

## Dodgeball - don't laugh 'til you've tried it

When the Park and Rec Board made the offer, KFNA jumped at the chance to host the only Minneapolis Park Adult Dodgeball League. We thought it would be amusing to pummel each other with squishy balls or meet new neighbors while leisurely hanging out on the sidelines, and that dodgeball would be the perfect "un-sport" for a fairly fit and sporty group of folks. Boy-were we wrong!

The balls can actually hurt (ask Mike Mac of Grande Bal Seizure who got hit in the head so many times in Game 2 we quit counting) especially when thrown by the wicked arm of Tonya on the TSSK PokN' Balls who honed her arm on the softball field, or Tracy, a smiling photography teacher on the Leonardo's Basement team, Studio Bricolage. There is no chance to chat in the midst of your "3 sets of 7 games in 18 minutes"...there is sometimes barely a chance to catch your breath, unless you're like me on Team X and the opposing team finds it

very easy to catch your lobbing tosses into their court. Team X holds last place with a 10/53 record but we only see room for improvement in our playing!

And fit, sporty folks? I have never seen so many parents limp into Judson Preschool or attend a Kingfield Green Meeting complaining of pulled hamstrings and sore rotator cuffs! Judson Team parents, forced to use the kid-sized toilets at our neighborhood preschool, could barely sit to pee for days, due to tight quads from all the dodging.

So why do we do it? Honestly, I have not laughed so much in ages. It is a fast moving game that cannot be taken too seriously. It is a blast to have a bunch of adults, their kids cheering them on from the stands, playing a game together. According to Team Captain Ryan Raleigh of the TSSK PokN' Balls, "While sometimes it's an uneven and brutal blowout with our team on the losing end, we have enjoyed every game."

The dodgeball season runs for 8 weeks. Come see the final match-ups on Tuesday, June 5 at MLK Park. If you like what you see and are driven to play, just let me know that night or call me at the office to add your name to a team for next season!

-Sarah Linnes-Robinson,  
KFNA Executive Director

## Fencing the Field

Fences make good neighbors, the old saying goes, but park fences can bring grumbles.

Before the dandelions broke ground at King Park, a chain link fence sprouted around "Field #1" along East 42nd Street. King Park director Brian Cornell secured \$18,000 from the Minnesota Twins for the fence, which runs along both baselines and creates a true outfield barrier for sluggers to hit homers over. It is one of the few fenced-in fields in Southwest Minneapolis, and Cornell said it is already being used by everyone from Park League teams of 11-year-olds to organized squads of adults. Issue: Kingfield's "Little Kids Soccer Program" has used the field for five years, and program founder Michael Vanderford said the unbroken run of chain link made things problematic for his program.

"My primary objection for the Little Kids program is that we have a lot of people drive up along 42nd Street, get a chair and sit along the line of trees and watch their kids," Vanderford says. "The fence's only opening was at the dugouts, and the only way in was to go all the way around to those dugouts, which wasn't the feel we wanted. I felt it was a very exclusionary fence."

Underlying the controversy is what Vanderford and KFNA Executive Director Sarah Linnes-Robinson say is the Park Board's failure to consult the public before the fence went up. While praising Cornell's yeoman work running and improving the park, they fault him and Park officials for not formally consulting neighbors or using the Kingfield Board as a forum for feedback (King Park, which used to have a citizen's advisory council, hasn't had one for years.) For his part, Cornell said he told Vanderford of plans for the fence before it went up; Vanderford said he wasn't informed of crucial details, especially that the fence would block access from the 42nd Street side. Linnes-Robinson says Cornell did ask her at one point if the neighborhood association would contribute to the fence. The Twins made that last action unnecessary, so the fence went up without further board contact.

The missed signals ended up costing money. Park Board district director Paul Hokeness says the fence will be retrofitted: 10-foot gaps will be opened in left field and right field foul territory, and an "overlap" will be built in center so soccer players and others who want

to use the space can get in but balls won't get out. Vanderford says he's "impressed that [Park officials] responded as quickly as they did" to his suggestion for alterations, and plans to run his program's sixth season inside the fence. The work was expected to be completed by late May. It's not clear if the Twins or Minneapolis taxpayers will be paying for the changes.

As things settle down, Hokeness allows that "it would not have been a bad idea to have a neighborhood meeting." He and Parks Commissioner Bob Fine are expected to attend the June 13 Kingfield board meeting to talk about how to make sure there's satisfactory communication between the parks and the neighborhood in the future. Says Vanderford, "I think the Park Board needs to recognize public participation when it has such an impact on the neighborhood. They should use the neighborhood association - after all, they meet in the park building."

