

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc.

April 2010

### Take Pride in Your Space! 8th Annual Adopt-a-Block Kick-off

The annual **Adopt-a-Block Kick-Off** will be held **Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**, 8:00 a.m. at the NNN office with a *free* breakfast provided for participants. Getting involved is EASY, FUN and REWARDING. Adopt-a-Block is a neighborhood clean-up program that encourages neighborhood residents and businesses to work together to beautify the community. By banding together with other residents and committing to regular monthly clean-ups, neighbors can take the ownership for the overall appearance and up-keep of their block.

The City's Department of Code Enforcement and Division of Environmental Services will help by providing trash bags and gloves as well as assistance with pick-up of debris and trash. On kick-off day, Environmental Services will have *two trucks* in the neighborhood for *four hours* and their crews will begin picking up trash at 11:00 a.m. On that day our goal is to dramatically change the appearance of the neighborhood. Additionally, every registered Adopt-a-Block group will have a *stake with a flag* at their designated refuse site. City crews will collect trash and debris only at flagged locations. The program was very efficient last year and we hope for the same success in 2010.

Since a record number of 107 blocks were adopted last year, the Environmental Committee wants this year's Adopt-a-Block to be even bigger - but in order to do that, we need your help! Consider being a block captain and adopting the street in front of your house. Is your street already looking good? If so, you can adopt your alley or there are other blocks in the neighborhood that are in need of a little love and attention, eagerly waiting for you to adopt them.

If you would like to find out more about being a block captain or how you can participate please contact Marilyn Gachaw at 232-9182. Don't forget to mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m.** Together we can make our neighborhood a cleaner place!

### Census 2010 - What can you do?

By Marilyn Gachaw

Over the last few months, I've been witnessing an enormous amount of enthusiasm about Census 2010 from people throughout our community. Employees from South Bend's city agencies as well as the local Census Bureau are everywhere sharing a very important message – what people can do on a *personal*, *professional* and *civic* level to help ensure South Bend residents will "*Be Counted*."

Since the Near Northwest Neighborhood was not well represented during Census 2000, this time around, NNN, Inc. is lending its support to do everything possible to help raise our community's response rate. City officials have presented Census 2010 information to neighbors at a NNN General Meeting and neighborhood events. NNN organized a group of influential minority leaders from throughout the community to help inspire neighbors to "Be Counted"; also promoting Census job openings directly to neighborhood residents. Additionally, for your convenience over a four week period - starting March 22<sup>nd</sup> thru April 16<sup>th</sup> the Census Bureau is using the NNN community space (located at 1005 Portage Ave), as one of their designated *Census Questionnaire Assistance Centers*. Census employee and neighbor Cyn Haas, will be available during this timeframe on Mondays from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Tuesday thru Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and Fridays 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. to answer questions about the Census and provide assistance in completing questionnaires. There will not be hours on Friday, April 2 and Thursday, April 8.

There's a lot at stake. Census counts affect federal funds received by Indiana for job training programs; Title 1 Schools; free health care programs for children; Medicare and Medicaid programs; hospitals; aid to needy families; community development; unemployment funds for dislocated workers; Indiana's Congressional Representation; South Bend's share of Indiana's tax revenue; city planning activities and more...

So what's next? 10 Questions, 10 Minutes to complete – if you have not done so, please take a moment to complete your form and mail it in – a better future is in our hands. If you don't have a form, stop by the Census Questionnaire Assistance Center, in the NNN offices to pick one up!

### YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE

#### Tax Preparation Assistance

Wednesday April 7 & 14, 2010  
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
NNN Offices

#### Census Questionnaire Assistance Center

Now through Friday, April 16th  
See article below for times  
NNN Offices

#### Adopt-a-Block Kick-Off

Saturday, April 17, 2010  
8:00 a.m.  
NNN Offices

#### Arbor Day Free Ornamental Tree Give-Away

Saturday, May 1, 2010  
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
NNN Parking Lot

#### Spring Plant Swap

Sunday, May 16, 2010  
12:30 - 2:00 p.m.  
Grace Community Garden, 746 Sherman Ave.

#### Spring Home Maintenance Seminar

Saturday, May 22, 2010  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
NNN Offices

#### Garden Walk 2010

Saturday, July 17, 2010  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### THINGS AROUND TOWN

#### Seussical! The Musical

April 9th - 11th  
Fri. 7 p.m., Sat. 3 & 7 p.m., Sun. 3 p.m.  
South Bend Civic Theatre  
At Century Center's Bendix Theatre  
[www.sbct.org](http://www.sbct.org)

#### HealthWorks! Museum Free Day!

Saturday, April 10, 2010  
Noon - 4 p.m.  
HealthWorks! Museum

#### And Then There Were None

April 23rd - 25th, 28th - 30th, May 1st & 2nd  
8 p.m. (Sundays 3 p.m.)  
South Bend Civic Theatre  
[www.sbct.org](http://www.sbct.org)

#### Bike the Bend

Sunday, May 23, 2010  
6:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
[www.bikethebend.com](http://www.bikethebend.com) to register

For more information on things happening in Downtown South Bend go to:  
[www.downtownsouthbend.com/calendar.php](http://www.downtownsouthbend.com/calendar.php)

## Adopt-a-Block Frequently Asked Questions



### How Can I Get Involved?

The Environmental Committee is working to identify "captains" for each block that is adopted. That person is then responsible for scheduling their regular clean-ups and for notifying their neighbors so that they can help. If you do not have time to be a block captain you can still come out and support your neighbors.

