Tax Appeal Workshop

Tax reassessments are out and most of us have been impacted in one way or another. The most common change seems to be an increase in assessed land value and a decrease in improvement/structure values. In many cases the change in land value was dramatic and has people concerned. Rosemary Mandrici, St. Joseph County Assessor, and her staff will be available at the NNN offices to answer questions and assist with the appeals process on:

Thursday, December 6 from 5:00 - 7:00pm

If you would like to call Rosemary’s office, she can be reached at 574-235-9700.

Please contact us if you need the forms to file an appeal. We have these available as well as several additional documents describing the supporting documentation needed, where to obtain the supporting documentation, and possible reasons for your change in assessed value.

YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE

Tax Appeal Workshop
Thursday, December 6, 2012
5:00 - 7:00 pm
NNN Offices

Environmental Committee
Thursday, January 17, 2013
5:30 pm
NNN Offices

General Meeting – Proposed Riverside Drive Changes
Saturday, January 26, 2013
10:00 - 11:00 am
NNN Offices

Look for the announcement of the Annual Meeting - Coming Soon!

Adopt-a-Block
Saturday, April 20, 2013
8:00 am
NNN Offices

THINGS AROUND TOWN

Ice Skating
December 1 – 24
Howard Park Ice Rink
Weather Permitting

Nutcracker
Saturday, December 8 & Sunday, December 9
Sat. 2:00 & 7:00 pm, Sun. 2:00pm
Morris Performing Arts Center

Santa House & Workshop
December 7 – 24
College Football Hall of Fame Campus

Holiday Wine Walk
Wednesday, December 12
5:00 - 9:00 pm
Downtown South Bend
www.eatdrinkdtsb.com

The Roz Puppets Holiday Hilarity
Friday December 21
7:00 pm
Inside the College Football Hall of Fame Press Box

For more information on things happening in Downtown South Bend visit:
www.downtownfortheholidays.com/
In early November, over 20 resident leaders from the near northwest neighborhood and neighborhood partners gathered to kick off the neighborhood comprehensive community development process. Jim Capraro, Senior Fellow with the Institute for Comprehensive Community Development in Chicago, presented the old and new models of community development to the group as well as sharing stories about why the new model for community development is effective. Andy Fraizer, Executive Director of the Indiana Association for Community Economic Development (IACED) in Indianapolis, presented the types of leadership involved in comprehensive community development as formal and informal leadership. Formal leaders are those who are generally connected to institutions and have power and resources while informal leaders are people in the neighborhood who have a following. Karen Ainsley, Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc. (NNN) Executive Director, shared the work the neighborhood has done to date around the idea of community organizing and building resident capacity. Rose Scovel, AICP, Program Manager for IACED then presented the outline of the process as it will be applied in NNN, following the model of Organize, Decide, Act. Organize is the time when resident leaders will be interviewing neighborhood residents, formal and informal leaders to understand the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the neighborhood. Decide is the phase in which a quality of life plan will emerge from discussions of a vision for the neighborhood, priorities, goals, and action plans. Act is the ongoing work of implementing and evaluating the plan over the next several years.

During the afternoon session, Jim Capraro explained the one-on-one interview process that is the majority of the work in the Organize phase of the process. This involves actively listening to people as they talk about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the neighborhood. Between 150-200 of these interviews will be held with neighborhood residents beginning in January. After the information from the interviews is compiled there will be a “Report Back” meeting to announce the outcomes of the interviews. A little later a Visioning session will be held to determine what kind of neighborhood the near northwest would like to be in the next 5-10 years.

When there is a vision established, working groups will be formed to develop action plans for the priority areas. The priorities, as well as the goals and actions, will come from these working groups in the neighborhood, not from the consulting team. The consulting team is a resource to the neighborhood to assist with process and provide experience and expertise, but will not be developing the plan, it will be the neighborhood’s plan.

Throughout the process there will be opportunities to be involved. Some will be asked for an interview, some will be asked to sit on a steering committee or in a working group. Some will be asked to participate in implementation of the plan. When you are asked – please say YES! This is an important time in the life of NNN and we NEED YOU!

More information about the NNN comprehensive community development process is available from Karen Ainsley at 232-9182 or nnndiretor@sbcglobal.net.

The clouds in the sky and the chill in the air, the artists, musicians, shoppers and neighbors came out and made the 10th Annual Arts Cafe a resounding success. Cornstalks and pumpkins lined Cottage Grove to guide people to the houses being renovated and completed by the NNN. New for this year was the opportunity to tour both occupied previous NNN houses that were generously opened by the residents and a house that was renovated and expanded privately.

Once again this year we were fortunate to have more than a thirty local musicians and dancers share their talents with us throughout the event. While keeping their fingers warm by strumming their instruments, they kept the day bouncing and swaying with lively vocals at both ends of the street and inside 730 Cottage Grove. Unfortunately a family medical emergency for the drummer of Pork Chop Buffet did not allow them to close out the day as they have done the last several years. Fortunately, local City Councilman Gavin Ferlic was able to jump back in front of the microphone with his guitar and 10-year old Anaya Jolie closed out the day with her strong voice and guitar skills. Talk about a true community event.

We are looking forward to 2013 and the next event to gather as neighbors.