



## The Art of Neighboring

by Mary Bast, NNN Community Organizer  
Intern

### Conversation Circles on Race Round IV:

As many of you know, I have been hosting a series of Conversation Circles on Race. For the third round we

## Lead Grants Available

Funding is still available through the City of South Bend for grants to income-qualified homeowners for lead abatement or interim controls that make your housing safer. Additionally, property owners and landlords that rent to income-qualified tenants may qualify for grants.

Who is eligible? Renters and homeowners who earn less than 80% of area median income (\$58,800 for a family of 4).

Call 311 for more information or more information is online at: [southbendin.gov/leadsafesouthbend](http://southbendin.gov/leadsafesouthbend)

## Reduzca el Plomo de su Casa - Subvenciones Disponibles

Los fondos aún están disponibles gracia a la Ciudad de South Bend para subvenciones a propietarios de viviendas con ingresos calificados para la reducción del plomo o controles provisionales que hacen que su vivienda sea más segura.

Además, los propietarios que viven en su propia casa y los propietarios que alquilan a inquilinos con ingresos calificados pueden calificar para estas subvenciones.

¿Quién es elegible? Inquilinos y propietarios que ganan menos que el 80% del ingreso promedio (\$58,000 para una familia de 4).

Para mayor información llame al 311 o visite la página web [southbendin.gov/leadsafesouthbend](http://southbendin.gov/leadsafesouthbend).

# THE COMMON GROUND

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

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

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## Food Dessert? Not when there are CSAs

CSA is an acronym for Community Supported Agriculture. It's a model of farming, distribution and marketing that started in the 1960's in Japan, quickly gaining traction in Europe and the Americas. CSA has evolved over the years to include several models that are individually tailored to the farms and communities they serve. At it's heart, CSA is a way for consumers to buy local, seasonally fresh food directly from a farmer. Of course, people have been getting produce from local farmers for as long as there have been farms. The main innovation of the CSA is the way it distributes risk and reward among the entire community, including the farmer.

To learn more, explore these CSA options in South Bend (this is not an exhaustive list, but it will get you started):

- Barn Swallow Farm, Miami Rd. South, [www.barnswallow.farm](http://www.barnswallow.farm) -traditional-style CSA "Farmbox"
- Storey Family Farm, Southeast Neighborhood, [www.storeyfamilyfarm.com](http://www.storeyfamilyfarm.com), - Farm Membership with Delivery
- Sunchoke Farms, Near Northwest Neighborhood, [www.sunchokefarms.com](http://www.sunchokefarms.com), - market-style CSA "Harvest Membership"

## The Bright Spot

The BRIGHT SPOT is an NNN initiative to recognize the small, outdoor bits of beauty our neighbors create curb appeal in the neighborhood. The people doing this, called the BRIGHT SPOT Committee welcomes new members and meets bi-monthly. Members bring nominations forward for recognition in future NNN Newsletters, the listserv and online.

BRIGHT SPOT nominations can be, but are not limited to: handsome fences, charming light fixtures, tidy yards, attractive windows, well-cared for flowering bushes and trees etc. If you would like to join THE BRIGHT SPOT Committee, or make a nomination, email Joanie Downs-Krostenko at [jomdowns29@gmail.com](mailto:jomdowns29@gmail.com). The next meeting is Tuesday May 10 at 8 am at The Local Cup./NNN Office. Please join us.



## Friday Artist Group



A group of local artists meet weekly and work on Fridays at the NNN Community Center, 10 AM—Noon. They invite neighbors to visit and enjoy conversation and perhaps join in making art. They work in oil, watercolors and pastel and are happy to share critiques, methods and techniques. If you have ever wanted to try your hand at these media or want to return to an old talent in congenial company, please stop in and visit!

Please contact the office with any questions.

## Thank you, CHWs!



We'd like to thank our teams of Community Health Workers for their efforts from 2017-2021 in working directly with neighbors to increase lead poisoning education and connect neighbors to resources.

We have ended this program at the end of 2021, as the Health Department has increased community health worker capacity, and ongoing funding for the program was not available. Please contact the office for information about lead.

And a huge thank you to Clara Ross, Mary Bast, Laura Yahya, Katheryn Redding, Kim Clowers, Kim Brantley, and Emily Dean for the many relationships you built and families you contacted!

## Tips on communicating with the Police

The City of South Bend's Nuisance Officer, Pfc. Jim Burns, wants to advise neighbors to consider the following tips when communicating with the Police:

- Don't be shy to call 911 for some activity happening: Shots fired, burglary, something currently happening or just happened. It's never a "bother."
- If something happened hours ago or is clearly not an urgent call, don't call 911; call the non-emergency number: (574) 235-9201.
- If you suspect drug sale activity or have other concerns about properties or activities in the neighborhood, you can help create a paper trail. Please call the non-emergency number or call 574-235-9401 or email Pfc Jim Burns (jburns@southbendin.gov). Neighbor reports can help a tremendous amount. You can report anonymously or use Crime Stoppers at (574) 288-STOP.
- If you have a Ring camera, you can have it registered with the Police. Ask Pfc Burns how.



