

The following article was written by a Nokomis Square member:

All About My Cooperative Home

Nokomis Square Cooperative was completed in 1985 with 232 apartments, although some have been combined to create larger units. My husband and I resided in South Minneapolis for fifty-eight years. After he died of cancer in July 2003, I moved to a Nokomis Square apartment in November 8, 2003.

Making My Move

The women in my family helped finish my packing and the men in the family moved my furniture. I had hired a woman through my real estate agent to measure my furniture and determine where each piece would be placed. It worked perfectly! My daughters and daughter-in-law helped put dishes, glassware and clothing in cupboards and closets.

My Kitty, eight year old Kim Chee (now diseased) came with me. Since I have two bathrooms, the one with the bathtub became her room with her food and kitty litter in containers on the floor, and her supplies in the tub.

Just as in a small town, my nearest neighbors were the first to welcome me, and I soon became acquainted with others

Our Dining Room

Our Fountain View Room is a large attractive dining room on the main floor with food served Sunday at 1:00 pm, Monday at noon, and Tuesday through Thursday at 5:00 pm. A member can dine there as often as he or she wishes, and may bring guests. One signs up for a meal by eight am on Sunday and Monday, and by 10:00 am for the evening meals. When you are not feeling well you may phone the kitchen and request your meal to be delivered. We are billed monthly. I usually feast in the Fountain View Dining Room on Sunday, often Monday for lunch and one other week night. The food is tasty and the conversation enjoyable.

Last year a coffee machine was installed in the Fountain View Dining Room: hot water for tea, delicious hot decaf or regular coffee. People gather at tables from 9 am to 4 pm. Often cookies, rolls, candy or crackers are brought to share. At 4:00 pm when the tables are being set for dinner, those who wish to continue their chat just move to The Community Room across the Atrium.

Activities

Nokomis Square members have many activities to choose from. **The Garden Committee** plants, prunes, nurtures gorgeous plants and blossoms for the Summer and Fall months, then decorate for Autumn, Halloween and the holiday season. A **Gentle Exercise Group** meets from 8-9 am three mornings a week in the Community Room. Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9 to 10:00 am about 25 members get together for **Men's Coffee**. All men are welcome. It's a great way for new gents to get acquainted and have a great time.

Monday evening about 20 women who like to knit, crochet, sew and chat gather in the Community Room. The group is called "**Busy Fingers.**" Tuesday morning from 10:00 to 11:00 am a non-denomination Bible study meets, well attended by about 30 to 40 residents.

Many afternoon and evenings various **card groups** get together. Thursday evening is called **Scrabble Night** – however, people bring whatever games they wish to play.

Members may bring items needing repair to **The Workshop** on Thursday mornings. Just ride the main elevator to the lower level. Appreciation is shown with a small donation.

Many people enjoy Bingo the first and third Saturday evenings. The second Saturday evening of the month is **BYOG** (Bring Your Own Game.) Popular favorites include Skip Bo, Rummy Cube, and, Mexican Train Dominoes.

The Activities Committee plans and sponsors **musical programs** every month, October through May and The Library Committee offers **educational programs** every month. Of, course refreshments follow both get togethers!

Many caring thoughtful people live at Nokomis Square: volunteers check every morning to see that "**I'm OK**" signs are turned by 9 am; some members, out of the goodness of their hearts, shop for their neighbor; and others offer rides for needed appointments.

The *Nokomis Smoke Signals* is a **monthly newsletter** with reflective, musing and informative articles written by our editor, staff and residents.

Nokomis Square Cooperative is a beautiful residence, but the friendly considerate people who live here are its greatest asset.

I wrote this article because I LOVE LIVING HERE!

Mary Ann