

# NNN COMMUNITY DATES

## The Local Cup Pay-It-Forward

**Coffee Shop** at 1009 Portage Avenue is Open

FRIDAY 9AM-12 PM  
SATURDAY 9AM-1PM  
SUNDAY 2-4 PM

## 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

## Urban Garden Farmer's Market; Beginning June 3

Saturdays, 9 AM—1PM, NNN 1006 Portage Parking Lot and Mary Grace Room

**DIY Homeowners Workshop:** Basics of lead remediation and renovation with John Casey

May 23, 6-8PM, NNN Community Center

## NNN 55+ Group

Monthly Potluck Dinner, May 25, 5:30 PM.

Call 232-9182 for details.

## Deliver Us from Evil, A Gospel Play

Saturday, May 20 at 6 PM

NNN Community Center

## Youth on Stage Summer Camp

Weekdays, June 19-30, NNN Community Center. See <https://youthonstage1.org/youth/> for details

**The NNN will be closed on May 29 in observance of Memorial Day**

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

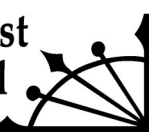


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# THE COMMON GROUND

Near Northwest  
Neighborhood  
INCORPORATED



# NEWS YOU CAN USE

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

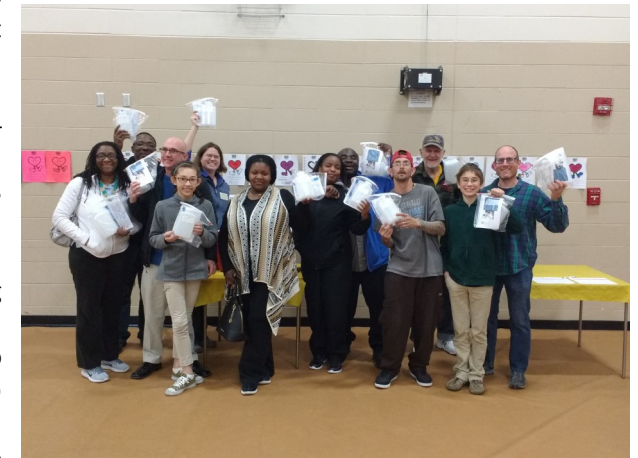
May, 2017

## NNN Works to "Get the Lead Out"

Since learning about the problems of lead exposure in our neighborhood, NNN leaders have been taking on this challenge. We have been busy doing research, building partnerships and organizing public events. In January and February the NNN sponsored an educational forum and a town hall meeting on lead. More than eighty people attended each event. We promoted water testing at our chili supper. In conjunction with the April Adopt-a-Block we distributed educational fliers to 90% of the households in census tract 6. Thirty three children, pregnant women and others came to get tested for lead exposure.

In the last five months, the South Bend Tribune has run nine front-page stories on lead. Seven were related to NNN sponsored events. This has helped educate our community and keep this issue a priority. The following has been accomplished as a result of this public attention:

- The Saint Joseph County Health Department adopted a Lead Action Plan
- Sen. David Niezgodski has co-authored a State bill to increase funding for lead testing;
- The Housing Authority has submitted a major multi-year grant to HUD to address lead contamination. The City pledged a \$100,000 match to help strengthen the application
- Notre Dame University the Health Department, and the NNN have together secured a small grant which includes money for WIC to resume lead testing



At the chili supper, neighbors got kits to have their water tested. Results so far all indicate levels below federal safety guidelines

## Church in the City

Fifteen NNN pastors and church leaders travelled to Chicago for two days at the end of April. They visited four churches that are deeply connected to their neighborhoods and involved in a wide variety of social and spiritual ministries. The trip wasn't all work, though. The group ate and laughed together plenty. Leaders came back with ideas and energy for engaging in our neighborhood and with new friendships. The trip was made possible through a grant from the local Catholic Campaign for Human Development. It was planned by Apostle Michael Patton (Kingdom Life Christian Cathedral), Rev. Gilbert Washington (St. Paul Bethel Baptist) and André Stoner, neighborhood networker with the NNN. We anticipate further Faith Roundtable meetings for this group and other pastors and church leaders from the neighborhood.



## One-on-one Trainings Scheduled

How often have you sat on a committee with someone for years, and not known the first thing about them? Or lived on the same block with someone and not known their name, or what is important to them?

One of the sources of power for a community organization is the web of relationships that we develop. Relational meetings, or "one-on-ones," are building blocks for community organizing. The idea is very simple, but to be done well it takes skill and practice. Rev. Gilbert Washington (St. Paul Bethel Baptist Church) and André Stoner, (NNN Neighborhood Networker), are leading training sessions on one-on-ones on May 25, June 1 and 13, 7-8:30 PM. These sessions are open to NNN neighbors who want to work together to build our community. Please pre-register for a session with a call to André at 232-9182.

## DIY Homeowner's Workshop

Learn the basics about Lead Paint Repair & Renovation, Tuesday, May 23rd, 6-8 PM at the NNN Community Center, 1013 Portage Avenue.

**Reservations Required—Maximum 30 participants.** This is a FREE workshop. Donations welcome. RSVP to [nnnassistant@nearnorthwest.org](mailto:nnnassistant@nearnorthwest.org) or call 574/232-9182

Interior and exterior lead paint exists in most houses built prior to 1980. If you're planning to work on your house, or want more information about renovation techniques, please sign up to attend this two-hour informational seminar, led by John Casey of GreenTree Environmental. This is not a certification course, but will offer basics of home lead remediation and renovation techniques and methods

John Casey is a HUD-approved and audited Lead Safe Work Practice instructor, an EPA-accredited RRP trainer and an approved trainer for the Abatement Worker and Project Supervisor courses in Indiana. Greentree Environmental Services is a full-service environmental company specializing in the testing and treatment of lead-based paint, mold, and defective "Chinese" drywall, as well as offering training courses for contractors.