## Living Lead Safe in the NNN

The NNN, as we well know, was mainly built out within the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Today, the typical age of homes in the NNN is over 100 years old! While older homes and buildings add to the uniqueness of life in the NNN, they also pose a number of risks. Houses built prior to 1978 are likely to contain lead based paint. Left to wear and tear from many years of occupancy, this paint gets into the house's dust and soil. From there it can be accidentally, or unknowingly ingested or inhaled by children and adults. Children under the age of 7 are especially vulnerable to lead poisoning, which leaves irreversible brain damage.

The good news is that you can take steps to "Live Lead Safe" in your home. The first thing to do is to learn more about your home environment. The University of Notre Dame offered Free Lead Screening Kits to anyone interested in the County. Lead screening kits are available for pick up at the NNN Offices.

In addition to screening your home, it's important to have your child tested for lead through your healthcare provider or by contacting the St. Joseph County Health Department.

If you want to learn more about living lead safe, contact Jocelyn Keranen at [jkeranen@nd.edu](mailto:jkeranen@nd.edu), and you can also check online at [www.leadscreeningkit.com](http://www.leadscreeningkit.com) and [southbendin.gov/leadsafesouthbend](http://southbendin.gov/leadsafesouthbend).



## Greetings from Kingdom Christian Cathedral

By: Apostle Michael and Pastor Tina Patton

The members of Kingdom Life Christian Cathedral want to welcome you to make use of our new Community Fellowship Bench located at the front of our church at 707 Sherman Avenue. Feel free to come and sit, meditate, pray, and even leave a prayer request if you would like us to pray for your specific needs.

We are also providing winter gear, in water-proof containers located in compartments under the bench and you may help yourselves as needed. There is also a separate container for canned goods. Please help yourselves to these as well.

If there are any other needs that we can help you with, please contact church member, Donna Johnson at 574-300-6608 as we have a full clothing and food pantry inside the church, accessible by appointment.

Kingdom Life is here for you and wants to bring Life to our Community. Special thanks to Professor Brian Hutsebut, The IUSB Arts & Sustainability class, Mike Keen and Kingdom Life for making this possible.



## NNN Community Dates

**Hope for the Hungry Food Pantry** dates are *Sat. Feb. 19, Sat, March 19 and Sun April 10*, all from 11AM-1PM or as supplies last. All dates are at the NNN Community Center, 1013 Portage. See [hope4thehungry.com](http://hope4thehungry.com) for information.

**BOTANY** is planning a public lecture titled "**Daffodils in Small Urban Gardens**" at the 1013 Portage Community Center, *March 16 at 6 PM*. All are welcome.

**The Local Cup** at 1009 Portage Ave. is open with hours that change seasonally. This term, they are open *Tues, 7-11AM, Fri 8AM-1PM, Sat 9AM-1PM, Sun 1-5PM*. Find them on Facebook @TheLocalCupSB

John Raven is again offering his **Body Balance** classes at the NNN at different times and days. Initial classes are free. Please contact John for more information: [@ravenbodybalance](https://www.facebook.com/ravenbodybalance) on Facebook.

**Conversation Circles on Race** will resume in March or April with a topic TBA. Details will be released on the neighborhood ListServ. All are definitely welcome. Call the office for info.

## Dates for '22 NNN Events Chosen

Mark these on your calendars. We are planning all our traditional events this year. If the unforeseen happens and we need to cancel or go virtual, we will. But we are hopeful!

**Chili Supper, Wednesday March 3, 6-8 PM:** This is a Potluck/carry in for NNN families, without much agenda beyond getting together and enjoying our own company. Held at the Holy Cross School Gymnasium. Cooks, volunteers and appetites needed.

**Adopt A Block, Saturday, April 23, 8 AM to noonish:** This is our annual battle with trash in the Neighborhood. It's an early morning affair with coffee and donuts at the Community Center followed by generous hearts doing the clean up. Code Enforcement lends us a very generous hand.

**Annual Meeting, Thursday, May 19, 6-8 PM** is at the NNN Community Center, 1013 Portage Ave. We celebrate yearly accomplishments and results, elect new board members and share light finger food.

**Arts Café, Sunday, October 2, Noon-6PM:** Our annual Block Party, celebration of NNN homes, neighbors, artists, chefs and children is a delight for all!

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.

¿Le gustaría ser parte del grupo de emails de "NNN ListServ" y estar en contacto con sus vecinos/as respecto a la información de la comunidad y sus anuncios? Por favor, mándenos un email al [nnnassistant@nearnorthwest.org](mailto:nnnassistant@nearnorthwest.org) o llámenos al 232-9182.

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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.