

## NNN COMMUNITY DATES

**Portage Elwood Charrette** May 6-9, see page 1 for details and times

**NNN Annual Meeting and Mixer** May 10 at 5:30 PM at 1013 Portage Ave Community Center

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

FRIDAY 9AM-1PM

SATURDAY 9AM-1PM

SUNDAY 1-4 PM

**Local Cup Graduates' Open House**, May 19 2:30 PM

**Stop the Bleed** First Aid Training June 6, 5:30 PM in the NNN Community Center

**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, 6-7 PM, \$5.00

**Argentine Tango Classes** will be starting on Saturday Evenings in February

**Urban Garden Farmer's Market;**

Opening June 2, 2018 in the 1006 Portage Parking Lot

**NNN 55+ Group**

Monthly Potluck Dinner, Call 232-9182 for details.

**Kids Time in the Community Center or Mary Grace Room, 10-11:30 AM** May 5

**Registration Required Events:**

**Please Call the office for additional contact information**

**Girl Scout Troop 51006** Meets Monday Nights

**Michiana Community Male Chorus** meets Thursday evenings

**Real Services** periodically holds classes in the NNN. Call them for details: 233-8205

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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Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc.  
1007 Portage Ave  
South Bend, IN 46624



## NNN Chili Supper

On March 7, 2018 Neighbors and Community Partners gathered in the Holy Cross Grade School Gymnasium to share in the Annual NNN Chili Supper. A large crowd filled the space as chili and cornbread overflowed bowls and hearts. We want to thank all our cooks, bakers and helpers, as well as the generosity of Holy Cross Parish in sharing their space. A special tip of the hat to Colleen New, her Kid Zone and those beautiful piñatas.

Most importantly, here are winners of the Chili contest:

**John and Nola Mynesburg**

**Pat Kepschull**

**Scott Banaka**

**Cyn Haas**

**Jeff Stanifer & Andre Stone (tie)**

**Lyle Lantz**

**Mike Hebbeler**

**Sheila McCarthy**

**Jess Hunter Bowman**

Congratulations and Thanks to ALL! We hope you will continue to practice your chili-making, and plan to join us next year



# 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 2018

## Portage & Elwood (Martin's Plaza) Neighborhood Center Vision

Neighbors, we've reported our interest and efforts focusing on the changes at the Grocery Store at Portage and Elwood in previous newsletters. Now, the City of South Bend is inviting all neighbors to participate in a community visioning process for the Elwood Plaza, the Drewry's site, and Muessel Grove Park. We hope you are able to come and share your vision for this large and important area of the northwest side.

The City's Portage & Elwood Neighborhood Center Vision framework is intended to serve as a guide to business and property owners, residents, developers, City staff, elected officials, and others in making investment, land use and design decisions. The objectives of the Framework are to:

- Establish a community vision for the Center;
- Facilitate the revitalization of the underutilized and underdeveloped Center;
- Ensure attractive, well designed development that enhances the image of the Northwest side and the City;
- Ensure desirable, multifunctional, and unique development which fits into its surroundings and that serves the needs of city residents;
- Generate private investment in and near the Center; and
- Direct improvements to public infrastructure such as streets, sidewalks and open spaces, within the Center.

The City of South Bend has hired consultant Opticos Design, Inc. to lead a design charrette to develop a market-based conceptual framework for the Portage & Elwood Neighborhood Center. Neighbors and community members were invited to attend a public meeting with City staff and Opticos Design, Inc. to share their thoughts and help create a vision for the area, with approximately 75 participants attending on April 17, 2018.

### Design Charrette, May 6-9, 2018 at NNN Community Center

Neighbors and community members are invited to share their ideas for the future vision of the Portage & Elwood Neighborhood Center during a four-day workshop. There will be multiple chances for the public to be involved and share their thoughts. The community is welcome to attend any or all sessions:

**Sunday, May 6th**

**Monday, May 7th**

**Monday, May 7th**

**Tuesday, May 8th**

**Tuesday, May 8th**

**Wednesday, May 9th**

**Wednesday, May 9th**

**4pm - 6pm**

**10am - 5pm**

**5pm - 7 pm**

**10am - 5pm**

**12pm - 1pm**

**10am - 1pm**

**6pm - 8 pm**

**Opening Presentation**

**Open Studio drop-in hours**

**Public Open House**

**Open Studio drop-in hours**

**Brown Bag Lunch Talk**

**Open Studio drop-in hours**

**Closing Presentation**

Portage & Elwood  
Neighborhood Center Visioning Workshop



All sessions will be held at the Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc. Community Space, 1013 Portage Ave. Parking is available across the street from the space as well as next to the building. For additional information about the Portage & Elwood Neighborhood Center Vision, contact the Department of Community Investment at 574-235-5821. Information is also available at <http://www.southbendin.gov/government/content/portage-elwood-neighborhood-center-vision>

## The Art of Neighboring

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

Flourishing communities and neighborhoods have multiple "third places," spaces where people can hang-out, talk, meet new people and old friends. They are different than the privacy of homes ("first place"), or the structure of work ("second places").

