



NNN COMMUNITY DATES

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

FRIDAY 9AM-1PM

SATURDAY 9AM-1PM

SUNDAY 1-5 PM

TUESDAY 7-10 AM

EVENTS

Saturday, April 27, 10 AM Mulch Madness, (see page 3)

Sunday, April 28, 4-6PM, Faith in St. Joseph County training in one-on-one relational meetings at Little Flower Church

Tuesday, May 7 6 AM-6PM Indiana Primary Voting at your precinct

Thursday, May 9, 6 PM, NNN Annual Meeting at the 1013 Community Center

Saturday, May 18, 9AM Urban Garden Farmer's Market opens for the year in the 1006 Portage Parking Lot

Saturday, May 25, 12-2PM, Dream Makers Art Camp Open House and Mini Fun Fair in the Community Center. Come for the fun or find out more information about 4 weeks of Summer Camp being held in June and July in the 1013 Portage Community Center

Monday, June 3 4:30—8 PM, Best Family Game Night Extravaganza, NNN Community Center, 900-1000 Block of California

ONGOING

Yoga Classes in the Mary Grace Room with Anne Clark, Mondays, 4-5:15 PM, no charge

Zumba with Carlos Centellas in the Community Center, Tuesdays 6-7 PM, \$5.00 per session

Hoop Embodiment Classes, 6:15-7:15 PM in the Community Center, most Wednesday evenings, \$ Fee

Drawing & Painting with David Allen, Fridays, 10 AM-12 PM, NNN Community Center, \$10 per session

Kid Time many Saturdays, 10-11:30 AM in the Mary Grace Room. See The Local Cup Facebook page for more information

Casual Kids Get Together, 10-11:30 AM in the Mary Grace Room on the third Fridays of the Month

REGISTRATION REQUIRED EVENTS: *Please call the office for additional information*

Michiana Community Male Chorus meets Thursday evenings

Spinefulness classes are held off and on at the NNN

Dream Maker's Art Camp Weeks of June 10, July 8, July 22 and July 29 at the NNN

Neighborhood House Meetings April through October, 2019

THE COMMON GROUND

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc. 1007 Portage Ave. South Bend, IN 46616 574.232.9182

APRIL, 2019

House Meetings in the NNN

Would you be willing to invite ten to twelve neighbors and friends into your home to share food and conversation together for two hours? You do the inviting and arrange for food, and the NNN will help facilitate the conversation. During the last several months, there have been three house meetings like this.

It can be especially rich to bring together circles of acquaintances who may not all know each other. One recent conversation brought together home owners and renters who live on the same block, but haven't had many connections. In addition to building relationships, these conversations give participants a chance to talk about what's working and what's not in our neighborhood; where are things humming and where are we stuck?

The steering committee for the NNN organizing project has been consulting with Dr. David Hooker, associate professor for conflict transformation at ND. We hope to have 15-20 house meetings in our neighborhood during the next six months. Contact Andre Stoner if you want to be involved at andregstoner@gmail.com or 574-440-4021.

Best. Game. Night. Extravaganza. Monday, June 3rd

The NNN will be hosting a **Best. Week. Ever.** event on Monday, June 3rd this year! Save the date! Fun for all ages - there will be good food, we'll close down the street, set up the yard for the yard games, and the tables for the board and table games. The event will start at 4:30 p.m.

Bring your own game to teach a new friend or two - or bring your game and all your players to enjoy the atmosphere.

We have invited food vendors, and are grateful for the partnerships with South Bend Venues Parks and Arts. We'd also like to thank NNN Board Members, Venus Myles and Jessica Dieter for being lead organizers of this new event!



The Art of Neighboring

Guest author: Jill Joachim

All of us have had occasion to ask for city services like replacing street lights, removing abandoned cars, sweeping the street, fixing pot holes, getting rid of long grass or the like. For many of these issues the City's 311 phone line can be a great help. I've heard lots of 311 horror stories from residents; yet I often have really successful encounters with the service. Here is how I think I get such positive results.

Have the facts at hand: Before you call, note down addresses, cross streets, dates, sides of streets (N, S, SE, whatever), utility pole numbers, license plate numbers and the like, so that you can completely describe the WHERE/WHAT of your issue.

Stick to the facts with no war stories: Leave your emotions off the call and concisely describe the issue. 311 can handle more calls effectively when you stick to the facts and leave out the long description of the emotional pain this is causing you.

Keep an open mind and a smile in your voice: I often start by saying "I'm not sure if..." or "who...?" I get great service when I do that, because often I am wrong about if/how the problem can be solved or who can solve it. Let the 311 operator handle that.

