

THE COMMON GROUND

Near Northwest
Neighborhood
INCORPORATED



News from the Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc.

Vol. 13, No. 2 Spring 2008

ADOPT-A-BLOCK : 6 YEARS AND GROWING

Adopt-A-Block kicked off its sixth year on April 19 in the near northwest neighborhood, where it began as a pilot program, in typical fashion: with a crowd of enthusiastic volunteers committed to keeping their streets, sidewalks and alleys clean. How committed? Well, they gathered on a damp spring morning to get the job done.

Although the nationally recognized program began in the near northwest neighborhood, it has since spread to other places within the city. Catherine Toppel, Director of Code Enforcement, says interest and participation in the initiative has been “contagious,” with individuals and groups — including South Bend Community School Corp. students and the West Washington Street neighborhood — signing on. The number of blocks adopted citywide is expected to easily exceed last year’s total of 200.

Over the next several months, teams of neighbors will perform regular cleanups of sections of their neighborhood that they’ve “adopted.”

The city’s Bureau of Solid Waste and Code Enforcement provides bags, gloves and trash removal. But the most important ingredient? Easy: It’s the residents who provide the commitment and hard work.

Neighbors and volunteers rallied at the Adopt-a-Block Kick-Off before getting down to business cleaning their and others’ blocks.

GARDEN WALK 2008

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 2008, a celebration of unique outdoor spaces, will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 19.

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 2008 — including information about serving as a volunteer for this wonderful event, please call (574) 232-9182.

ADOPT-A-BLOCK 2008 BY THE NUMBERS:

87 blocks adopted,

20 yards of trash,

25 yards of yard waste,

260 tires, all removed on the
April 19 kickoff.

Viola Simms and the Community Oriented Policing Youth Group received the award for the largest group to join the program and the most new blocks adopted.



CELEBRATING NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH

In celebration of National Homeownership Month, the Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc. will take part in the national campaign to help raise awareness of homeownership.

On Saturday, June 28 from 9 a.m. to noon the NNN will hold the 2008 Housing Fair. The event will feature three homes on Lindsey Street between Portage Avenue and Scott Street.

Event information will be available at 508 Lindsey (near the corner of Portage and Lindsey). The NNN's goal is to work in partnership with a number of organizations and businesses in order to better educate potential and current homeowners about homeownership. Participants at the event will range from housing counselors to lending institution to realtors; all will have information available about resources and programs available to help residents achieve the dream of homeownership. In addition, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. there will be brief presentations by participating organizations. Admission and parking are free.

In 2002, the month of June was designated National Homeownership Month as an initiative to enhance the nation's commitment to equal housing opportunities. The purpose of the month long campaign is to: educate consumers about the home buying process, help homeowners who are in trouble to ensure a house remains both a home and a secure and stable investment, to encourage both potential and current homebuyers to learn about the responsibilities that come with homeownership, and increase awareness of the role homeownership plays in helping families build wealth and strengthen their communities.

For more information about the upcoming event, please contact the NNN at (574) 232-9182.

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CONTINUED EFFORTS ON COTTAGE GROVE

In late April neighbors gathered to hear the latest on the Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc.'s continued efforts in the Cottage Grove Revitalization Project Area. This coming year proves to be exciting with continued rehabilitation work, the moving of a house and new construction!

Over the past few years the NNN has rehabilitated and sold eight properties on Cottage Grove Avenue. With this year's work, an additional three houses on Cottage Grove and two on Lindsey Street, within a block of Cottage Grove, will be impacted. This targeted work will help to reinforce past investment and further stabilize this revitalization area. Work at 911 Lindsey was recently completed, while the next properties in line to be improved include 525 Cottage Grove and 815 Lindsey.

The NNN will also rehabilitate 612 Cottage Grove; however, before that happens it will be moved to a new location. Currently the house is located on a small lot and is set back on the property within a few feet of the alley. In order to give this house, and the two it is currently in between, more elbow room, it will be moved just south to vacant lots at 602/604 Cottage Grove.

In addition, there are plans for new construction at 601 Cottage Grove. The NNN and Habitat for Humanity have partnered and developed plans for a house that will fit into the character of the neighborhood. The new house will have a number of features normally not found in area Habitat for Humanity homes, including: two stories, full basement, hip roof and enhanced architectural details. We are asking neighbors to take part in this exciting partnership



by helping with the construction of the new house by volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. No previous construction experience is required, and trained professionals will be on hand to help instruct volunteers. If you are interested in participating please contact Habitat for Humanity at (574) 288-6967.

All these great projects make it ideal for the 2008 Arts Café to return to Cottage Grove. As work progresses throughout the summer and fall, we will be looking forward to the annual event and the prospect of bringing the community together to help celebrate the great things happening in our neighborhood. So don't forget to mark the Arts Café on your calendars for Sunday, Nov. 2, and plan on joining us in celebration.

