

NNN COMMUNITY DATES

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

THURSDAY	6-9PM
FRIDAY	9AM-1PM
SATURDAY	9AM-1PM
SUNDAY	1-4 PM

**Yoga Classes in the Mary Grace
Room with Anne Clark**
Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:00-5:15 PM
Drawing & Painting with David Allen
Fridays, 10 AM-12 PM
NNN Community Center, \$10 per session

**Zumba with Carlos Centellas in the
Community Center**
Tuesdays and Fridays, 6-7PM, \$5.00
**Urban Garden Farmer's Market;
Through October 28**
Saturdays, 9AM-1PM, NNN, 1006 Portage
Parking Lot and Mary Grace Room
NNN 55+ Group
Monthly Potluck Dinner, Call 232-9182
for details.

**Community for Peace and
Nonviolence Meeting**
Saturday, Sept 9 at 1:30PM in the
Community Center
**Community Center Meeting with
Martin's Management Team**
Monday, 9/18, 6:30-8PM
**Avenue's Edge Meeting (Ford Build-
ing)**
September 20, 2017, 6-7:30PM in the
Community Room

**One on One Training in the Mary
Grace Room, 6:30-8PM**
9/21, 9/28 or 10/17
**Kids Time In the Community Center
or Mary Grace Room, 10-11:30am**
9/2, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 11/4, 11/18,
11/25, 12/2, 12/9

Arts Café, October 29, 11AM-5PM

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



Urban Garden Farmer's Market,

With the input of Karen Haun

The Urban Garden Farmer's Market (UGFM) has an open market each Saturday, 9AM-1PM through the end of October, operating in the Mary Grace Room and the 1006 Portage Parking Lot.

They have added so much to NNN weekends, both in terms of generating a sense of community and also because the food they offer is so welcome!

The UGFM held two special events on Labor Day weekend. The Annual Corn Roast on September 2 featured a FREE ear of corn for each person, while supplies lasted.

Also on September 2, the UGFM hosted a cat adoption event in the Mary Grace room, with cats from South Bend Animal Care and Control.

The market is always looking for home based businesses to join them: bakers, crafters, artists and urban farmers. Call 574-367-8762, for additional information.

Please support the UGFM through the end of October.

Neighbors Eclipse all Expectations

Where were YOU during the eclipse? On Monday, August 21, in addition to hosting newly-arrived Notre Dame Lyons and Morrissey Hall students who visited as part of their orientation, an impromptu eclipse event broke out at the NNN. Lemonade, grapes and the comment "Oh my gosh!" featured prominently while the moon dimmed the sun.

Thanks to Gene's Camera, we had excellent, safe glasses through which to see the sun disappear and re-appear.



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 September, 2017

Project Reinvest Grant Award

We are very proud to announce that the Near Northwest Neighborhood has received a special one-time Project Reinvest Grant through NeighborWorks America!

NeighborWorks America recently awarded \$27.5 million in neighborhood stabilization grants to 55 nonprofit organizations nationally to help stabilize and revitalize distressed communities suffering from the direct and/or indirect effects of the foreclosure crisis. These one-time \$500,000 grants, awarded after a competitive process conducted by third party reviewers, are part of Project Reinvest, a limited and targeted program from NeighborWorks America, not related to its core grant operations.

The 55 grantees include both NeighborWorks network and non-network organizations. With our Project Reinvest: Neighborhoods grant we have proposed a multitude of projects, many of which increase and bolster existing programs. These funds will be added to augment our housing rehabilitation work, and create new housing construction. The funds also will be utilized for a housing deconstruction demonstration project, neighborhood leadership programs, a community-created mural in the NNN courtyard (see inside for more info), lighting in the NNN parking lots, and the replacement of our much-missed NNN Neighborhood sign.

We are so pleased to see opportunities available for true neighborhood stabilization, and to be awarded such a highly competitive grant. All of this reflects on our shared neighborhood commitment to community, to engagement, and to a great shared quality of life for all of our neighbors. We are being recognized as a powerful agent of community creation – and thus we are ever in gratitude to our amazing NNN community.

One-on-One Trainings

In the last four months, André Stoner (NNN Neighborhood Networker) and Reverend Gilbert Washington have trained 45 neighbors in "one-on-one relational meetings." In July, we had a "one-on-one fest" to give these leaders an easy opportunity for connecting with others. We now have a core team of seven or eight people who are regularly doing one-on-ones in the neighborhood. Some of us have a goal of one meeting each week. We will meet together every six weeks or so to share our experiences and encourage each other.

If you want to get in on the fun, we are planning three training sessions this fall; **September 21 or 28 or October 18 from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Mary Grace Room.** These sessions are open to anyone who lives, works or worships in the NNN and who wants to build a strong and vibrant community. To register for a session call André at 574-440-4021.

Arts Café October 29, 2017

Save that Date: The Annual Arts Café will be returning on Sunday October 29, 11am-5pm, rain or shine. Additions this year will be a third hay ride wagon, Community Mural unveiling and a special-themed-costume contest. Details soon to be published on the ListServe. This is a great reason to subscribe to that group; simply email nnnassistant@nearnorthwest.org and get on the list.

Returning favorite activities include home tours, the Kid Zone, music, artists, craftspeople, food and so much more! Contact the office about volunteering, being a participant or with any questions.

The Art of Neighboring

*Thoughts from your "Neighborhood Networker"
André Gingerich Stoner*

How do we weave a strong web of relationships across our neighborhood? Sometimes relationships just happen, but it's amazing how far we can get with a little intentionality. That's why at the NNN we've trained 45 neighbors in "one-on-one relational meetings" in the past four months.