Check what's enforceable before you call: <https://311.southbendin.gov/> explains what 311 is authorized to handle and what it is not. Code violations are explained in detail here: <https://311.southbendin.gov/knowledgecenter/?deptid=0c5c0307-f889-e811-a962-000d3a30db97>. Issues not on those lists probably need to be communicated to city officials rather than 311.

Don't expect a Ritz Carleton level Concierge response: While 311 is a front line customer service organization, they don't have super powers. I call with an even, pleasant tone and thank them for their help, because the best way to get good customer service is to appreciate the person who is doing that service job.

And for the odd occasion when you have a toughie on which 311 strikes out, give us a call at the NNN. Sometimes we can see a plan B, sometimes not. But I remember a case where 311, Code, the resident and I were all at a loss to find a way that Code could solve a problem. The question was better addressed by zoning and Kathy figured that out. So sometimes, we can help with another way of looking at an issue!



Treatment, not Incarceration

Between 40 and 50 NNN neighbors and church members attended the Faith in St. Joe County Town Hall, joining a diverse crowd of more than five hundred people of faith and goodwill who met at Sinai Synagogue on March 24. The NNN has been partnering with faith communities and other community groups in this work.

At this Town Hall, personal testimonies highlighted the theme of investing in treatment and prevention to reduce violence and rates of incarceration. A research report lamented that in St. Joe County, the jail is the de-facto detox center and for too many families, the place we receive mental health services. Concrete strategies were proposed for jail diversion and creating a path out of street life.

Sheriff Redman, County Commissioner President Andy Kostielney, and our 1st district council rep and Common Council President, Tim Scott, committed to work with Faith in St. Joe County (FISJC) and other partners to develop a plan to reduce incarceration and gun violence by 30% in three years including working to find funding streams for this work. This is good news for many of our families and for the NNN as a whole! Several members of the NNN organizing project steering committee are leaders in FISJC.

Home Lead Testing Available

The University of Notre Dame is making free home lead testing kits available throughout South Bend. DIY sampling kits for soil, dust and paint in and around your residence can be picked up at the NNN office and returned for testing. UND communicates directly/confidentially with samplers about their results and suggests mitigation, as indicated. Call the NNN office for more information.

Mulch Madness, Saturday April 27 from 10am- 2pm

There will be free mulch for neighbors living on Lawndale and Sancome, and associated cross streets. The mulch will be delivered to your home and spread where you want it, all you have to do is give us written permission and tell us where to put the mulch.

We are able to offer this service thanks to help from the University of Notre Dame's BACK THE BEND event and Organic Resources for the City of South Bend

An Outreach Team member will be visiting each house in the selected area to ask people to sign up and to answer any questions. Reach out to Emily Dean at 574-850-1296 with questions or to sign up.

Why are we mulching? We know lead hazards affect families in our neighborhood because our homes are old and were once painted with lead paint. As lead paint ages and chips it creates dangerous dust that settles in the soil around our homes. Mulch is an easy, cost effective way to put a barrier over the contaminated soil so kids can't play in it, and it won't get blown around on the wind.

This is a continuation of last year's Mulch Madness which covered Sherman, Harrison, Cottage Grove, and associated cross streets.

Volunteers for the event can meet at the Holy Cross Parish Center, 920 Wilber, at 10 AM.



URBAN GARDEN FARMERS MARKET PLANS TO OPEN FOR THE SEASON

Saturday, May 18, the Urban Garden Farmers Market will open for the season. Every Saturday from 9 AM to 1 PM, local farmers will have seasonal fruits, vegetables and garden products for sale at the 1006 Portage NNN Parking Lot.

Crafts persons and food vendors can also be found at the market.

Tentative plans for the 18th include a street fair!

Please contact the UGFM via their Facebook page for additional information. (<https://www.facebook.com/UrbanGardenFarmersMarket/>)

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. Call the office for more information.

Welcome Community Outreach Team Member

We're pleased to welcome Clara Ross to our Community Outreach Team which focuses on helping families and children live lead-safe. Clara is a native of South Bend and resides in the neighborhood. She is a teacher at Mishawaka High School and is also a professional clown! Clara is excited about joining our team, "This work connects the dots for me, bringing together my love of people, love of children and love of the environment."



Clara joins Emily Dean on the NNN Community Outreach Team.

We were sorry to recently say good-bye to Community Outreach Team Members Kim Clowers and Kim Brantley who are shifting to other full-time work and family commitments. We are glad for the important work they did with the NNN and wish them all the best.

We hope to secure funding to be able to hire one additional part time member for the team.

Annual Meeting is May 9

Join neighbors from across the NNN at our annual meeting, May 9, from 6 – 8 PM. Hear updates, elect new officers and enjoy refreshments, but most of all come ready to meet neighbors.

There will be some short structured conversations. We promise you will leave having at least one new connection in the neighborhood, and you will be equipped with one new skill to strengthen the sense of community in the NNN.

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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