One important "third place" in the NNN is The Local Cup, housed in the NNN building on Portage. Other "third places" in the neighborhood are Frank's Place (I'm always struck by the mix of folks in our neighborhood tavern), the Sunrise Café, schools and parks. I've often said we live in a "front-porch neighborhood," not a "deck sub-division." In our neighborhood, streets and sidewalks are "third places" for meeting neighbors and building community.

Some of the characteristics of "third places" are that they are accessible and neutral ground where everyone feels welcome; they are leveling places where economic or social status don't matter; conversation is a main activity; the mood is playful; and old and new friends can be found there. This spring and summer, take some time to hang out in our "third places" and enjoy the neighborhood!

## Green and Healthy Homes Initiative

After working on issues of lead contamination for more than a year, the NNN along with other partners, is encouraging the city of South Bend to become a Green and Healthy Homes Initiative "compact city."

GHHI is a national leader in addressing lead contamination. Based in Baltimore, GHHI was successful in reducing lead contamination in Maryland by 98% working strategically and intentionally over a fifteen-year period.

Attend the NNN annual meeting on Thursday, May 10, as we hear from the Mayor's office how his administration plans to partner with GHHI to make our community lead-safe.

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

## Mulch Madness in the NNN!

On April 14, NNN neighbors, the NNN Community Outreach Team, and nearly 120 volunteers from Notre Dame, as part of the Back the Bend Day, and beyond, spread mulch around dozens of NNN homes. At the beginning of March, a smaller team did an illuminating and successful trial run on one block.

All together, we mulched almost 100 houses – more than 70% - in the fifteen block area of Sherman, Harrison and Cottage Grove, between California and LWW. The NNN Community Outreach Team went door to door three times a week in the eight weeks before the big event, making contact with more than 80% of the residents to gain consent for mulch distribution.

The primary purpose of Mulch Madness, was to cover bare soil most likely to be contaminated with lead. This physical barrier reduces direct contact to lead-contaminated soil as well as exposure to lead through dust. This partnership was part of the ongoing work of the NNN to respond to the high levels of lead contamination in parts of our neighborhood.



## Community Outreach Team Meeting Neighbors

Kim Brantley, Emily Dean and Kim Clowers, three-part time members of the NNN team, are hard at work. Their primary focus is on the problem of lead contamination especially in Census Tract 6, the part of our neighborhood west of Portage Ave.

After community health worker training in January, they have been learning about lead and meeting partners including staff at the St. Joseph County Health Department, Notre Dame, neighborhood churches and schools.

In March and April they went door to door preparing for Mulch Madness. They are now going door to door in the neighborhood, especially building relationships with families with children under the age of seven. They will then follow-up with families with information and resources to prevent lead contamination.

If you see members of the team around the neighborhood, please introduce yourselves and introduce them to your neighbors!

## Shetterley Triangle Groundbreaking

A formal groundbreaking was held on April 27th on the site where six new houses will be built in the Shetterley Triangle, and one home renovated.

The six homes have been designed by New Energy Homes. Four of them will be built by Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County as a precursor to the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project in Mishawaka, August 26-31, 2018. The other two will be built by Thrive Michiana and New Energy Homes and sold at market rate. Shetterley Triangle is bounded by California, Woodward, and De Maude avenues.

We look forward to welcoming new neighbors! Any potential homeowners interested in a Habitat home, are encouraged to contact Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County at <https://www.hfhsjc.org/homeownership/>

## Adopt a Block Rocks Neighborhood Streets

At the very heart of functioning Neighborhoods there is a spirit of shared purpose and vision. The NNN's shared spirit is always highly visible at the Annual Adopt A Block. This year on April 14 we gathered on a relatively soggy, if not overly cold Saturday morning to hit our streets, pick up litter and enjoy one another's company.

It was a very communal effort. Doug Kizer of Portage Meat and Market made a last minute delivery of donuts after his delivery truck broke down on the bypass, then suffered lift-gate issues. Not to fear, Doug made sure we had our favorite dunkers just before the doors opened at 8 AM. Neighbors got a bite to eat, met old and new friends, caught up on the latest local news, posed for a community photo and then took to the streets of the NNN.

It was delightful that some of the very neighbors that cleaned blocks during the week prior to the official clean up day still showed up to share coffee and light breakfast fare. Rain did not dampen spirits as volunteers remained resolutely cheerful throughout the event. Many returned to the NNN/Local Cup after cleaning up to bask in the warm glow of civic engagement, donuts and coffee.

The crew from South Bend Code Enforcement was as always instrumental in the logistic success of the day. They provided support by driving local streets, handing out supplies and generally supporting neighbors however they could. Organizer Clark Glover did his usual amazing job wrangling helpers from across and beyond the neighborhood. Our heartfelt thanks to all who had a hand in this year's success.

Adopt A Block succeeds because neighbors work together. It's always a clear reminder that community is alive and well in our part of the City of South Bend.

