

Update from Damone

I am excited as we move forward and take action with our residents and community partners. I believe in the focus areas that the Voices of the Frogtown and Rondo communities have decided to take action on, youth and education and housing.

This community is willing to take efforts into their own hands to make changes for the better. It is time to see our community survive, thrive, and prosper. Community residents remember that you are always welcome to get involved with FRAN and make your community a better place to live.

Have questions or want to get involved with FRAN?

Contact Damone at 651-503-8724 651-222-0399 Damone.Presley@gmail.com

Check us out on Facebook.

The Frogtown Rondo Home Fund (FRHF) is a newly-formed collaboration of resident organizations, community development corporations, local government, and other community institutions that will coordinate and significantly improve housing conditions in the Frogtown and Rondo neighborhoods, with a special focus on preserving and producing affordable housing. The Frogtown Rondo Home Fund achieves its mission in three main ways:

1. Guiding development in block scale redevelopment clusters to achieve high-quality, stable housing and a fine-grained pattern of housing types.
2. Improving Frogtown and Rondo residents' knowledge and access to housing solutions.
3. Supporting community efforts to address systems that result in poor housing conditions, unequal access to housing in the neighborhood and other quality of life issues.

FRHF anticipates that by improving coordination, increasing visibility, and attracting new resources, the significant individual impacts of its members can be enhanced. The activities of FRHF are also intended to improve alignment of housing goals with the objectives of St. Paul Promise Neighborhood and the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit project.

Questions: Contact Andy Barnett, FRHF Coordinator, andy.barnett@ci.stpaul.mn.us



It is important for the community to help be the eyes and ears for the St. Paul Police Department by reporting suspicious activity. All calls to the police are valid. If you see anything that seems out of the ordinary for you, your neighbors, or your area the police WANT you to call so they are able to check it out. If you see anyone walking through alleys, in a neighbor's yard looking in windows, or attempting to enter a home CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY AT 911.

Thank you.
Vaughn Larry, Crime Prevention Coordinator,



Frogtown/Rondo Action Network



FROGTOWNRONGO ACTION NETWORK

FRAN Coordinating Committee Members

- Andy Barnett
- Angela Briggs
- Beatrice Molin
- CJ Turner
- Damone Presley
- John Slade
- Keith Swan
- Nieeta Presley
- Ronnell Roberson
- Stanley Clark
- Tisha Salinas
- Sally Holzapfel
- Vaughn Larry

Up-Coming Events

**Action Kick-Off
Saturday June 1st
1:00-3:00pm
Rondo Community Outreach Library**

At this meeting we will be taking action on two focus areas,
1. The cost to participate in rec programs
2. Access to home repair/home ownership programs

Food and drinks will be provided

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The FRAN Action Agenda

The Frogtown/Rondo Action Network has community input at its core. The base of FRAN comes from the 200 people we've interviewed, the 80 people who have come to our community meetings, and the resident leaders that make up half of our coordinating committee. We are also supported by Aurora St. Anthony NDC and Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity who has provided staff time to work on these issues.

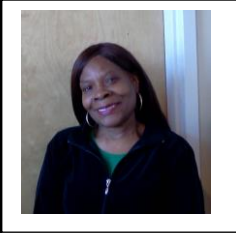
Residents know the needs of the community; they are the community. People have been stepping up into leadership roles in FRAN and making things happen. Staff members know the lay of the land in government and business areas that residents might not. Their organizations serve Frogtown and Rondo.

Residents provide the vision for the process. The 200 interviews gave us a wide view of things that are going on. The focus on three core areas – jobs and the economy, housing, and youth and education – came from the choices of 60 community members at a larger meeting.

We picked our ten top issues by public vote at another meeting. We had over 25 possible actions between our three categories. People used dots to vote for the most important issues and the top ten became the Action Agenda.

Housing got the most votes of the core areas. We chose to make the neighborhood more aware of existing housing resources. "Lower or eliminate fees at rec centers" also got many votes, and fits the capacity of FRAN right now. For jobs and the economy, we are supporting an increase in the state minimum wage.

So the knowledge of the staff people and the wisdom of the residents, with a back-and-forth dialog, have given us an Action Agenda that we are proud of.



I'm Beatrice (Bea) Molin. I'm a lifelong resident of St. Paul and proud to say I've had the privilege of living in Rondo. I recently joined the FRAN coordination committee and I am also a Resident Leader with the Power 1 Plus 1 program. I work on two focus areas with FRAN; recreation programs and housing. Both of these areas are important to me, but housing is a special passion of mine. I've had the opportunity to serve as a board member and president of the Community Stabilization Project. I believe that everyone deserves clean, decent, safe, and affordable housing. I believe in this so much that with the assistance of CSP and several others concerned residents I sued the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and WON! This lawsuit affected residents throughout the nation. I am very proud of this accomplishment. Being part of FRAN is assisting me to pursue my endeavors. I am honored to be a part of this

Recreation Programs in the Neighborhood



By Jocelyn Wiedow

Looking for after school activities, summer programs, or just fun to do in St. Paul? Check out the Sprockets Program Finder at sprocketsSaintPaul.org. The Program Finder allows you to enter zip codes, location, program type and more to find programs and activities for youth and teens near your home or school. The Program Finder is less than a year old so programs throughout St. Paul are being added every day.

