



# Windom

## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Little Free Library Movement in Windom

By Amanda Vallone

I was excited to hear of two Windom families that recently built a Free Little Library for our great neighborhood to share and be part of. I asked each family to write something about their contribution to this great movement that has now gone worldwide. If you are interested in knowing more about the project or getting your own Little Free Library visit <http://www.littlefreelibrary.org/>

Take a Book, Leave a Book

Todd Bol put up the first Little Free Library in Hudson, Wisconsin as a tribute to his mother with the invitation to take a book and leave a book. This simple public gesture resonated with the community, inspiring the creation of over 2500 libraries in over 40 states. We installed our own library at 5612 Grand Ave this past fall and it immediately became a point of conversation with neighbors and frequent destination for walks around the neighborhood. Our two-year old son will often wait by the front window excitedly announcing new visitors to the library. We keep the library freshly stocked with an assortment of children's books, fiction and non-fiction and even the occasional artist book. As the weather warms, we intend to include some new surprises and additions.



Rachel & Scott Stulen

My Little Free Library (#4215) began its life as a six-drawer chest (four large, two small), but found higher purpose once I up-cycled it. After a little planning and a lot of improvising, I managed to make it almost entirely out of wood from that chest, the exceptions being the doorjamb, magnetic latch, and Plexiglass. I made the post so new libraries can be easily switched out, and I hope to have a new one up in time for Spring. You can check out our Free Little Library located at 5544 1st Ave S.



Find us on Facebook

Check out the Windom Neighborhood group on Facebook by entering "Windom Neighborhood" in your search box.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### Windom Community Council:

council@windomcommunity.org

612.668.3392

Windom Community Organizer

Amanda Vallone

AmandaVallone@live.com

Website:

www.windomcommunity.org

webmaster@windomcommunity.org

**John Quincy**, Council Member, 11th Ward:  
612.673.2211

**Amy Lavender**—Crime Prevention Specialist  
612.673.5407  
amy.lavender@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

### Minneapolis 311:

dial 311 for Minneapolis Services, from anywhere within the city limits, even on a cell phone. 311 operators are available weekdays 7AM–11PM. Or e-mail minneapolis311@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Metropolitan Airport Commission:  
612.726.8100

MN Department of Transportation:  
651.296.3000

Senior Dining Reservation: 612.370.4980

Senior Resources Southwest: 612.822.3194

South Metro Airport Action Council:  
612.861.1061

Southwest Family Room (ages 0–6):  
612.827.3918

Windom Community Center: 612.370.4980

Windom Home Fix-up Loans:  
Jim Hasnik, CEE: 612.335.5885

Windom School: 612.668.3370

newsletter@windomcommunity.org

### Newsletter Volunteers

David Evans  
Steve Rawlins  
Pat Soulak  
Amanda Vallone  
Breanne Rothstein  
Eileen Reagan  
Robin Evans, - Photos  
Amanda Vallone - Photos

*The Windom Community News (WCN) is published by the Windom Community Council. It is designed, written, and delivered by volunteers from the Windom community. We are looking for volunteers to help with future newsletters.*

*To participate in this newsletter, call 612.668.3392 or send an e-mail to newsletter@windomcommunity.org*



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## WINDOM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

*Board meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month at the Windom Community Center from 7–9 PM. Community members are welcome.*

### BOARD MEMBERS:

*President* Pat Soulak

*Treasurer*

Kimberly Dalnes

Kelly Moffitt

Derek Henze

Douglas Sweet

Brian O'Shea

Trudy Barrett

Steve Rawlins

Mary Peterson



# Eyes on Windom

By Mailman Joe

"I have an affection for a great city. I feel safe in the neighborhood of man, and enjoy the sweet security of the streets." Longfellow.

I found this quote online and started thinking about all you guys. Yeah, you, my neighbors. Perhaps this nostalgia is a result of our plan to move back to Chicago in the fall (more of that in my next column) so kindly indulge my channeling Mr. Rogers for a spell.

We have some amazing folks here in Windom. Take our resident poet, Tim Nolan. A lovely writer, published (!) and a very good neighbor. So are Bob and Cathy, who for years organized the block parties and recently celebrated 50 years of wedded bliss. Neighbors. Those amazing folks on the 5600 block of Blaisdell, winners a couple of years ago of the city's Neighborhood Watch award and a group dedicated to maintaining quality of life here in Windom. Or Marie, the orchid queen and Mary the best next door neighbor ever! Oh, and John the Gardener, shoveling, plowing, planting, gossiping! Anne the cop, another GREAT eye on Windom, and her trusty companion Harley. That guy that works at every grocery store in a two-mile radius and you always see walking between them, and the guy on the skateboard who is pulled around the streets by his huge Weimaraner. All neighbors.

Sure we've got some bad seeds. This is the city after all. Mostly drug stuff, a lot of it lately on Stevens (yeah, you dude, we know, we're not stupid and we're watching.) And some folks just want to be left alone. That's cool, totally respect your privacy, but you don't know what you're missing. You should get to know the people in our little corner of heaven ("corner of heaven" because it sounds better than "MSP noise corridor.")

