

NNN COMMUNITY DATES

LEAD EXPOSURE TOWN HALL

February 9, 6:30-8:00 PM, NNN Community Center, 1013 Portage Ave

The Local Cup Pay-It-Forward NNN Coffee Shop at 1009 Portage Avenue is Open

SUNDAY 2-4 PM

TUESDAY 7-10 AM

FRIDAY 9AM-12 PM

SATURDAY 9AM-1PM

Yoga Classes in the Mary Grace Room with Anne Clark

Mondays, 4:00-5:15 PM

Gentle/Restorative Yoga

Wednesdays, 4:00-5:15 PM

Developing Yoga Practice

Drawing & Painting with David Allen

Fridays, 10 AM-12 PM

NNN Community Center

\$10 per session

2017 NNN Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 11, 9:00-11:00 AM in the NNN Community Center

Mike Keen, Tiny Living Community Information Meeting

March 17, 5 PM in the NNN Community Center

Mike Keen, Shetterley Triangle New Energy Homes Open House, March 19,

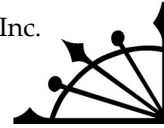
10 AM—4 PM in the NNN Community Center

2018 NNN Chili Supper Wednesday, March 29, 6:00 PM at Holy Cross School Auditorium

NNN 55+ Club meets monthly for a pot-luck, conversation and event planning .

Email nnnassistant@nearnorthwest.org for more details

Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc.
PO Box 1132
South Bend, IN 46624



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Geotagging the NNN

Neighbors and Notre Dame students will be tracking vacant and abandoned property in the NNN and overlaying that with other data to discover patterns and trends in our neighborhood. You are welcome to join :

Monday, Feb 6 and 13, 5:15 -6:45 PM, at the Center for Digital Scholarship, Hesburgh Library

Monday, Feb 20, intro to NNN, 5:30-6:30 PM, NNN Mary Grace Room

Mondays, Feb 27, March 6, 20, 27, April 3, and 10, 5:30-6:30 PM Training and data collection meeting at the NNN Mary Grace Room

Call André Stoner, 574-440-4021, to register or for more information see nearnorthwest.org

Certificate of Participation available upon request

Would you like to be on the NNN ListServ and be in contact with your neighbors about Community information and announcements?
Please email or call us with your name and email address to nnnassistant@nearnorthwest.org or 232-9182

Ask us how to use our shared space, or find more information at:
<http://www.nearnorthwest.org/neighborhood-projects/community-space-use/>

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THE COMMON GROUND

Near Northwest
Neighborhood
INCORPORATED

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc. 1007 Portage Ave. South Bend, IN 46616 574-232-9182 January, 2017

Lead Exposure in South Bend

We have been hearing Lead Poisoning and Exposure referred to as a “stubborn” problem. Locally, up to seven out of ten homes were built prior to 1980, and thus are very likely to have lead paint present in exterior and interior paint. This impacts a majority of the City of South Bend, and our entire neighborhood. Recently, it has been reported that over 30% of children tested in Census Tract 6 (west of Portage, north of Lincoln Way West) had elevated lead levels. This is a major problem, as lead exposure can seriously impact child development and health.

If we’ve known about this issue for a long time, why is there current urgency about this health issue? We believe it’s because we are becoming more aware again, with nearby health emergencies in Flint, Michigan and East Chicago, Indiana. Neither of those cases is parallel to South Bend’s problem, where there was not a lead smelting plant, and the water source is not the problem. Our problem is in our housing, our basic units of living, and in our soil, which has collected many years of lead paint.

The NNN is working with the St. Joseph County Health Department, and other local professionals and citizens who have been active in lead education, testing, outreach, and remediation. We will be gathering this affinity group to try to piece together what collective actions we can take together to respond to this issue which affects us all.

We will communicate with neighbors about this issue, and work toward increased testing. In the immediate, we would like to invite you to join us at a **Lead Exposure Town Hall Meeting, Thursday, February 9th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the NNN Community Center (1013 Portage)**. We would like to use this time to hear about your experiences, your stories and your concerns. We also plan to invite and discuss your ideas on how we can move together as a community to respond. Please plan to come and share and listen, and invite neighbors and friends in the community that you know have been impacted by lead exposure.