Near the Frogtown and Rondo communities we have multiple partners currently participating so you can find out what is available by checking out this one website. Local organizations include; Jimmy Lee, Scheffer, West Minnehaha and MLK Rec Centers, Hallie Q. Brown, Liberty Plaza, Community Education, YWCA St. Paul, Rondo Library, SteppingStone, Urban Battle Tutoring, Cycles for Change, Boys and Girls Club Mt. Airy and Freedom School. In addition, there are partners from across Saint Paul as well.

Sprockets is a network of many different after-school and summer programs in Saint Paul that helps youth be successful by getting them involved in quality programs that spark their interests.

Martin Luther King Recreation Center, 271 Mackubin St, 651-290-8695

MLK Rec Center is part of the City of St. Paul Parks & Recreation division. The park is open and free to the public. Here are some activities and programs we offer at the center.

Open Gym – Ages 18 and under Fall, Winter, Spring 2:30pm-5pm and Summer 1pm-5pm.

Rec Check – A free after school program from 3pm-6pm for youth in Grades 1-6. Youth participate in a variety of scheduled activities including physical activities, art & crafts, reading homework help, and special events. A daily snack is provided.

Tae Kwon Do – For ages 8 and older on Tuesday and Thursday. \$70 for 3 months, \$35 for each additional family member.

Summer Blast – An afternoon program for youth Grade 6 and up. Monday-Thursday from 1pm-4pm. Activities include arts and crafts, cooking, swimming, outdoor nature activities, and outdoor and gym games play. Daily snack provided.

Summer Food Service – For ages 18 and under, 2 meals provided that include a choice of breakfast, lunch, snack, or dinner. The centers are responsible for picking their meal choices and it comes from Second Harvest.

Team Sports happen year round for youth 14 and under:

- Spring** – Floor Hockey, Futsal Soccer, Volleyball;
- Summer** – Co-ed T-ball, Co-ed Baseball, Softball;
- Fall** – Flag Football, Tackle Football, Soccer;
- Winter** – Basketball (some centers have 18 and under teams)



Summer Hours: Monday-Thursday 12pm-8pm, Friday 1pm-6pm

Home Repair Assistant Programs in the Neighborhood

Rondo Community Land Trust

The Rondo Community Land Trust is a community-based affordable housing organization working to create and preserve homeownership for low to moderate-income households in St. Paul and Suburban Ramsey County. In operation since 1993, the mission of the organization is to strengthen communities by providing permanently affordable, quality housing for families and individuals below 80% of the area median income, and to promote the community land trust model as a viable method for preserving affordable housing.

A community land trust achieves permanently affordable homeownership opportunities for low to moderate-income households by separating the ownership of the house and the land through the use of a ground lease. Rondo CLT homebuyers purchase only the house and enter into a 99-year Ground Lease with Rondo CLT for the exclusive use of the land.

Through the Homebuyer Initiated Program (HIP), Rondo CLT assists income and credit-qualified families and individuals navigate the process towards homeownership. In order to connect households to homes, we provide two types of grants: a Buy-Down Grant which provides down payment and closing costs, and a Rehab Grant which provides funds to update and improve the home to ensure its structural security. To qualify, applicants must be within 50 and 80% of area median income, and possess a credit score of 600 points or higher. Credit counseling is available when necessary.

Please contact Rondo CLT at **651-221-9884** to attend an Orientation Session and begin the process towards homeownership!



Community Neighborhood Housing Services

Community NHS, a NeighborWorks America Homeownership Center, has provided vital homeownership services to Twin Cities residents for over 30 years. As a HUD approved Counseling agency, we provide homebuyer education in a group setting and homebuyer counseling and refinance and foreclosure counseling in a confidential one-on-one setting at no cost to families. In addition, we provide home improvement loans to qualified owner occupied homeowners at below market rates to borrowers that might not otherwise qualify for a loan from a traditional financial institution.

If you are in need of the services listed above or have other questions regarding homeownership related matters, please give us a call at **651-292-8710**, stop by our office located just outside of downtown St. Paul at 35 West Water Street, St. Paul, MN 55107 or visit us on the web at www.communitynhs.org.



Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity works with low-income homeowners to repair and maintain their homes. The A Brush with Kindness Program helps ensure families are living in safe and well-maintained homes; keeps homeowners in their homes, protecting their financial investments; and restores homeowners' dignity and pride of homeownership.

ABWK works year – round, serving about 125 families with 2,000 volunteers. We partner with cities and neighborhood organizations to identify homeowners whose homes are in the greatest need of repair. Those tend to be seniors, disabled, and single-parent families. We help homeowners with minor repairs, painting, and other maintenance. This includes fixing broken windows and doors, loose siding, rotting soffits and fascia, peeling paint, missing shingles and overgrown landscaping. We match volunteers and donations to complete the repairs.

For more information contact ABWK at 612-788-8169