My customers are the best. From shoveling postal paths (and earning a special place in the afterlife) to offering water on especially hot days, coffee on sub zero ones, you guys are world class. Every kindness, every smile, has a permanent place in my memory.

I've met folks that do volunteer reading to the blind, foster abused animals, serve as election judges (my wife Nancy is one!) And we must not forget those staunch

Windom Community Council members, stewards of our streets. And all my chatty friends out on the route-Ted, Richard, Mike, Bo, John, Frank, Merlin, Susie, Cathy, and the Italians.

Oh, and how about a shout out to those littlest of citizens! You know, on a bad day (and at the Post Office, almost every day is bad) all it takes is a tiny cry of "Hi, mailman Joe!" from Clodagh, Sampson, Harry, Eliza...all the kids I've watched grow, who wouldn't even talk to me until they got used to seeing me. It seems like just yesterday my kids were that age (and starring in the shows of the late, great Pleasant Avenue Players.)

I could go on, but you get the idea. Whether in Chicago or here in Windom, it's the people that define the quality of life. I just hope that the neighborhood continues to watch out for each other, support the new businesses and civic projects that sustain our little corner of heaven. This place, where we gather to start a community garden or lament the demise of Beek's King of Pizza, even though none of us actually still ate there. But it was part of us (Rah, rah, Windom! Take that Kenny!)

And if over the past 20 years I've been perceived as a bad neighbor, I apologize. Allow me to share one more quote, from Quentin Crisp:

"Keeping up with the Joneses was a full-time job with my mother and father. It was not until many years later when I lived alone that I realized how much cheaper it was to drag the Joneses down to my level."



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# Windom South Recreation Center

5843 Wentworth Ave S Mpls, MN 55419 612-370-4980

Recreation Supervisor – Rosey Vogan (612-370-4869)

## Park Hours :

Labor Day to Memorial Day: Monday through Friday  
3 to 9 pm & Saturday: 9 am to 4 pm

Memorial Day to Labor Day: Monday through  
Thursday 12 to 8 pm & Friday 12 to 6 pm

Youth Sports Registrations: March is the month that registration begins for spring and summer youth sports teams: softball, baseball, track and tennis check at the park for exact registration dates and locations.

Start Smart Preschool Sports: The program focuses on teaching skills - without threat of competition or fear of getting hurt, while building self-esteem and self-confidence. Parent participation is required but knowledge of the sport is not! Ages 3 to 6  
Start Smart Baseball begins April 13th Session 1: 10 to 11 am, Session 2: 11 am to 12 pm \$40

New Programs offered this spring at Windom South:

Tuesday nights: Adult Self Defense -- 7 to 8 pm  
Ages 18 and up Free (Space is limited)

Thursday nights: Kids Kick Fit -- 5:30 to 6:30 pm  
Ages 6 to 12 \$30 for a 5 week session

Tuesday mornings: Nature Play Group -- 10 to 11 am  
Ages 2 to 5 \$15 for 4 week session.

Saturday afternoons: Movie Time: -- 2 to 4 pm  
Ages 11 to 17 new theme each month. Free

Saturday mornings: Just Dance with the Wii: Ages 9 to 15 11am to 12 pm Free (Space is limited)

Open Gym Times: activepass and gym wear required

Youth 8 to 12 M, Tu & Th 4 to 5 pm  
Free

Teens 13 to 17 Tu 5:30 – 8:30pm Free

Adults 18 & over F 6 – 8:30pm  
\$4 per night

Dates to pay attention to:

- March 16 – Wearing of the Green Party for Adults with Disabilities at Windom South - 2 to 4 pm \$5
- March 23 – Tots Rock at Windom South ages 7 and under 3 to 6 pm \$5 per child
- April 13 – Summer program registration begins at 9 am on line at [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org) or in person at the parks.
- April 20 – Earthday in the parks, check at your local parks for exact times and locations.
- April 20 – Spring Egg Hunt -Bring your family and celebrate the arrival of spring at Kenny Park from 10 to 11:30 am. Egg hunt starts promptly at 11. \$5 per child
- May 17 – Windom School Carnival check with the school for more information
- June 15 - Red White and Blue Ice Cream Social for Adults with Disabilities at Windom South - 2 to 4 pm \$5

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# Letter from the President

I am on an emotional high as I write this letter, having just come from the first 'Windom Reads' event at Windom School. It was great to see about 200 people from the community come together on a frigid Saturday morning, promoting children to read. Parents, children, grandparents, educators, and Windom neighbors came together and had a great time as a community. No issues, no problems, just a great time!