Kathy Schuth, NNN Executive Director

About eighty interested citizens from across the county attended the Jan 21 Lead Exposure Information Meeting in the NNN. Here Robin Vida of the St. Joseph County Public Health Dept. explains lead exposure issues



The Art of Neighboring – Thoughts from your "neighborhood networker" André Gingerich Stoner

We live in a "front porch neighborhood," not a "deck community." We meet each other as we hang out on the stoop, walk the dog, walk to our car, shovel the walks. In some neighborhoods, people drive into the garage and are never seen again. Our neighborhood is set up to build a strong sense of community. The health and vitality of a neighborhood is closely related to whether neighbors know it's hard to care about your neighbor if you don't know them.

Do you know your neighbors? Try this little exercise: Sketch a grid like a tic-tac-toe game.* Write "our home" in the middle box. The other boxes represent the neighbors on either side of you, across the street and across the ally. (Depending on your house, this may be a little different. But you get the point.)

Now in each box write the names of the people who live there. Do you know your neighbors' names? Do you know the names of the adults? Do you know the names of the children? Maybe you know the first name. Maybe you know the first and last name.

Something as simple as knowing each other's name is a powerful point of connection. There are whole life stories in a name. Greeting someone by name is a way of acknowledging and honoring that person and their story. It's a way of meeting someone face to face. When we don't know each other's name we remain anonymous. It's almost as though we're invisible to each other.

If you're up for a little more of a challenge, next write something about the person in the box below their name. Where they grew up, what work they do, what they do in their free time. And finally, what do you know about your neighbors' hopes and dreams? What are they afraid of? What motivates them?

So how did you do? Apparently about 10 percent of people know the names of all eight of their neighbors. About three percent know something more about each of their neighbors.

So, there's your challenge! Let's weave and reweave the web of relationships that make the NNN a strong, vibrant, interesting and healthy neighborhood. If you don't know your neighbor's names, go introduce yourself!

*This exercise comes from *The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside your Door*, by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon, published by Baker Books in 2012.

NNN Pastors and Leaders Weaving a Web of Relationships

Early in November, twenty pastors and leaders of churches in the NNN met for an evening of food, conversation and prayer. Eleven churches were represented -- Catholic, Missionary Baptist, Pentecostal and more. Some of those who came together have known each other for years, others were meeting for the first time.

The group wants to keep gathering to strengthen relationships and to explore ways churches can support each other and work together to serve the neighborhood. The theme for the evening was a verse from the prophet Jeremiah: "Seek the peace and well-being of the city and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its peace, you will find your peace."

We are bringing these church leaders together with other neighborhood leaders for a series of networking and training sessions this winter. David Hooker, a professor at Notre Dame with extensive community building experience, will be our resource.

This initiative is supported by a grant from the local Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Apostle Michael Patton from Kingdom Life Christian Cathedral and Rev. Gilbert Washington from St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church are working with NNN Neighborhood Networker, André Stoner, to plan this initiative.



Left to right: Pastor Daryl Murdock, Faith Deliverance Center; Assistant Pastor Ron Perry, Faith Baptist Church; Kathy Schuth, NNN Executive Director; Rev. Gilbert Washington, St. Paul Bethel Baptist

Snow Removal and Exemptions

Snow removal is one of the most neighborly things we can do in the NNN. Details about snow removal requirements and snow emergencies can be found at the www.southbendin.gov site under Household Newsletters. The South Bend January-February Newsletter that came with your most recent water bill also explains ordinances related to snow removal.

If you are disabled and cannot remove your own snow, the city now has a form you can fill out to get an exemption from enforcement. You can call 235-9251 or find the application for exemption on the www.southbendin.gov site under a search for "exemption."

The city asks residents to keep water hydrants clear of snow accumulation as well. While not required by law, quick access to hydrants is essential in case of a fire emergency in the neighborhood.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting: The Near Northwest Neighborhood Annual Meeting will be held **Saturday, March 11 from 9:00 –11:00 AM**. We gather informally from 9-9:30 for coffee, light refreshments and conversation. The meeting will celebrate the successes of 2016, look toward projects and events in the neighborhood for 2017, approve the slate of Board Members for 2017, offer time to discuss topics of interest and give us all opportunities to see old neighbors and meet new ones!

