

THE COMMON GROUND

Near Northwest
Neighborhood
INCORPORATED



News from the Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc.

Vol. 14, No. 1 Winter 2009

ANNUAL MEETING WARMS UP WINTER MORNING

By Scott McKibbin

Outdoors, the temperature was hovering in the single digits. Cold, unfriendly, unforgiving. But inside at the Charles Martin Center on the morning of Jan. 31, more than 150 people were warming to each other, enjoying breakfast and celebrating the completion of another incredible year of achievement with the Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc.

Neighbors and friends of the NNN, Inc. chatted over orange juice and bagels for the first half hour—folks like longtime residents Hattie and Richard Chambliss, civic activist and neighbor Ronda Redman, South Bend's brand new neighborhood marketing specialist Sue Solmos and a great many representatives of the city of South Bend. Familiar faces and new faces filled the meeting room to capacity.

Board President Andy Grontkowski welcomed everyone and made some opening remarks. The theme of this year's event was *On the Move* and Green Team member Becky Kaiser explained just exactly how we're moving forward in the NNN, creating community gardens and partnering with Notre Dame students for new urbanism.

In *On the Streets*, Jeff Stanifer, NNN property development specialist, talked about how the NNN has impacted 15 properties on or near Cottage Grove Avenue and the NNN's partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

In *On the Ground*, Jacqui Weeks (pictured, right) led us down the garden path describing the incredible 19 gardens featured in the first Garden Walk.

Community organizer Marilyn Gachaw brought everyone up to date on the committee work during the *On the Go* portion of the program, describing the success of events like Adopt-a-Block and the Arts Café and promoting the marketing committee's CD-Rom.

On the Verge presenter Kathy Schuth unveiled amazing plans to turn the former Van Buren Market into the NNN Community Center.

Executive Director Karen Ainsley thanked the individuals, businesses and foundations that serve and aid the NNN, Inc. Ann Shell gave the financial report for the year, noting the need to continue making wise choices and decisions. Five new board members were elected and one was re-elected. Mayor Steve Luecke made some interesting comments about the neighborhood and the broader community of South Bend.

And then it was over. Folks were welcome to stay and chat, make new friends and remain warm and comfortable before heading out into the frigid January.

Hope to see all of you again next year!



Get ready for an evening of fun and food!

NNN'S ANNUAL CHILI SUPPER.

Tuesday, March 24 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The Charles Martin Youth Center
802 Lincoln Way West (Corner of Cushing
and Lincoln Way West).

If you'd like to bring a pot of your special award-winning chili—or perhaps a basket of corn muffins—please contact Marilyn Gachaw at (574) 232-9182.



NNN BOARD ELECTION

MEMBERS ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 31

New members of the NNN board were elected at the annual meeting. They include:

Pastor Lornce Applewhite is originally from Mississippi and has been at Grace African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church on Vassar Avenue for the last 3 ½ years. Pastor Applewhite is currently the president of the Chicago District of the AME Zion Church, a member of Transforming Action through Power (TAP), and serves as a room father at Coquillard School.

Charles Burnside is originally from Gary, Indiana, but has lived in South Bend for 20 years. Charles has worked for Memorial Hospital for 15 years, and holds the position of manager of safety and security. He lives with wife, Solenia, and stepson, Shakir. Charles is active in the community with the South Bend School Mentoring Program and is a board member with the Knollwood Association.

Dave Kimble returned to South Bend in 1997 after living in Seattle and traveling abroad. One of the things he appreciated most in Seattle was the distinctive neighborhoods. He now lives with his wife and son in the historic Edgewater Neighborhood in downtown South Bend. Dave is the director of facilities for CB Richard Ellis Bradley and is one of a few LEED Accredited Professionals in the South Bend area. Dave is also a licensed real estate salesperson.

Bob King is originally from Pennsylvania, but has lived in South Bend for the last 24 years. Bob is senior vice president of the South Bend Medical Foundation, which he joined in 1985 as its first director of marketing. Bob has held positions on both the Logan Center and Riverbend Cancer boards.

Jason Vice grew up primarily on the southwest side of South Bend until his family bought their first house on Ashland Avenue, where his mother still resides. Jason works for Memorial Hospital as a community health coordinator working with the school corporations. He is a graduate of Clay High School, has a bachelor's degree from Indiana University and will receive a master's degree in public administration this year. He and his wife have two small children. He enjoys running, mountain climbing, golf, and, most importantly, spending time with his family outdoors.

