Celebrate Fall with Arts Café

Leaves are bright, the air is crisp; it’s the perfect time to celebrate the changing of the seasons! Spend a weekend outside, enjoying the arts and sampling foods prepared by some of the city’s best culinary specialists. At Arts Café you can do all this while touring some of the gorgeous homes that the Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc. (NNN) has been rehabilitating this season.

Join us Sunday, Nov. 4, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., for the 10th annual Arts Café along Cottage Grove Avenue. This free walking tour will feature the work of local artists and eight beautiful homes on display. Start your tour at the NNN Offices (at the corner of Portage & California Avenues).

At the NNN, our passion is to redeem and re-create these homes in one of the most vibrant and historic neighborhoods in South Bend, and to educate and inspire our area homeowners. At Arts Café we showcase the distinctive character of these homes and spread awareness of our unique mission in our community. For more information, call the Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc. at (574)232-9182 or visit us online at www.nearnorthwest.org.

NNN Needs You!
Quality of Life Plan To Be Developed

This is the time for Near Northwest residents, business owners, employees, entrepreneurs, and friends to come together and define the future of the Near Northwest neighborhood. Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc. is seeking to develop a Quality of Life Plan using principles from Comprehensive Community Development and the 12 Principles of Healthy Neighborhoods with assistance from the Indiana Association for Community Economic Development (IACED).

In a nutshell, this means that residents, working with formal and informal local leadership, will develop their own vision and goals for the neighborhood and create a plan that can be used to leverage resources (including funding) to implement the resident vision for the neighborhood. It’s based on a model being used successfully in other Indiana communities, but tailored to the Near Northwest.

Look for more information around the neighborhood and on the web page, www.nearnorthwest.org. Contact Karen Ainsley at (574)232-9182 for more information about how we NEED YOU.

Process and Opportunities: Adventure!

- One-on-One Interviews
  Resident leaders and business people will be conducting one-on-one interviews with at least 100 neighborhood residents. We NEED YOU to say yes if you are contacted to be interviewed!

- Early Action
  Early actions are opportunities for small improvements that build neighborhood spirit and demonstrate progress. Think of things that could help improve the neighborhood and apply for an early action grant (information coming soon).

- Vision
  Residents will set the vision for the Near Northwest. Come participate in a workshop in 2013.

- Planning Committee
  A committee will guide the work of the working groups and development of the plan document – let us know if you want to be a part of the action.

- Working Groups
  Will develop the action plans on topics that are important to the neighborhood.

- Implementation
  Get it done!
The Neighborhood Watch Program is one of the most effective and successful means to prevent, inform and identify problems and crimes in a neighborhood. Thanks to some new ways to become part of the program, there are 231 Neighborhood Watch Groups within the City of South Bend. Hopefully this number will increase dramatically when you hear how easy it is to become part of the program.

The success of the Neighborhood Watch Program is a result of its simplicity and the dedication of the South Bend residents who are actively involved in their neighborhoods. A common misunderstanding is that the program requires a large time or work commitment. In actuality, it requires very little work.

The Neighborhood Watch Program is coordinated by police officers of the Crime Prevention Unit. These officers receive copies of police reports which include reports of burglaries, robberies, motor vehicle thefts and serious assaults. These officers summarize the reports and relay the information to the block captains who live in or near where the incident took place. The message is sent through an automated computer generated telephone message that is received by the block captain between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. The block captains are then responsible for relaying the same crime information to their assigned neighbors. Residents will only receive a call if there is one of the aforementioned crimes to report. (No news is good news).

Another option for block captains is to receive messages via the internet through Crimereports.com. Block captains can go to this website and register as a user for FREE and create a custom alert for your neighborhood. Whenever a crime occurs in your alert area an email is sent that can be relayed to assigned neighbors; alerts are received in a more timely manner as updates are done three times a day by the computer. Block captains choosing this method can receive information on more types of crimes and will be able to track crime trends in their neighborhood.

The key benefit of joining the Neighborhood Watch Program is that residents are empowered to prevent crime by joining with law enforcement. Residents assist by spotting suspicious persons or criminal trends in their neighborhoods and reporting it to police.

To find out if you have a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain in your area or for more information about the program, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at (574) 235-7527 or via e-mail at phechlin@southbendin.gov.

Each season your home goes through changes in temperatures, weather conditions, aging and of course human abuse! In order to keep all the components of your home running smoothly, and to avoid costly repairs later, it's helpful to conduct seasonal maintenance. The NNN is fortunate to have some expertise on staff to conduct both a spring and fall home maintenance seminar. Here are some suggested maintenance tips for the fall. Get a jump start before the weather grows colder. It's important to prepare for the upcoming winter months and prevent costly damage later on.

- Insulate your water heater and realize great benefits. By adding insulation around the outside of your water heater, you are keeping the heat inside the water heater and therefore reducing the need for the heater to turn on and heat, reducing your fuel cost. The insulation kits can easily be applied to your hot water heater, fitting snugly and taking just minutes to install.

- Shrink-wrap the inside of a leaky window with a plastic insulation kit. This can help the air from escaping out of an older window. These kits take nothing more than a little patience and a blow dryer.