Chili Supper: One of the neighborhood's favorite end of Winter family celebrations is our annual Chili Supper which this year will be on **Wednesday March 29 at 6 PM** in the Holy Cross School Auditorium. We will once again be looking for potluck contributions of chili, desserts and corn bread. Plan on coming out, relaxing, eating and sharing conversation with neighbors. It's neighborhood generosity that makes this event both possible and such a joy to attend. Please contact Jill Joachim, nnnassistant@nearnorthwest.org for more information or to sign up with your dish of choice.

Adopt a Block: April 22, 2017 is the date for our 15th annual Adopt a Block program. Volunteers and officials from all over the city meet to adopt and clean up the over 200 blocks that make up the NNN. Details are still being planned but please save this date for the fun, family friendly day of service and community reward. We will start the day with an **8:00 AM** kickoff and group photo with more to follow in the day.

NEW Staff at the NNN

Our **NNN Neighborhood Networker, André Gingerich Stoner** is stepping forward into a full time position at the NNN. André and his wife, Cathy, have lived on Cushing St. for twenty years and raised four children there. While serving as pastor of outreach at Kern Road Mennonite Church, he helped start a partnership and tutoring program with St. Paul Bethel Baptist, a church in the NNN. He's an avid birdwatcher and has recently been enjoying watching Hooded Mergansers on the St. Joe River at the edge of our neighborhood. In January, he started working four days a week for the NNN as a Neighborhood Networker. He is helping strengthen connections across the neighborhood and bring people together to address problems of shared concern.

Jill Joachim, who was born, raised and is returned to the NNN is our new **Community Outreach and Administrative Assistant**. Please welcome both when you see them.

Lights Shine in Shetterley Park

This year Ed Talley, Andy Karafa, The Forestry Division of the City of South Bend, and a number of other helpers revived a tradition in Shetterley Park.

Years ago, an outlet at the base of a street light in Shetterley Park had powered the lights for a neighborhood Christmas tree, but the outlet had long since fallen into disrepair. It took several efforts and a number of contacts, but Ed eventually got the help he needed to repair the fixture. Andy Karafa donated LED strands of lights and Ed used a 32-foot extension ladder to string the lower half of the tree. The City of South Bend Parks Department Forestry Division used their bucket truck to complete the light stringing.

On the evening of November 20, raffle winner Walker Karafa officially lit the tree, while Angela Philpott led neighbors in Christmas Carols all covered by local ABC57. It's amazing what a little determination and a bunch of lights can do to lift a neighborhood's spirits.

New Energy Homes to Be Built in the NNN

New home construction is coming to the Shetterley Triangle using innovative construction techniques and resulting in homes that are 50-70% more energy efficient than when built using conventional stick built techniques. Dwayne Borkholder, President of New Energy Homes and creator of the new building system says, "Our goal is to change the way America builds its homes to be more sustainable and energy efficient. We cannot think of a better place to showcase our efforts than right here in South Bend and the NNN."

The homes will be built on several vacant lots in the Shetterley Triangle, an irregular block of land bounded by California, Woodward, and Demaud. The project is the brain child of Mike Keen, NNN resident and Principal of Thrive Michiana, LLC. Keen and Borkholder have been joined by landscape architect and planner Chuck Lehman. They will build 3 new homes on the east end of the Triangle. In addition, they have teamed up with Habitat-for-Humanity of St. Joseph County, which will build an additional four new homes on the lots they own on the west side of the triangle.

New Energy Homes is teaching Habitat how to use the new energy building technology and give Habitat families the benefits of high quality, sustainable home construction and design.

Ground breaking on both sides of the triangle is planned for later this spring. An Open House featuring the projects will be held at the NNN Community Center on March 19, 10AM – 4PM. For additional information, you can contact Mike Keen at mfkeen1@gmail.com.

Seeking contributions for the Common Ground: News You Can Use We are always looking for informative, interesting contributions for *The Common Ground*. Feel free to write 100-300 words about your non-editorial neighborhood happenings. Subject to editing and space available, we welcome your contributions. We also are always on the lookout for interesting photos of what's happening in the neighborhood. Jill Joachim at nnnassistant@nearnorthwest.org or Kathy Schuth at nnndirector@nearnorthwest.org have more information.