A "one-on-one" is two people meeting to get to know each other. It is a chance to learn a little about the person's story – where they grew up, family and work experiences, and so on. More important than the who, what, where and when, however, is the "why?" "Why did you make that move?" "Why did you choose that work?" and so on. That's when you find out what people care about and what motivates them. But the most important thing is a sense of curiosity about the other person and a delight in the encounter. It's amazing the connection and the relationship that can be built in just 45 minutes. The idea of one-on-ones is very simple, but to be done well it takes training and practice.

When I first moved to South Bend more than twenty years ago, I was part of the pastoral team at a predominantly white congregation. Given the racial divides in our culture and the church, it was important for me to build relationships in the Black community and with Black pastors in town. I discovered that if I spent less than an hour a week building a relationship with an African-American pastor, by the end of the year, I'd have a wealth of relationships, and a much deeper understanding and sense of connection to my community.

I invite you to attend an upcoming one-on-one training, and in the meantime be deliberate about building relationships with your neighbors. See Page 1 for training dates and details.

Seeking contributions for the Common Ground: News You Can Use Feel free to write 100-300 words about your non-editorial neighborhood happenings. Subject to editing and space available, we welcome your contributions. Jill Joachim at nnnassistant@nearnorthwest.org or Kathy Schuth at nnndirector@nearnorthwest.org have more information.



NNN Community Mural Project

Plans for a Community Mural on the exterior back wall of the NNN offices are moving along nicely. Thanks to the many neighbors who have contributed with ideas and images, especially those who have attended the planning meetings. Local artists Heather Parrish, Nalani Stolz, and Maclovio Cantu are guiding this community process to create a mural reflective of our neighborhood, considering its particular history, memories, unique characteristics, and hopes for the future. And that's where we need your help! Please submit via email to localcupmural@gmail.com descriptions and/or images of unique features of the NNN that you'd like to see represented in the mural. Whether it's a train track, lamppost, tree-lined avenue, historic home, or ducks walking across the street, tell us about an NNN feature you want to celebrate! Creative ideas will continue to be sketched and discussed, and painting will commence in September with a series of weekend sessions open to the whole community. So come out and paint with us, and then celebrate the unveiling of our mural at Arts Cafe on October 29th!



Our New "Portage Meat and Market" to Open October 5

When Martin's Super Market announced mid-June that changes were coming to their Portage/Elwood Store, many neighbors had grave concerns. A strong and vibrant neighborhood needs a quality full-service supermarket.

The Martin's plaza is important not just for the Near Northwest Neighborhood, but for this entire quadrant of the city, including the Far North West Neighborhood, Keller Park, and Woodlawn. John Tugman, from Holy Cross Catholic Church, has coined the phrase ELPO (Elwood-Portage) for this area. More than 14,000 people live within one mile of the Martin's plaza.

Since Martin's made its announcement, NNN staff has been consulting with leaders in the NNN and adjoining neighborhoods, our city councilmembers, the Chamber of Commerce and other businesses leaders.

On August 24, NNN staff convened a meeting for nine leaders from the ELPO region and three Martin's managers, including Doug Kizer, the Portage store manager, and Chris Hawley, the Director of Operations who oversees half of the Martin's stores. The Elwood Store, they say, has been losing money for ten years. The Martin's team laid out plans for the store.

The new store will scale down from roughly 56,000 to 35,000 square feet, removing the deli and bakery and reducing overhead. The new name will be "Portage Meat and Market" with the tagline "*Proudly serving the northwest side.*" This name reflects the neighborhood identity and allows greater flexibility in contracting with suppliers. The intention is to bring products of interest to neighborhood shoppers and to be able to lower price points. The store will close Sept 29 and re-open on October 5.

In our meeting, NNN leadership shared a vision of the Martin's plaza and the Portage business corridor being an attractive and thriving social and economic hub, with restaurants, bakery, a great grocery and other gathering spots. We anticipate that in coming years, the coal line trail and the Drewery's brewery site on either side of the Martin's plaza will be developed. We urged Martin's Supermarkets managers to invest in an attractive space with good products. Small doesn't have to be worse.

We know that these changes take time and will come in phases, but we want to work with Martin's management and other partners to make our Portage Market a thriving neighborhood business. Martin's management team welcomes this kind of partnership.

We have published a survey for neighbors to find out who shops at the store, and why or why not. It is at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5KJWJ3S>. Feel free to take the survey.

Lead Exposure: Community Health Workers for the NNN

The NNN is seeking an EPA Environmental Justice grant to match a grant from the Community Foundation. This would make it possible to employ part-time Community Health Workers in a pilot program for a year!

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are members of the community who can help connect neighbors with information and services. They can also help affected neighbors work together to advocate for policies that address health and wellness issues. Our goal for NNN CHWs is to focus on lead in our neighborhood.

Specific goals for the CHWs will be to increase the percentage of children who are tested for lead exposure; to identify all the children in the neighborhood who have elevated blood levels and connect them with services; and to increase levels of awareness about lead contamination and prevention among neighbors. NNN staff is working with partners at Notre Dame University to set and measure specific outcomes.

This fall, we hope to hire two part-time Community Health Workers. They must be well-connected to the neighborhood with a demonstrated concern for the well-being and health of our neighbors, be 18 years old, and have a high school diploma or GED. Hours will be flexible.

Staff will receive training and CHW certification. Contact the NNN office later this fall for further information at 574 232 9182

New Market (continued) We also are planning for a **Community Meeting on Monday, September 18, 6:30-8PM** for neighbors to meet the store manager, learn more details and share ideas and vision for the store and the plaza.