

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc.

May 2010

Adopt-a-Block Brings Neighbors Together

By Brook Hardy

“For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people’s love and concern for each other.”-- [Millard Fuller](#)

Saturday is not a day that I am easily lured out of the house before 8 am. Believe me, it wasn’t the thrilling anticipation of donning a pair of gloves to pick up litter that got me rolling at this hour: I got up early because I didn’t want to miss the coffee hour. Every year, a throng of neighbors packs into the NNN office on a weekend morning for coffee, doughnuts and friendly conversation. Then they spill into the streets in teams to purge the neighborhood of a winter’s worth of accumulated litter and trash. Welcome to the annual Adopt-a-Block.

I love these annual all-neighborhood events: the chili supper, the Arts Café, the garden tour and, yes, even Adopt-a-Block. The biggest reason? I know I will see my neighbors there, all united in the common caretaking of our shared living space, and this small thing will inspire me. And so it was.

As usual, I didn’t know who to greet first. There were hugs from Becky Kaiser and Marilyn Gachaw; a pleasant chat with Peg Luecke about the progress of our respective renovation projects; a rush of warmth to see my California neighbors Joe Taylor and Liz Maradik and her brother Rob; a “hello again” to Holly of Cottage Grove, whose family we met picnicking in the triangle garden last weekend; and several more small but bright encounters that made my early morning arrival worth it.

I’ve lived in a half dozen cities since I fled South Bend after high school in 1992, but this neighborhood is the only place I’ve lived where I can walk to an event near my house, greet the mayor by name, stand in the doughnut line next to my Congressional representative, and pick out a few dozen neighbors that I know *personally*, not just as “that guy in the blue house” or “the people with the yappy sheltie.”

After Adopt-a-Block organizer Scott Banacka’s sendoff, I admit that I got a slow start to the actual business of picking up trash on our designated block. I was talking to people. I saw Katiki Lipscomb and Shavonne Brown, whom many of us know from Katiki’s variety store on Portage and Lindsey. I found out that this was his second year at the clean-up. He says he likes to volunteer and do things in the community because, “All the support they gave me, I can give it back by doing things like this.” I also got the scoop on Shavonne’s Salon, which will be opening soon right next to Katiki’s, in the former location of the All About U2 salon.

Then I met Barb St. Pierre, joining the effort from Gene’s Camera Store on Lincoln Way. The shop prints this newsletter, but Barb didn’t realize until recently that Gene’s was actually part of the Near Northwest Neighborhood. “This is so exciting to see all these people who want their neighborhood, their properties, to be nice. I’m glad to be part of it.”

Some neighbors are veteran Adopt-a-Blockers. Amber Handy, Derrick Webb and their neighbors Mary Turgi and Miriam Volkmer have teamed up to clean their Portage block since 2006. Humor keeps this group lively and they are always on the lookout for weird objects. This year’s find of a complete set of rusty mattress springs took the prize, “although the headless Barbie was in the running until we found the mattress,” noted Amber.

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Annual Spring Plant Swap

Do you have extra Hostas, Perennials, or Seeds to share? Bring all your extras to share with your neighbors. A large variety of plants will be available for trade or just the taking. Everyone is welcome to come.

Live Gardening Demonstration – Starting at 1:00 pm! Learn how to make your own Upside Down Tomato Flower and Vegetable Planter.

Enter Free drawing for a chance to win the Planter.

When: Sunday, May 16, 2010

Time: 12:30 – 2:00 pm

Where: Grace Community Garden, 746 Sherman Ave (between Lindsey Ave and Van Buren St)



For more information please call the NNN Office at (574) 232-9182.

YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE

Weed & Seed Resident Input Meeting

Saturday, May 15, 2010

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location TBA

Spring Plant Swap

Sunday, May 16, 2010

12:30 - 2:00 pm

Grace Community Garden, 746 Sherman Ave.

Listen to Your Little Voice Community Meeting

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

6:00- 7:00 pm

Faith Deliverance Center - 1415 Lincoln Way West (corner of LWW & Sancome)

Spring Home Maintenance Seminar

Saturday, May 22, 2010

10:00 - 11:00 am

NNN Offices

Garden Walk 2010

Saturday, July 17, 2010

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location TBA

THINGS AROUND TOWN

Out of Sterno

May 14-16 & 19-23

8:00 pm (Sundays 3 pm)

South Bend Civic Theatre

www.sbct.org

South Bend Silver Hawks

May 7-12 & 17-19

Game Times Vary

Coveleski Stadium

www.silverhawks.com

The Goo Goo Dolls

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

8:00 pm

The Morris Performing Arts Center

www.morriscenter.org

Bike the Bend

Sunday, May 23, 2010

6:30 - 11:30 am

Visit www.bikethebend.com for more information and to register.

For more information on things happening in Downtown South Bend visit:

www.downtownsouthbend.com/calendar.php

For more information on events and happenings in Michiana visit:

www.artseverywhere.com

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Some volunteers even come from outside the neighborhood. The Notre Dame campus group Students for Environmental Action has participated in the annual clean-up for five years, and this year turned out six volunteers. Each of them expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be out in the community. "I think it's a good way to learn because we're seeing people out in the real world," said Notre Dame junior Regina McCormack.