FREE NEIGHBORHOOD YOGA CLASSES

A new five-week free yoga session began on June 16. These free classes are offered on Monday evenings, from 4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. (please arrive a few minutes early as the session begins at 4 p.m. sharp) at the NNN offices, 1005 Portage Ave. No previous yoga experience is necessary to participate in the classes; since the class size is small you will receive individual attention and assistance while learning yoga poses.

Due to the limited number of available spaces please register by contacting Ann Clark at aclark@saintmarys.edu or via mail at 831 Forest Ave, South Bend, IN 46616. Ann is Yoga Alliance certified at RYT 200.



After the completion of this session, yoga will break for the summer and is anticipated to continue on Monday, August 25th.

TENNIS PROGRAM GETS BOOST FROM NIKE



To help support South Bend Police Chief Darryl Boykins' Summer Tennis Program, the Nike Corporation has made a generous donation to the South Bend Police Department: a supply of Nike brand tennis shoes for

boys and girls, Nike T-shirts and branded tennis backpacks. The donation will help equip 150 kids who join the summer program and has a retail value in excess of \$15,000.

The summer tennis program, started by Boykins, an NNN board member, is offered free of charge and begins on June 23 and runs through August 7th. It is held at Washington High School Tennis Courts, and is open to both beginners and experienced players ages eight through adult. The program will offer two daily sessions, Mon. through Thurs. from 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and Noon-1:30 p.m.

More information for individuals who wish to participate in the tennis program can be found by calling Chief Boykins' office at (574) 235-9311.

GARDENERS TAKE NOTE

Compost and Mulch are FREE for South Bend residents who load it themselves! Operating hours are Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Organic Resource Facility, 4340 Trade Drive in South Bend.

Loading Price per cubic yard:

Compost: \$4 per yard up to 2 yards; \$8.00 per yard for 3 yards and up
Mulch : \$4.00 per yard up to 2 yards; \$8.00 per yard for 3 yards and up

HANDYMAN'S CORNER

by Jeff Stanifer, NNN Property Development Specialist

EASY GUIDE TO HOME MAINTENANCE

If "handy" is not a word you would use to describe yourself when it comes to home maintenance and you figure signing the monthly mortgage check is all you have to invest in the house, we are here to tell you that is not enough. The health of your home depends on routine check-ups – simple, must-do chores to keep your house running well and holding its value. So for those of you that need a little help to be able to utilize the phrase "handy" in conjunction with your name here is a basic guide to some outdoor items you will want to review.

Divert water.

Gutters do their job best when clean. Check yours for foliage build-up, particularly if trees hover over the roof. The rainy season is a prime time to ensure all drainage areas remain unblocked by leaves and/or debris. Trapped moisture can leave a house susceptible to moss and mildew and cause major damage to your roof and walls. While you're at it, make sure the downspout is clean and pointing away from foundation walls.

Retain the roof.



It's easy to take for granted the one thing that shields you from the elements. But doing so could cost you unnecessary repair costs. Be diligent about roof maintenance. After the next rainy day, inspect your ceiling for wet spots. Ask a licensed professional to inspect your roof for wear and tear if you have areas of concern.

Check your paint job.

Look for chipped, cracked paint along the exterior of your home. If wood is exposed it will begin to rot. Sand it down so there are no rough edges, prime the bare wood surface and paint it with a high quality paint product. Don't wait until siding accumulates too much dirt. Brighten up the house with a good washing.

Cut shrubs and trees.

Trim trees and hedges away from your home to discourage the growth of mildew and moisture. Branches should be at least 7 feet away from the exterior of your house to prolong the life of your siding and roof. Get rid of out-of-control vines, as they can crack siding and allow moisture and pests entry into your home.

Love your lawn.

Rake up the excess leaves you didn't get around to last fall. Too many can suffocate your grass and stop it from growing. It is time to pull the weeds from the lawn, shrubs and any plants.

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.



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COME TO ECOFEST

Saturday June 21!
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Downtown - East Bank of the
Colfax Bridge

GO GREEN!

Exhibitors • Vendors
Live Music • Kids' ECO Camp
Yoga • Zoomobile
Rock Climbing Wall
Walk-Fit Activities
On-site Recycling Center

FREE!

Walk, bike, or jog to the
Eco-Fest!

Sponsored by
Downtown South Bend
Call 282-1110 for more info

HOMES FOR SALE

508 LINDSEY ST. \$ 81,000

4 bedrooms,
1 1/2 baths,
Living room,
dining room,
kitchen,
first-floor laundry,
tiled kitchen and
bathroom floors,
shed,
all new mechanicals
including central air.



911 LINDSEY ST. \$ 72,000

3 bedrooms,
1 1/2 baths,
living room,
dining room,
kitchen, 2nd floor
laundry, walk-up attic,
tiled kitchen and
bathroom 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. Once eligibility is verified, you will be placed on a waiting list.