All meetings are open to the public.**

Fulton NRP is an organization of FNA that implements neighborhood improvement projects. Its committee meetings are held: **The first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at Pershing Park.**

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Home Burglaries on the Rise

Review Your Home Security Habits

Crime Prevention Specialist Jennifer Neale reports that home burglaries have doubled in the past year, from 24 in 2004 to 48 in 2005. A significant number of these robberies involved forced entry, in some cases while the residents were at home. This is a trend that has not been seen in Fulton before. **See page 4 for Fulton Part 1 crime statistics from 1998-2005.**

Do you lock up? Does your home look occupied? Do you practice yard security and overall security? For more info about home security and other community crime prevention resources, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/.



Fulton Green

**Tree Care Workshop
March 29 - 7 p.m.**

**Refreshments, door prizes
For details, see page 3**

The Better Ballot Campaign

IRV Would Eliminate Minneapolis Primary

Watch for a petition seeking your signature for a campaign to bring Instant Runoff Voting to Minneapolis. The Fulton Neighborhood Association Board, along with several other neighborhoods, has endorsed this exciting idea.

Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) simulates a series of runoff elections on a single ballot. Voters rank candidates in preferential order – 1, 2, 3, etc. Your first choice candidate is who you would vote for in a traditional primary. Your second choice is who you would vote for if your first choice didn't make it into the general election. Your additional choices would count in subsequent "runoffs" if your higher-ranked choices are eliminated.

Why here? Minneapolis uses a nonpartisan two-round voting system to elect city officials. Two winners emerge from primaries for a general election face-off. This supposedly ensures majority winners in mayoral and city council races. The problem is few voters show up for the first round - the primary. Only 15% of registered voters turned out in 2005, undermining the majority-winner requirement and weeding out candidates who could win in a higher-turnout general election.

IRV eliminates primaries, enabling the most voters to choose among the most candidates in one election. It also reduces negative campaigning, keeps debates focused on issues, eliminates the problem of like-minded voters splitting their vote, ensures fairer representation of all voters, and saves money – one less election to administer and to campaign for.

IRV is endorsed by the Minnesota and Minneapolis League of Women Voters, the Mayor, a majority of the Minneapolis City Council and city legislative delegation, neighborhood and civic organizations and the Green and Independence parties. Endorsement by the Minneapolis DFL will be sought at the city endorsing convention. They encourage Minneapolis voters to sign the petition and support efforts to put IRV on the ballot in November. For more information, visit www.betterballotcampaign.org.

New to the 'Hood?

A Fulton Welcome Packet awaits you!

A Welcome Packet, full of valuable coupons and information, is waiting for you.

Call 612-922-3106 or e-mail community@fultonneighborhood.org.



We look forward to meeting you and invite you to attend our monthly meetings.

West 47th Street

Publication Information

To submit article suggestions, please contact the Fulton Neighborhood Line at 612-922-3106 or e-mail to 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. FNN does not print unsolicited input from readers, though it welcomes any comments or suggestions readers may wish to provide.

West 54th Street

Southwest Community Ed

Family Sock Hop - Friday, March 24th, 2006

You and your children, and/or grandchildren are invited to join us for an evening of great music (50s, 60s & 70s), great games, treats, prizes, and lots of fond memories for rock-n-rollers of all ages! Have your picture taken in front our famous '57 Chevrolet, and buy some take-out snacks at our own version of "Porky's Drive-In". Entry fee is \$5 per family. Please bring a food donation for the Metro Food Shelf. All youngsters must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please wear soft-soled shoes or tennis shoes, or be prepared to wear stockings-only in the gym.

Spring "Community Clean-up Day" - April 22, 2006

Join the Southwest Community Education Advisory Council, and students from Southwest High School in a one-morning effort to clean up around the community. We'll meet at Southwest on Saturday morning, April 22nd, at 8:30 a.m. for juice, coffee, and rolls. The clean-up will run from 9-12. We'll be cleaning up around the school, and along the Minnehaha Creek, Lake Harriet, and Lake Calhoun shoreline (bus transportation will be provided to and from the school). A gourmet picnic lunch for will be provided for everyone back at school. This project is sponsored by our Community Education Advisory Councils. If you plan to attend, contact Tom Neiman at 612-668-3100 or e-mail TNeiman@mpls.k12.mn.us.

Southwest Super Summer Program and Summer Swimming

Our summer programs will start on June 19 this summer. The SSP Program will run for six independent weeks (same as in the past), and the swimming program will last for eight weeks (June 19 to August 10). The fees will be the same. Registration for past participants/interested parents will be available approximately April 15.

Southwest Center Activities

Southwest Center, part of Volunteers of America - MN, brings seniors together for fun and educational activities and a daily noon lunch program at 3612 Bryant Avenue South. The programs listed below are just some of the upcoming events. Please call 612-822-3194 for a monthly calendar, to find out more about a program, or to arrange for a tour of the center. Lunch reservations must be made at least two working days prior by calling 612-824-5512.

City Issues Update - Friday, April 14, 1 p.m.

City Councilperson Betsy Hodges will talk about what's happening in Minneapolis government.

Strengthen & Stretch Exercise Class

Tuesdays & Thursdays at 9:45 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. Classes are geared to your exercise level. Nominal donation suggested.

Treadmill and Computers Available

A treadmill and seven computers with high speed internet access are available for use by adults 55 and older. Call 612-822-3194 for hours.