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](mailto: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 Art of Neighboring

Thoughts from your "neighborhood networker" André Gingerich Stoner

Imagine meeting an accomplished university professor, known for brilliant research, scholarly publications, and inspiring teaching. Then imagine discovering that his father was an alcoholic, that he just divorced his second wife, that his finances are a mess, and that he struggles with bouts of depression. And what about the neighbor who hasn't had a steady job for some time and possibly struggles with an addiction, but can make an electric guitar sing. Do you see these people primarily as gifted and able, or as lacking and needy? Generally defining someone by their needs is not a good basis for a healthy relationship – or for drawing out the best in them.

The same kinds of assumptions can play out in neighborhoods. When people come to neighborhoods like ours, they often see primarily the problems. They see what's lacking. They focus their attention on what seems missing, developing lengthy "needs assessments." A whole neighborhood is defined as impoverished, violence-ridden, lacking. And the people who live there are viewed first and foremost as having problems.

Instead, imagine putting our attention first and foremost on people's assets. What skills or talents do they have? What do they like? What do they care about? Who do they know? Where do they show kindness and human solidarity? What experience or knowledge do they have that they could teach others? What reservoirs of strength have helped them survive hardship and injustice? Then imagine highlighting and celebrating these assets, encouraging them, building on them.

As you meet your neighbors, both old and new, I challenge you to try to discover their strengths and gifts. And as you are active in our neighborhood, spend time focusing on the resources and assets we have. How can we highlight, strengthen and build on the gifts of all our neighbors and our neighborhood, in order to grow as a vibrant and flourishing community?

## 2017 Chili Supper Winners

Vegetarian Chili – **Michelle Gloss**

Hottest Chili - **Nickolai Stieglitz**

Most Unique Chili – **Andy Grontkowski**

Meanest Chili – **John Mynesberge**

Most Surprising Chili – First time chili maker, **Pat Kepschull**

Office Bragging Rights—**Jeff Stanifer**



Chilling out, chatting and eating chili! March 29, 2017



SBPD Units fill the East Parking Lot at the NNN

## SBPD Roll Call at the NNN

On a fine weather day, the South Bend Police Department held their First to Second Shift Roll Call at the NNN Community Center, Saturday, April 15 from 1-5 PM.

Over forty officers, a significant group of NNN Neighbors and friends of the police were present to watch how roll call happens and how information is shared between shifts. With 19 patrol officers working a shift, roll call allots beat assignments. The NNN is Beat 19.

Officers came early and stayed until late afternoon to chat with neighbors about policing in general and local concerns in particular.

In addition to beat officers, we got to meet Officer Steve Noonan who is police liaison for the nuisance property ordinance. Officer Noonan investigates and vets every code and police complaint that might trigger nuisance property actions by the city. It's a big job!

Overall, Chief Scott Ruskowski stressed that it is very important that when neighbors are concerned about potentially dangerous or illegal area activity, that we call and inform the SBPD. In essence, they don't know what to watch for if residents are not communicating what needs to be watched. Calling the police 911 number for violent and in-progress crimes or the 235-9201 general reporting number may be the only way police know there is a problem or how large that problem is. It informs how they patrol our neighborhood.

We want to thank the South Bend Police Department for spending the afternoon with us!

## Annual Meeting 2017 Celebrating Accomplishments, Moving Forward

Neighbors, friends and local officials gathered Saturday, March 11, 2017 at the NNN Community for NNN's Annual Meeting/Breakfast and celebrated another successful year of NNN accomplishments. It was fun and friendly event.

Board Chair, Mike Hebbeler opened the meeting with a focus on how 2016 was devoted to physically revitalizing the neighborhood, strengthening the social fabric of our community, and ensuring the long-term viability of the organization. About 85 guests learned first hand about the significant steps NNN took over the past year to **increase focus on creating a neighborhood where all are welcome and there is a high quality of life for all.**

Jeff Stanifer, Property Development Specialist, explained the four housing rehabilitation projects completed last year and updated the group on other ongoing projects on Leland Avenue and work Mike Keen and Thrive Michiana are taking on at the Shetterley Triangle. He also explained the status of the Ford Building Tax Credit Project, which failed to gain funding from the state. Residents will be kept updated about the future for this property.

Andre Stoner, Neighborhood Networker highlighted NNN community engagement efforts from the past year. Sharing the NNN Community spaces connects us with a wide range of neighbors and groups.

Andre closed by saluting our amazing partner, The Local Cup and his own Church in the City Initiative! Both support and expand the neighborhood in special ways.

Barbara Devereaux reported on the success of the 55+ group. Mary Turgi handled the "business" of the meeting, gaining approval of last year's minutes and new board members. Kim Barrier reported on financial results, noting that cash flow, revenue and expense management all trended positively in 2015. Clark Glover covered Annual Events for the year at the NNN. Mr. Qilong Lu received the first annual Spirit of the NNN Award!

Last but not least, the Board of Directors and staff of the Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc. extended a deep gratitude to all their supporters. The organization succeeds because of all of you. Hope to see you again next year!



## 15th Annual Adopt-A-Block a Huge Success



Neighbors gathered, volunteers showed up and we made a huge impact on the neighborhood on April 22, 2017. And as a special treat, Morel Mushrooms were found!

**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](mailto:nnnassistant@nearnorthwest.org) or Kathy Schuth at [nnndirector@nearnorthwest.org](mailto:nnndirector@nearnorthwest.org) have more information.