Current board member **Mary Turgi** was reelected.

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Karen Ainsley, Executive Director; Kim Geiger, President; Kathy Schuth, Vice President;
Lois Jackson Secretary; Ann Shell, Treasurer; Alesia Redding, Editor

Board Members: Lornce Applewhite, Patricia Torres-Bell, Darryl Boykins,
Barb Bradley, Charles Burnside, Jr., Dave Emmel, Kim Geiger, Lois Jackson,
Dick Kilbase, Dave Kimble, Bob King, Arnold Sallie, Kathy Schuth, Ann Shell,
Betty Tonsing, Mary Turgi, Jason Vice

WIND TURBINES

GREEN TECHNOLOGY IN YOUR BACKYARD

TUESDAY, MARCH 3 5:30 PM

NNN OFFICE 1005 PORTAGE AVE

Although the media has been focusing on large, utility-sized wind farms, interest in "being green" and available technology has resulted in people wanting to place small wind turbines on residential properties. The St. Joseph County Area Plan Commission (APC) is looking for your input as it begins the process to consider a text change in the zoning ordinance to regulate the placement of wind turbines. Your input will help APC draft an ordinance that meets the needs of people within our community!



HPC OFFERS FREE PROGRAM

Put this date on your calendar right away.

The Historic Preservation Commission of South Bend and St. Joseph County, in partnership with Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, invites you to attend a half day program on March 13, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the St. Joseph County Public Library.

The agenda for this event is a tour-de-force of expertise and talent from many disciplines including a nationally recognized preservation advocate, an economic development professional who has consulted with communities in 30 states and 49 countries, an accomplished local architect who is well known for his work in sustainable, responsible architecture and building, and a former PBS personality who brings 20-plus years experience in preservation and community leadership to our event. This slate of speakers has never been assembled, and rarely would this level of accessibility be possible. This event is not something to be missed!

This program is being offered FREE to all who attend, however it is essential that anyone planning to attend RSVP to either the Historic Preservation Commission office at (574) 235-9798 or the office of Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana at (574) 232-4534. A boxed lunch will be provided.



This newsletter was produced with the assistance of the City of South Bend Community Development Program through funds made available by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1922.

SIGN UP FOR CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY

Have you ever wondered: Can police really do the cool stuff I see on TV? What do I do if I'm a victim of a crime? How do you dust for fingerprints? What programs does the Police Department offer to the public? If you would like answers to these questions or others like them, then the **Citizen's Police Academy** may be for you!

The Academy was established to promote an understanding of the South Bend Police Department and its policies and procedures. It provides training in all aspects of law enforcement and the issues that face police officers on a daily basis. The goal is to foster a spirit of cooperation between the city, its citizens and their police department. Graduates get to know more about the men and women who are protecting their community and why they make the decisions they do while performing their duty.

The program runs 13 weeks, from March 10 through June 2. Classes are held on Tuesdays from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Class size is limited to 40 participants, and is free of charge. Some of the topics discussed are:

- Demonstrations from K-9, SWAT and the Bomb Disposal Unit
- Crime scene processing (learn to dust for fingerprints)
- High-Tech Crimes Unit will discuss child dangers of the Internet and Computer and Technology crime overview
- Shoot, Don't Shoot simulator
- Crime Prevention (identity theft, personal safety, home safety)
- Narcotics enforcement
- Patrol operations
- Communications
- Jail operation (both the county jail and Juvenile Justice Center)

Potential candidates for the Citizens Police Academy must meet be at least 18 years old, have no prior felony convictions (certain misdemeanor offenses also may disqualify you) and are subject to a criminal history check. You may obtain an application in the lobby of the Police Department, or download an application by visiting the South Bend Police Department Web page at www.southbendpolice.com

For more information contact Cpl. Aaron Cassel at (574)235-9401 or Lt. Richard Powers at (574)235-9402.



