



News

November 2003

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 a committee of 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 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7p.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 1st Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at Pershing Park.**

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50th Street Plans

A Letter from Commissioner Gail Dorfman

I have received much feedback on the 50th Street re-striping plan from people who use 50th and who live and work in the surrounding neighborhoods. The 50th Street Task Force, composed of business and neighborhood representatives, has met several times over the past year with city and county staff. All have worked diligently to make improvements to the plan. The focus since the May 5th community meeting has been to achieve a win-win scenario that meets the following goals: reduce traffic speeds, improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety, and retain as many parking spaces as possible within the business nodes. I believe that a compromise has been reached that balances the interests of businesses and neighbors with smoother and safer traffic flow along this busy corridor.

These are the major points of the compromise plan:

- ◆ Parking is allowed on both sides of the street in the business nodes.
- ◆ There will no longer be any AM/PM parking restrictions.
- ◆ Sixteen additional on-street parking spaces in three business nodes have been identified since the May 5th plan.
- ◆ Left turns will be prohibited at peak hours one block east and west of the business node intersections.
- ◆ Traffic signals at Xerxes and Penn will have left turn signals.
- ◆ A three-foot pedestrian buffer will be added next to the sidewalks.
- ◆ Bus stops will be moved to provide a stop every two blocks.

Getting
 to the
 bottom
 of the
 ballot



After the Election
Thinking Locally Year-Round

Where Will All the People Go?

Can you imagine 15% more people living in our developed area?

The Metropolitan Council has projected that this will happen in the next thirty years.

Could you afford to buy your own home at today's prices?

Many Southwest residents who previously bought here could not do so today. **Density** and **Affordability** stand to affect our lives greatly in the near future. Join with a few locally elected officials to take a big-picture look at how these two urban issues intersect in southwest Minneapolis. **Former State Senator Myron Orfield, State Senator Scott Dibble, State Representative Frank Hornstein, and City Council Member Dan Niziolek** will help us get a handle on this complex urban planning issue.

Tuesday, November 18th, 7—9 p.m.

Penn Avenue Bridge Construction

Many residents in Fulton have inquired about the status of the renovation of the Penn Avenue Bridge. Public Works spoke at the October 8 board meeting of FNA to update the neighborhood on this project.

A number of unexpected factors have delayed this project from the beginning. A rise in the creek level that flooded the site slowed the work. The crew also discovered an unused set of bridge footings below the creek bed, which were not shown on the construction documents from 100 years ago. In addition, the design of the system intended to install the new façade failed and all the façade work installed to that point had to be removed. The manufacturer is currently examining the system and will be recommending a new approach.

Completed is the structural work on the barrel extension in the creek and the majority of the stones placed along the shoreline for erosion control. On top of the bridge, the curb, 400 feet of paving, and east side sidewalk along with temporary asphalt sidewalks are complete. In early November, the west side sidewalk and the railings over the barrel sections will be completed.

The bridge design consultant is reviewing the manufacture resolution to the façade design. Public Works is anticipating work can resume on that part of the project in November. They are planning on working through the winter, as weather permits. The estimate for the work is six weeks per side of the bridge.

Next spring, Public Works will complete the landscaping and tree planting along the shoreline, bridge top and in the park.

If residents have further questions, they should contact the project engineer, Jeff Johnson, at 612/673-2836.

50th Street Letter continued from page 1

Traffic engineers studying the Bryant intersection recognize its uniqueness due to heavier traffic volumes and its proximity to Lyndale Avenue. The parking solutions that add back parking spaces in the other three nodes don't work for Bryant. The Bryant business owners have begun to discuss options for the development of off-street parking in this area. It has therefore been recommended that the re-striping from Lyndale to Dupont be done at a later date in conjunction with the reconstruction of Lyndale Avenue.

The timetable for implementation of the compromise plan is to have all the work completed by the third week of June 2004. The City of Minneapolis will be responsible for the traffic signal improvements, signage, and seal coating of the road. Metro Transit will make the bus stop location changes. Hennepin County crews will do the re-striping. Costs for the re-striping will be paid for out of the regular road maintenance budget allotted to 50th Street.

I believe that this 50th Street compromise is the win-win solution that both neighbors and business owners have been working towards. The new plan reflects solutions to concerns raised by business owners and residents. Again, I appreciate the input and involvement of so many neighbors who have an interest in creating a safer, better 50th Street.

Sincerely,

Gail Dorfman
Hennepin County Commissioner
3rd District

Park Happenings

Pershing Park Updates

- ◆ **Saturday Breakfast at Pershing**—November 15th, 8:30 to 10:30 AM
\$3 for pre-registered, \$4 at the door
- ◆ **Pershing Holiday Dinner**—December 17th, 6:00 to 8:00 PM
\$5 per person, space is limited so please pre-register. We will also be collecting canned items for the food bank.

Special upcoming classes for adults.