- David Brauer

## Retain the Rain

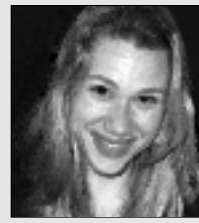
As you may recall from previous KFNA News articles, KFNA has partnered with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) to implement a variety of storm water best management practices at sites throughout the Kingfield neighborhood. These demonstration projects will highlight techniques to slow down, reduce, and treat rainwater runoff. The following sites and practices have been approved by the KFNA and the MWMO:

- **226 West 40th Street:** Install two below ground storage and treatment practices. The first is a mesh system which will prevent soil compaction and increase infiltration. The second is a pan system which temporarily stores rainwater and provides irrigation for the turf grass. Gutters will be installed and water will be directed from the house and porch to these treatment devices.
- **3936 Harriet:** Install a pervious paver driveway/parking area in front of the garage and install gutters to direct rainwater from the alley side of the garage roof to the pervious driveway.
- **3641 Pleasant and 3645 Pleasant:** Install a shared rain garden in the front yard between the two properties. A trenched gutter will be installed to direct water from between the houses to the rain garden.
- **4034 Blaisdell:** Remove a large area of asphalt paving in the back yard and install multiple rain gardens to capture runoff from the natural downhill slope and treat water from the remaining impervious parking area.
- **3756 Grand (Victor's 1959 Café):** Remove a portion of the parking lot and replace with a pervious paver system, which will serve as an outdoor patio for the restaurant. Install a rain garden and direct water from the building roof via gutters and from the remaining impervious section of the east parking area to the new rain garden.

The contractor is currently anticipating start of construction in mid-June. Be on the lookout for activity at these sites, and for an announcement for a fall tour!

-Dave Sadoris

## Kingfield Farmers' Market News



The Kingfield Farmers' Market has a new market coordinator! Debra Bourne comes to us with diverse experiences with food, people and planning that make her a perfect fit for our market.

### Kingfield Farmers' Market Bake-Off

On three Sundays this summer you and your family can test your taste buds on an amazing expo of baked goodies. Amateurs and professionals will offer toothsome 9x13 pans of their favorite recipes. You, the "taster," will carefully compare and contrast each sugary morsel and cast your vote - and a winner will be crowned. How do your rhubarb bars compare to those of Grand Café's Mary Hunter? Does your cornbread measure up to, or even surpass, Scott Pampuch's of the Corner Table? You'll never know unless you enter!

One "Taste" includes a sample of each baked item (up to 12 pieces per Bake-Off). The samples can be shared between friends or family and everyone that tastes can cast a vote. Bake-Off "Taste" tickets are \$10 (per event, \$25 for the series of 3) and will be sold at Anodyne Coffeehouse (43rd and Nicollet) and at the Kingfield Farmers' Market starting June 3rd.

## Bake-Off Entry Form

Name (first and last): \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amateur/Professional\* (circle one)  
Professional credentials: \_\_\_\_\_  
Event Date (circle each date to participate): Rhubarb Bake-Off (June 3rd) /  
Cornbread Bake-Off (Aug. 12) / Apple Pie Bake-Off (Sept. 9)  
Fee: \$5 entry fee for each contest

To Enter the Bake-Off, please send the entry form and fee to:

KFNA, Attn: Bake-Off

3754 Pleasant Ave. S. #101, Minneapolis, MN 55409

Entry forms will also be accepted at the Market if there is space available.

## The "Improve Group" Improves the Market by Providing a Grant for Weekly Musicians!

KFNA received a grant from the Improve Group to support community-building activities in Kingfield; the money will be used to pay local musicians and artists who participate in the weekly Kingfield Farmers' Market. This will allow neighborhood artists to share their work directly with their neighbors, displaying the vastly diverse and talented people that are in our neighborhood, as well as allowing neighbors to interact on a new level. This project unites local businesses, consumers, artists, art appreciators, youth, families, and the elderly.

The Kingfield Farmers' Market, located at 43rd and Nicollet Avenue, has become an important community-gathering place for neighbors. Adding more music is a simple, yet effective way to increase the energy of the outdoor market, support local artists, and enhance the market experience. We hope that an inviting, lively market will draw more of you to visit regularly, providing a forum for neighbors to meet and mingle. Mark your calendar now for Music at the Market, every Sunday June-October!

### Wanted: Website Assistance!

Our Farmers' Market is growing but our website doesn't reflect it! We need help setting up a separate, easy-to-update Farmers' Market Web Page that we can link to from the regular Kingfield site at [www.kingfield.org](http://www.kingfield.org). Our goal is to keep shoppers updated about weekly produce, vendor promotions, special events, and music and theatre happenings at the market. If you have Frontpage design expertise, or ideas about another software system that we could switch to that would work more efficiently and the skills to set it up, and you have some time now to volunteer for your local neighborhood association, please contact Joanna at [kfna@email.com](mailto:kfna@email.com) or 612.823.5980 #3.

### Become a 2007 "Friend of the Market"

In appreciation for a \$35 contribution you will receive: a Kingfield Farmers' Market canvas tote bag, one ticket to a Second Sunday Bake-Off and one entry into the Summer's Bounty Drawing, the winner of which will receive a variety of products from this season's vendors as well as the 2008 Master Gardeners' Calendar! Registration forms can be found at [www.kingfield.org](http://www.kingfield.org) and at the market. Your contribution will ensure the health and growth of our neighborhood market for years to come!