



CITY OF SOUTH BEND

STEPHEN J. LUECKE, MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Welcome to the Near Northwest Neighborhood, a diverse urban community where 6,000 residents live within walking distance of downtown and a short bike ride to the University of Notre Dame. My wife, Peg, and I moved to South Bend in the early 1970s. We thought we'd be here only a year or two, but we fell in love with South Bend, and with the Near Northwest Neighborhood in particular. It's been a great place to raise our family with wonderful neighbors and friends.

We've seen people coming back to the city. In the Near Northwest Neighborhood, you can live close to the action of downtown, yet enjoy a pace of life that is relaxed. In the summer, my wife and I love to ride our tandem bike along the Riverside Trail, to take our grandson to see the ducks in Leeper Park and even to try rafting on North America's first urban manmade whitewater course in downtown South Bend. Yet we're only a 40-minute drive, through Michigan vineyards and wine country, to the dune-covered beaches of Lake Michigan.

There is a rich history here. South Bend has more locally designated historic districts than any other place in Indiana. Three are in this neighborhood. We celebrate our restored mansions like Copshaholm (1895-96) and the 1886-89 Tippecanoe Place. We frequent performing palaces like the 1921 Morris Performing Arts Center and the 1916 South Bend Civic Theater. And we keep our story alive through attractions like the Studebaker National Museum and the Northern Indiana Center for History. In 2008, South Bend was designated by the White House as a Preserve America Community for historic preservation in both public and private facilities.

But South Bend is also about the future. In March 2008, the world's leading computer chip makers chose Notre Dame as the site of their newest national nanoelectronics research center. As researchers seek to create the next generation of transistor technology, they draw from the creative spirit in South Bend's DNA, which led to the invention of the electronic self-starter for automobiles and the formula for synthetic rubber. Our history shows we know how to make things. Our people know craftsmanship. Innovation also is behind South Bend's designation in 2009 as the greenest large city in Indiana.

You can live large here for little money. *Forbes* magazine in 2009 ranked South Bend as the 6th most affordable of 200 U.S. metropolitan areas. In January 2010, NBC-TV's Today Show named South Bend as the best city in the nation to find value, stability and rising prices in a home while living in a community with anticipated job growth. Our residents buy and restore architectural gems at a fraction of the cost in Chicago, less than 90 minutes away. Home prices remain a bargain, but as South Bend gains renown in the high-tech world, that could change.

The best place to buy a house is a city where history is valued; where the housing stock is rich and distinctive, yet affordable; and where quality of life is unsurpassed. I invite you to explore South Bend, Indiana, and discover the vitality in a city whose past shapes its future. Whether in the Near Northwest or any of our great neighborhoods, you'll find treasure in South Bend.

Mayor Stephen J. Luecke

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