- ◆ American Red Cross First Aid Course will be held Nov. 19th, 5:00 to 9:00 PM
Cost is \$35.
- ◆ Holiday Design—December 9th, 7:00 to 9:00 PM
Cost is \$15. Participants will make a centerpiece using an assortment of fresh evergreen plant material including holly, cedar, pine and others. 3 pinecones and a candle will be provided each participant.

Upcoming Senior Trips:

November -- Thanksgiving at the Hills

December -- Arbor Lights

Contact Pershing Park for costs and times.

Pershing Park's parking lot has received a face lift with new curbs and surface. This project was funded through the capitol improvement fund. Thanks for everyone's patience during the reconstruction.

Call the park at 612-370-4928 for questions about programs and activities. Or check out www.minneapolisparcs.org.

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City News

Fall Street Sweep and Leaf Collection *Help Protect Lakes and Creek*

Minneapolis began its annual comprehensive fall street sweeping on Tuesday, Oct. 21. City officials are reminding residents not to rake their leaves into the streets and to watch for "No Parking" signs as crews methodically sweep neighborhoods throughout the city. Officials remind Minneapolis residents to collect fallen leaves on their yards and sidewalks and bag them up - Public Works crews will pick up yard waste during weekly garbage pickups (through the week of Nov. 18). City Ordinance prohibits the sweeping of debris and yard waste into the streets. Leaves wash into storm drains and end up in Minneapolis' lakes, streams and the Mississippi River. Leaves and nutrients over-fertilize our waterways and lower water quality in our region.

City Budgeting for 2004 *City Budget Adoption December 16th*

A Truth and Taxation public hearing has been tentatively scheduled for December 8 at the City Council chamber and the final approval of the City's 2004 Budget is scheduled to happen at a special Council meeting on Tuesday, December 16.

Park Board Public Hearings November 5 & 12

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board will hold two more public hearings on November 5 and 12 to continue listening to residents on the proposed 2004 budget cuts. Both meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Park Board headquarters at 2117 W. River Road. Preliminary adoption of the budget will be done on November 5 with final adoption of the budget in December. Cuts in Local Government Aid (LGA) made at the state legislature last spring reduced the Park Board budget by \$4.07 million. That LGA reduction along with higher health care costs and fewer dollars coming from property taxes and state grants meant that the Park Board had to reduce its overall budget for 2004 by 10 percent. Specific areas for proposed cuts and new revenue generating activities are outlined and available on the city website.

City information taken from
the City of Minneapolis
website:

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Friends of Fulton Awarded

The annual Friends of Fulton Awards were given to the following neighbors for their contributions to our community:

Leslie Gibson

Leslie has been an active neighbor in Fulton for many years. Most recently, she joined the Fulton NRP committee last year where she serves as its treasurer. She was also the volunteer leader organizing this year's Fulton Festival on September 20th.

Lynn Gaspardo, Doin' the Dishes

Lynn has been a leader in developing the West 50th Street Business Association over the last year. She has organized business participation and worked to build a partnership with the Fulton Neighborhood Association. Her business has also donated to neighborhood events.

Drew Lamosse, Dunn Bros. at 50th & Xerxes

Drew has served on the Fulton NRP committee for the last year and has been active in developing the West 50th Street Business Association. He works on many levels to create a strong partnership between the businesses and the neighborhood. And we can always count on his Dunn Bros. shop to bring the coffee!

2003 Fulton Raingarden Tour Participants:

Mary Nolte

Ingrid Friel

Maxene & Roger Linehan

Cathy O'Gara & Fred Karasov

These neighbors became involved in Fulton's Landscaping for Rainwater Management project as prototypes in developing rain gardens. After working most of the summer to install their rain gardens, they decided to participate in the tour that was held in August. They opened their yards for four days to neighbors and residents of the metro-wide community, including many visits from professional organizations interested in the project. Over 400 people took the tour and many of them received individual attention from the homeowners who spent most of their weekend out chatting with the visitors. Their involvement in this project helped make it a city-wide model for environmental stewardship and citizen participation.

New FNA Board Members Elected

Three new board members were elected to FNA at the September Annual Meeting.

Welcome to Joe Borman, Morgan Clawson, and RaeAnn Vandeputte!

Thank you Fulton Festival Donors!

**All J's Tire Center
The Baby Collection
Broder's Cucina Italiana
Calhoun Beach Framing
Dunn Bros, 50th & Xerxes
Gibson Girl Gourmet
Dr. Kaye B. Otter
Lake Harriet Floral
Lake Harriet Pizza
Michael's Lamp Studios
Nash Frame Design
PaperBack Exchange
Pearson's Edina Restaurant
Southwest Community Education
Southwest Firestone
Steinhagen & Crist, P.L.
The UPS Store
Vintage Lighting Gallery
Xylos**

*With generous donations from these community partners,
we raised over \$500. The majority of proceeds will go to
Lake Harriet School Paired Reading Program.*