Over the past several months I and the Windom Council have seen the neighborhood come together with increased awareness and purpose. The Safety Committee has monthly walks that meet at a local business and walk through the neighborhood for about an hour, for the purpose of showing the community we are active and engaged and watching out for each other in an effort to discourage crime and promote safety. The Windom motels have come to Windom Council meetings and want



to be involved in discouraging crime as well. Windom neighbors are coming to the Windom Council meetings (held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm, everyone welcome!) to participate, volunteer (thank you Cameron Holley, Scott Wyffels, Patrick Barrett, Joe Sadowski) on committees, events and writing newsletter articles. New Council members Kelly Moffit, Derek Henze, Chelsey Wyffels, and Trudy Barrett are involved and bring new energy to the board and are volunteering in key roles.

Brian O'Shea is involved in developing the Windom Community Garden. The Council's goal is to have increased participation in the community with more events, such as Windom Reads, Tot's Rock (March 23rd), Safety Walks, and the Windom Festival in August. I am encouraged by this increased willingness to participate, to promote community. To do this we need people to volunteer and keep the momentum going. This is happening and it is great to see.

Best,  
Pat Soulak

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## Trudy Barrett Board Autobiography

By Trudy Barrett

I was born and raised in the state of Idaho. I come from a family of all girls. My father worked as a mechanic on cars and heavy-duty farm and construction equipment.

My mother was a housewife her whole life. I have a twin sister who was born with severe Cerebral Palsy. I was born with optic atrophy, which is the deterioration of the optic nerve, causing my blindness. My sister Wendy, who lives in Tooele, Utah is seven years younger than me. It took a lot of time on my mother's part to take care of my sisters and me. The whole family had a big part in taking care of my sister, Judy. We all took our turns in doing something. She lived until she was 17 years old.

After graduating from high school, I spent a year as a student at the Idaho Commission for the Blind, learning skills of blindness such as Braille, cane travel, typing, home management, etc. I met my husband there, who I did not like at first. He was persistent, though.

I enrolled in a two-year child care program at Boise State University where I earned an Associate degree in Early Childhood Education. I was the first blind person to graduate from this program.

After college, I married my husband, Pat. I worked at the State School and Hospital for severe and profound mentally disabled children and adults. I worked for a short time as a teacher's aide at a Child Development Center in Idaho Falls, Idaho. I also worked as a teacher's aide for a short time in Boise, Idaho's public school system.

I sold Avon for 3.5 years. During that time, I was the first blind person to serve on a federal jury. I fought for that right to serve because I felt it was important to do my civic duty.

# WINDOM SCHOOL

## Windom Dual Immersion School News

### Windom Reads Event

Windom Spanish Immersion School, Windom Council and Windom Park participated in the first ever 'Windom Reads' Event on Saturday, February 2nd at Windom School. Windom Council members Derek Henze and Trudy Barret participated along with Amanda Vallone, Windom Council Community Organizer. Derek spoke about his self published book he wrote for his son and read to children. Trudy Barrett demonstrated Braille reading to children. Amanda face painted to an eager audience of children. Windom School provided cookies, donuts, muffins and Windom Council provided juices and Caribou coffee to about 200 Windom Spanish Immersion School parents and children. Principal Lucilla Yira and PTO parent Nelson Peralta helped organize the event. Costumed character, Cat in the Hat, playfully posed for pictures with adults and children.



Windom School kicked off the Windom Reading program on February 1st to promote reading for children and as a fundraiser for the school. Children ask for adults to sponsor them and then will read for adults. The children will be involved with reading to the senior adults who dine weekly at Windom Park Congregate Dining as well, during the month of February. This is part of a fundraising effort for the school.



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# WINDOM COMMUNITY GARDEN PREPARES FOR 2ND YEAR

In 2012, over 20 gardeners helped to build the Windom Community Garden on 62nd Street and Nicollet Avenue, near the Windom Gables Townhomes. The fifteen 4ft by 20ft raised beds were rented in full or half plots by aspiring gardeners to produce healthy, locally grown food for themselves and their families. From squash, to strawberries, and far too many tomatoes, our gardeners ended up with great, organic produce throughout the summer and fall. The project was a resounding success and the Windom Community Garden is excited to be preparing for its second year.

As spring approaches, we will be renewing our permit and discussing possible expansion with the City of Minneapolis, the Windom Community Council, and MNDOT, which currently owns the land.

In the meantime, if you are interested in obtaining a plot, please contact Brian O'Shea, Chair of the Garden Committee, at [brian.patrick.oshea@gmail.com](mailto:brian.patrick.oshea@gmail.com). Plot fees are \$15 for a 4x10 half plot, and \$30 for a 4x20 full plot.

Work Weekend is May 3rd, 4th and 5th



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Here's What You Can Volunteer for Windom:

**Windom Festival Committee**

- Assist on the committee with Marketing, Entertainment, Sponsorship or Silent Auction.
- (Meets once in April, May & June; Twice in July & August)

# Windom Festival

**Event Saturday, August 17th 5pm – 8pm**

- 2pm-5pm – Assist in setting up event tables, tents and stations
- 5:00-8:pm – One Hour Shifts at: Welcome & Registration Table, Ticket Sales, Children's
- Games, Silent Auction Walkers & and Bounce House Attendants.
- 8:pm-9:pm – Tear Down Crew