NNN COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT VACANT AND ABANDONED PROPERTY

By Kathy Schuth

Hey neighbors. Happy New Year! I'm looking forward to seeing you at the chili supper. You'll see NNN organizer Marilyn Gachaw there too, and when you do, give her a good smile, because she is paying attention to this neighborhood, and is always on the alert. In fact, she sat in on the first meeting of a newly forming committee with the NNN, and by the end of that meeting she had me writing this article, so that you'd all know about it, too.

This committee-in-formation is a response to neighborhood concerns raised within the Community Forums held in fall 2007 which helped form the NNN's Housing Strategy Plan. The priority concerns raised included: the continued need for rehabilitation of homes, concern about property taxes, concern about vacant and abandoned properties, and a need for teaching home maintenance and repair. There has been a good response to the forums. But in terms of the issue of vacant and abandoned properties it became clear that the desired action and education was not occurring through the current work and volunteer committee involvement. It was concluded that a Vacant and Abandoned Property Committee should be formed—if neighbors could bring some action to back up their desires—and this committee is another step in trying to raise the level of housing in the neighborhood.

A committee is only what the people who come to it bring. Vacant and abandoned properties have been a neighborhood challenge for some time, and we are now aware of it more than ever due to foreclosures, property tax changes and a general economic downturn. This is what we know. What we need to do next is decide what we're going to start doing about it. Educating ourselves and our neighbors is one part of that. But after that? Well, if I knew the actions we should take, we wouldn't need to spend time meeting about it, would we?

If you are interested in participating with us, join us on **Wednesday, March 4 at 5:30 p.m.** in the NNN offices or contact Kathy Schuth at (574)234-7392 or email kschuth@juno.com. If you are concerned/interested but unable to participate, I invite you to share your ideas with us.

MINISTRY PUTS OUT AN SOS

Faith Baptist Church, 1002 Blaine Ave., has a plan for helping young men become spiritual, responsible and productive — the leaders of the future.

Saving Our Sons (SOS) Ministry is a program that offers young men a message of hope. According to Pastor Stephen Perkins of Faith Baptist Church, this ministry was born out of the urgency to lead the younger generation of men away from inner-city violence, low self esteem and other grim realities. The program has spiritual, educational and personal components aimed at helping young men reach adulthood without becoming involved in gang-related activities or dropping out of school.

For more information, contact the church at (574)233-6428 or go to the church web site at www.southbendfaithbaptistchurch.org.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc. is an organization of citizens dedicated to the preservation and revitalization of the neighborhood through providing affordable housing to low-moderate income households, organizing and empowering community residents and promoting the neighborhood's interest within the neighborhood and the entire community.



P.O.Box 1132
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The University Of Notre Dame Celebration of **Black History Month** includes these events:

“A History of Black Women in Hollywood”

Special Guest Lecturer Actress
Tichina Arnold

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m.

101 DeBartolo Hall

Tichina Arnold is perhaps best known in her role as Pam in the television hit series “Martin” and currently stars as Rochelle in “Everybody Hates Chris.” Free and open to the public.

“Women in the Civil Rights Movement”

Feb.1-28 Hesburgh Library
Museum style displays of thought-provoking visuals of women in the Civil Rights Movement.

The 51st Annual Notre Dame Collegiate Jazz Festival

Feb.27-28

For more information visit <http://www3.nd.edu/~sub/cjf/>

HOME FOR SALE

911 LINDSEY ST.
\$72,000

Three bedrooms,
one-and-a-half baths;
living room, dining
room, kitchen; 2nd floor
laundry; walk-up attic;
tiled kitchen and bath-
room floors; shed; all new
mechanicals including
central air.



The Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc. is a community development corporation focused on revitalizing one of South Bend's oldest neighborhoods. Efforts include acquisition and rehabilitation—older homes are bought, restored, and sold to low-to-moderate income homeowners. If you're interested in purchasing an NNN home, please stop by the NNN offices at 1007 Portage Ave., or call (574)232-9182 to get an application package. Several homes are currently available and listed for sale.

DO YOU DIG GARDENING?

GET INVOLVED IN GARDEN WALK 2009!

Do you have a green thumb? Are your peonies, poppies and primrose the pride of the neighborhood? Would you like to show off your garden to others in the neighborhood? If you answered yes, then the NNN wants to hear from you. We're beginning to plan for the 2nd Annual NNN Garden Walk. **If you're interested in being involved in 2009, contact Karen at (574)232-9182 by Friday, March 6.**