France Avenue South

Penn Avenue South



Fulton Green

Free Tree Care Workshop

March 29, 7 p.m., Pershing Park

A Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Forester and an arborist from Rainbow Treecare will join us at Pershing Park for an informative discussion on how to care for both private trees and boulevard trees. The Fulton Environment Committee will provide refreshments to celebrate the beginning of Spring and the significant progress that Fulton will make in reversing urban deforestation in 2006! Door prizes will also be awarded from Settergren Hardware, Wimmer's Yardware, Sunnyside Gardens and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board reports that 282 new boulevard trees are slated for Fulton this Spring. 59 are funded by Minnesota ReLeaf funds (a grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources), 118 are made possible by Phase II Fulton NRP funds, and 105 are provided by citizen request funds. You may have noticed a white "T" painted on street curbs near your home to indicate that a new tree is planned for that location.

Most Fulton residents benefit from a large investment that quietly resides in their yards and on their boulevards. We all know that trees increase our property values, lower our energy costs, clean the air, and add to the quality of life in Minneapolis. Do you also know the small steps we all can take to keep this beautiful resource healthy? In addition to practical advice on tree care, we will also have information available on Fulton's second year of bulk discounts from Rainbow Treecare for fungicide injections that can prevent Dutch Elm Disease. Last year 32 Elms were injected and residents are already signing up for 2006. Join your neighbors for an interesting hour on tree care on Wednesday, March 29 at Pershing Park, 48th and Chowen. Bring your questions.

Tree Care Tip

Slow drain water bucket

Try this easy method for watering developed by Fulton resident Skip Fox.

Supplies:

- 1 plastic five gallon bucket
- 1 ~3/16-inch screw (optional)

Tools:

Drill with 3/16-inch bit

How to make:

Drill a hole in the bucket on the side, about an inch up from the bottom. Insert screw into hole.

How to use:

- ◆ Insert screw into hole to help keep yourself dry while transporting bucket.
- ◆ Fill bucket with water.
- ◆ Carry to base of tree and position to direct water stream to desired area. Remove screw and drop in bucket so you can find it later.
- ◆ Empties in about 15 minutes.
- ◆ Repeat for 20 gallons per week (about five buckets.)

City Offers Residential Trees

The City of Minneapolis is making 1,000 trees available to residents to help repair some of the damage done by storms and Dutch elm disease in 2005. Residents can order one tree per address for their yard (not for the boulevard), and can choose from four varieties: Autumn Spire Maple, Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry, Bicolor Oak, and Black Hills Spruce.



The trees cost \$15 each, and are about 6 feet high with a 1 1/4-inch trunk. Trees will be made available on a first come, first served basis, and should be ordered by April 15. To order, visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mayor/> or www.treetrust.org. Residents will need to pick up their tree on May 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Xcel Energy Riverside Plant, 3100 Marshall Street NE or May 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Jenny Lind School, 900 50th Avenue N. For more information, contact Lorrie Stromme (City of Minneapolis) at 612-673-2003.

Fulton CODEFOR Crime Statistics

Crime	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
Homicide	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rape	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	4
Robbery	6	6	1	4	4	2	1	1	25
Aggravated assault	6	2	2	3	5	4	2	2	26
Burglary	58	36	36	24	25	39	48	55	321
Theft	76	93	77	57	60	56	78	61	558
Auto theft	11	11	15	15	9	15	9	5	90

Part 1 crimes reported in the Fulton neighborhood from 1998 to 2005, as compiled by the Minneapolis Police CODEFOR Unit.

Pershing Park Update

Spring Program Registration begins Mon., March 13 at 6 p.m. Summer Program registration will begin Saturday, April 22 at 9 a.m. Register online at www.minneapolisparcs.org.

SWAC Spring and Summer sports registration is happening now until March 25. Pick up a form at the park or go to www.swac.info. Badminton, Softball, Baseball, T-Ball and Pitching Machine begin in the spring. Tennis and Track are summer sports.

Pershing Gardeners

Are you interested in helping with the annual flower gardens at Pershing Park? Monday, April 10 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., meet with Mary Lerman, Coordinator of Horticulture Programs for the MPRB. She will talk about the light exposures and plans for plant materials, which will be helpful in planning your home gardens as well. We will also set a planting date and a weeding schedule for spring and summer. Come help beautify your neighborhood park.



Welcome to Spring Breakfast and Egg Hunt - Sat. April 15 from 8:30 to 10:30 AM. Free but registration is required.

2nd Annual Flower Sale at Pershing Park - Sat. May 13 from 9 - 4. Proceeds will help fund youth programs at the park.

Spring break field trips for K-6 include Cosmic Bowling, MN Zoo, Chaska Water Park & Mill City Ruins. Register at park or online.

2006 Metro Paint-A-Thon

In 2005, volunteer teams painted 137 homes and/or garages for low-income seniors and disabled homeowners as part of Metro



Paint-A-Thon. Through this program, volunteers scrape, prime and paint the exterior of selected homes at no cost to the owner.

To apply you must be the owner of a single-family home (doesn't include duplexes) and over the age of 60 or permanently disabled and must meet low-income guidelines. Painting will take place August 5 & 6. Applications are due by May 12, 2006.

For more information or to download an application go to the website at <http://www.gmcc.org/paint-a-thon/> or call the Fulton Neighborhood Line at 612-922-3106.