### How Will the NNN and Environmental Committee Help?

The NNN and Environmental Committee members host the annual "kick-off" event complete with light breakfast. We also have extra bags and gloves on hand. Because we have found that reminder notices increase resident participation, we help captains by creating notices that can be delivered door-to-door a few days before your clean-up.

### How Many Clean-ups Should I Have?

You know your block best! So you can determine how frequently clean-ups should be scheduled in order to keep your street looking tip-top throughout the summer months!

### My Street is Clean, But My Alley Really Needs Help - What Do I Do?

It is okay to adopt your alley if you feel that it is in the most need of attention. Just let us know, so that we can help with the logistics. Also, you may want to check with your neighbors - maybe between all of you, you can adopt both!

### My Block Is Already Pretty Clean, Can I Still Be Involved?

If you feel that your block is already looking good, you can still be involved by "adopting" another block and committing to keeping it clean and litter free throughout the summer! If you aren't sure which blocks need adopting, contact the NNN and they can help guide you.

### Does This WORK?

This program really does work. Neighbors throughout the near northwest have found that the Adopt-a-Block program is a great way to meet other neighbors, increase neighborhood ownership, and keep our streets looking clean. As time passes, residents begin to become more conscious about the litter on their street and begin to pick it up **outside** of the regularly scheduled clean-ups. Also, the cumulative effect of having already done the Adopt-a-Block program has significantly improved the appearances of such streets as Diamond Avenue, Cottage Grove Avenue, and Woodward Avenue.

### Other Questions?

Contact Marilyn at 232-9182.

## March Madness, NNN Style

By Mary Hardy

Near Northwest neighbors met Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> for a mad and delicious selection of chili. At least 250 neighbors attended this chili buffet, and sampled approximately 20 pots of chili: red chili and white; vegan, vegetarian, and meaty; mild and spicy; plus beef, sausage, and even buffalo. There was enough cornbread to feed the whole city and an impressive spread of desserts.

Holy Cross School generously hosted the event giving the neighborhood an opportunity to visit their impressive new gymnasium.

A light-hearted competition produced four chili champions. The prize for the meanest chili (as in, he makes a mean chili) went to Jeff Stanifer. Barbara Bradley won the prize for hottest chili, Dick Kilbase for best vegetarian, and the prize for most original chili went to Jillian Tueller's (Albino Heaven White Beans and Sausage Chili).

Near Northwest neighbors of all ages, including Mayor Steve and wife Peg, enjoyed the food and community. Thanks go to all who organized, brought food, kept the buffet tables full, and cleaned up afterward.

The history of this annual event is in question. Was this the fifteenth annual chili supper? The twentieth? Do you know? And if you missed this one, plan now to attend next year. It's a mad, delightful, and nourishing way to participate in the neighborhood.

## "Weed & Seed" Community Policing Cultivates Kids' Creativity

A child's mind is a beautiful thing to nurture and grow, it's also rewarding. In March, the Community Policing Committee of South Bend's Weed & Seed Steering Committee awarded the winners of the Activity Book design contest, which resulted in a 24-page book featuring Weed and Seed's (W&S) official mascot, "Weedee & Seedee the Centipedee."

Weed & Seed held Children's Activity Book Awards Ceremonies at five area schools, including Holy Cross, Muessel, and Madison Primary Centers in the neighborhood. Students at Muessel had an extra treat when Mayor Stephen Luecke, Chief of Police Darryl Boykins, St. Joseph County Prosecutor Michael Dvorak as well as several other community leaders participated in their ceremony. Winning classes were treated to pizza, given ribbons, and principals were given a plaque of recognition to be displayed in their school. In addition, all winning classes were recognized at the bottom of each page in the book.

The design contest was open to children in grades 2-7 residing in, attending school or church in the W&S area. Children were asked to design a page for the book as a class project, while focusing on W&S neighborhoods and "being good neighbors," just one of the initiatives the Community Policing Committee encourages in the community.

While the Community Policing Committee and Weed & Seed recognize all kids as winners, top designs included an emergency contact page, word search puzzles, points of interest in the W&S area, a maze and many other creative ideas.

A big thanks to the Weed & Seed Steering Committee and its partners: the City of South Bend, the St. Joseph County Prosecutor, South Bend Police Department, US Attorney, DEA and W&S residents. 2,500 Activity Books will be distributed to school children, K-7, in and around the W&S area.