- Change the filters in your furnace. This is important for proper air flow. Consider having a heating professional check your heating system to ensure optimal performance and discover minor problems before they turn into costly major repairs.

- Locate and turn off your outside water valve to prevent pipes from freezing and bursting; ensure that the pipes, as well as the wall cavities where they reside, are well insulated.

- Replace analog thermostats with a digital unit. A digital thermostat is energy efficient and will ultimately save you money, through programming that allows you to control the temperature within a home to meet your various needs throughout the day.

- Insulate basement sill plates. It is a very easy thing to do and it is a large place for air infiltration and heat loss in your home. Even though the space between the sill plate and the sill is tiny, it exists around the entire perimeter of your home -- this adds up to a large area. Insulating the rim joist area and sealing around the sill plate can dramatically lower your heating bills and make your home more energy efficient.

The Common Ground
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GARDEN WALK

By Nancy Tetzlaff

Being a novice gardener, I didn’t really know what was involved when I volunteered to be on the garden walk.

I didn’t know it would involve broken fingernails, calluses and sweating so much I couldn’t see. I didn’t know I would have to postpone fun things on the weekends because I needed to be “tending to the garden” I didn’t know I would be glued to the nightly news to see when the next rain was expected. I didn’t know I would get up early on Sunday mornings to go through the ads to see what was on sale that week that might look nice in the garden.

But … I also didn’t know the joy I would experience in creating a garden out of an empty space, learning what grows best in sun and shade, the joy of seeing the first blossom on a plant that I nurtured through the drought. Best of all I didn’t realize the great people I would meet, both the other gardeners that were on the garden walk and all the wonderful people that came to see the gardens and support our neighborhood.

Almost 175 people, including City officials, came to see the 13 different and unique gardens, many from garden clubs willing to share their gardening tips. Hopefully the gardens brought happiness and peace to everyone who came by.

One question I was asked after it was over was did I have any regrets about joining in the garden walk this year. After thinking about it, I could come up with only one regret and that was I didn’t have the opportunity to spend more time in each of the gardens to fully appreciate their beauty and serenity.

So, would I do it again after knowing what was involved? You bet I would! This is a testament to what one person can accomplish when you choose to become active and take action to turn a challenging situation into opportunities for local youth. We challenge each of you to think about how you can make a difference in the neighborhood.
**A GREENER SOLUTION IS IN THE BAG**

On a recent Saturday morning neighbors gathered to hear more about why the City of South Bend is urging residents to reduce plastics in yard waste. Why do I want to brown bag it (and we are not talking about your lunch)? Neighbors joined Department of Solid Waste Supervisor Andre Price as he shared details about why the city is asking residents to switch from plastic to paper bags for future yard waste pick-ups. The Department of Solid Waste is making the change to save the city and taxpayers money, all while offering cleaner recycling and creating a more efficient pick up system for city crews.

There are many reasons to transfer from paper to plastic, a few that were mentioned are:

- Cost savings in the reduction of landfill fees
- Fuel savings from reduction in trucking of waste plastics to the landfill from Organic Resources
- Reduces labor and equipment cost due to less time spent separating plastics and natural waste
- Environmentally friendly paper bags are made of natural products and disintegrate faster than plastic bags

In addition to all these benefits, it also adds up to cleaner compost that will eventually hit our gardens and yards!

To participate, simply place items for pickup in the front, at the curb, in an open area, unobstructed by trees, power lines, and not leaning against building or fences on trash collection day. Yard waste and trash needs to be separated by 4 feet and vehicles should not block or park in front of yard waste.

Andre also brought along the first bags free to get residents started on the program. Assuring neighbors these changes were all voluntary, but hoping that, with a little education about the benefits, residents will see how these changes not only make good sense financially, but allow the city to create a greener solution. The NNN hopes to see you brown bagging it soon.

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**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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**Near Northwest Neighborhood**

P.O. Box 1132
South Bend, IN 46624

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**Offer your in-sites**

Check out the new City of South Bend website at [http://www.ci.south-bend.in.us/](http://www.ci.south-bend.in.us/). There’s a new layout with lots of information on upcoming meetings, Twitter tweets from Mayor Pete, traffic updates, frequently-asked resident questions and links designed to make it easier to pay your city bills online and navigate the site. Take a look and offer your feedback on the new site in the lower right hand corner of the main page.

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**LEAVING YOU WITH A REMINDER...**

Do not allow children to play in leaf piles, for their safety!

Please rake leaves to the curb line but avoid raking them into the street, as this will plug the street drains causing them to flood.

Avoid parking on top or in front of leaf piles along curb lines, this will hinder crews and could ignite a fire.

Do not contaminate leaf piles by putting in sticks, trash, and other debris. The City will not pick these piles up and it will be the property owner’s responsibility to dispose of contaminated piles. (The City will not come back to these piles.)

Avoid raking leaves to curb lines after crews have finished your street. The City will not return until the next scheduled day in your area.

Burning of leaves is totally prohibited and in violation of the city ordinance.