At the end of the clean-up, I ran into our mail carrier Lisa Stines, who, as usual, met me with a smile. Lisa braves broken glass, dangerous dogs, and other hazards to bring us our mail every day. She said she saw all the volunteers out this morning and added, "It's just refreshing to see." I felt satisfied knowing that our efforts not only made the neighborhood a better place to live, but a better place to work.

In the end, getting up early to pick up trash on a Saturday morning not only picked up the area, it picked up my spirit. Thanks to everyone who helped. I'm glad you're all my neighbors.

Get Involved with Weed & Seed!

Here are two upcoming opportunities for neighbors to get involved with Weed & Seed (W&S)!

W&S Resident Input Meeting

Saturday, May 15, 2010 from 10 am - 12 pm

Location to be determined.

Light refreshments will be served.

The Weed & Seed Community Policing Committee works to develop a positive relationship between residents and police while addressing crime and it wants **YOUR** suggestions for potential future projects!

Listen to Your Little Voice Community Meeting

Wednesday, May 19, 2010 from 6 - 7 pm

At Faith Deliverance Center

1415 Lincoln Way West

(Corner of Lincoln Way West & Sancome)

Light refreshments will be served.

The Weed & Seed Law Enforcement Committee works to reduce crime in the W&S area and wants your help! Come learn how you, as a W&S resident, can take a stand against crime in your neighborhood.

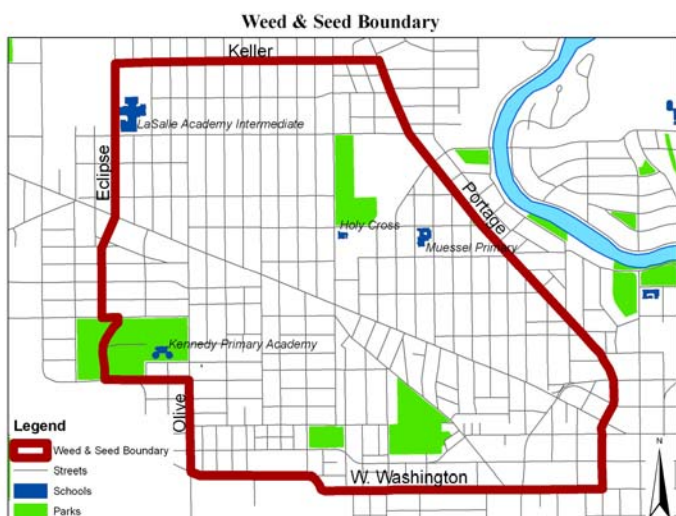
What is Weed & Seed?

Weed & Seed is a community-based program that works to "weed out" negative influences, such as crime, and "seed in" positive programs in a targeted area.

Wondering if you are a Weed & Seed resident?

Take a look at this map, if you live within the boundary then you are a Weed & Seed resident!

For more information about either meeting, please contact Liz Maradik at 289-1066 x221.



Garden Walk 2010

You know about the lovely old homes that are filled with character. But now come see what's blooming in the near northwest neighborhood.

Garden Walk 2010, a celebration of unique outdoor spaces, will take place from 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday, July 17.

The event, a fundraiser for the NNN, will feature more than a dozen gardens that reflect the creativity and ingenuity of the residents of one of South Bend's most distinctive neighborhoods. Garden Walk will include practical vegetable gardens and lively, colorful perennial beds, nurtured by long-time and newbie gardeners alike. Visitors will be inspired by what they'll see — and probably leave with more than a few ideas for their own backyards!

For more information about Garden Walk 2010 — including information about serving as a volunteer for this wonderful event, please call the NNN at (574) 232-9182.

Spring Home Maintenance Seminar

With Jeff Stanifer, NNN Property Development Specialist

Saturday, May 22, 2010

10 -11 am

At the NNN Offices

(Corner of Portage & California)

At the upcoming seminar you will learn about: "how to" replace a screen in a window or storm door along with how to properly caulk.

Come learn about easy home maintenance steps that will keep your home and our neighborhood looking great! Don't forget to bring your friends and neighbors. If you have any questions, call the NNN at 232-9182.

CENSUS ENUMERATORS ARE ON THE WAY!

By Larry Magliozzi

Starting May 1, Census Enumerators will be going to addresses that did not mail back their census forms. The Census Bureau is obligated to attempt to get a form filled out by every household.

So what does this mean for you? If you still have your form, MAIL IT IN! Lost it? Call the National Telephone Assistance Center at 866-872-6868. Note that scheduling visits to thousands of homes has started, and your form may not make it in time to redirect the Enumerator.

Enumerators are easily identified by a black canvas bag with a white band that says "Census Bureau" on it two times. The Census Bureau seal is also shown. Each Enumerator has an ID. If in doubt, ask the Enumerator for the telephone number that will confirm who they are.

So what do you do, if you get a visit? Verify that you are talking to an Enumerator. And please cooperate by providing the required information. It should take no more than 10 minutes to answer all the questions.

REMEMBER THIS: Your answers are confidential, and will not be shared with ANY other public agency. The Census is an important part of our form of government. It determines how many representatives each state sends to Congress, and how Congressional districts are formed. You want access to fair representation? Fill out your form. And finally, the population counts are a part of the formulas that distribute millions of dollars to our community.

To find out how your community did on the mail response rates, visit www.macog.com.

