After years of residents brainstorming possible uses for the former Van Buren Market space it became clear what its future should hold. The NNN routinely spills out of its existing space, not to mention the number of good ideas that are turned away for lack of a physical location to make them happen. Neighbors have clamored for an area in which a hundred different projects can take place — potlucks, classes, educational forums, and more — and so developing an NNN Community Space became a natural solution.

Today, thanks to long-standing partners such as Beacon Health System, PNC Foundation, Community Development Block Grants, the former Portage Avenue Steering Committee and ongoing guidance from the City of South Bend’s Community Investment Department, the space is a reality. The NNN Community Space is the culmination of years of neighborhood commitment. We are pleased to announce we have completed the interior finishes for the new space at 1013 Portage Ave. While there is still money needed for kitchen equipment, audio systems, etc., the building can begin to be used!

This space will allow us to build additional capacity for the neighborhood. This is your space. We want you to use it to enrich the community. The NNN wants to provide it as a resource for neighbors ready to do more. The neighborhood has such a rich past, but is only just beginning to envision our potential. This has never been more evident than in the pages of the Quality of Life Plan being developed. The best is yet to come — and it is our desire to see the NNN Community Space as the hub of all the future has to offer.

JOIN US ON SATURDAY, OCT. 5

for a Grand Opening of the space. Very fittingly, the first meeting in the space will be the rollout of the Quality of Life Plan. Tours will take place from 9:30-10 a.m. and the Quality of Life Plan rollout begins from 10 a.m.-noon.

Neighborhood Plan Unveiled:

Join the Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc. (NNN) in celebrating the rollout of the neighborhood Quality of Life plan on Saturday, Oct. 5 from 10 a.m.-noon in the NNN Community Space at 1013 Portage Ave. We encourage everyone to attend as the neighborhood celebrates the work neighbors and NNN members have been doing for the past year to develop a plan for the future of the neighborhood. Areas of focus include connections & communications, quality housing, economic opportunity and redevelopment, safety, infrastructure & connectivity and youth & families.

The rollout is an excellent opportunity to hear about the hard work the action planning teams have done throughout the summer months. The co-chairs will present the goals from their focus area. Once these plans are shared, the fun begins! There will be many opportunities for involvement as committees are formed or regenerated, giving residents and community partners an opportunity to turn these goals into positive actions to improve our community.

The Quality of Life Plan is a result of the near northwest neighborhood’s involvement in a Comprehensive Community Development process that was supported locally by NNN and funded by the Sisters of the Holy Cross. The Indiana Association for Community Economic Development has provided technical support to the neighborhood through the process in partnership with the Chicago-based Institute for Comprehensive Community Development.

For more information visit www.nearnorthwest.org or contact Karen Ainsley at 574-232-9182.
Problem Solving Partners

The Chronic Nuisance Ordinance passed by the South Bend Common Council is set to go into effect on Oct. 15. The ordinance was designed to create a public-private partnership in which residents report chronic nuisances and the city would have the ability to eliminate the nuisance through a fine as well as recover some of the cost to city services.

Here is how you can partner with the city to improve our neighborhoods:

Call on a nuisance activity that is disrupting your quality of life. To report non-emergency activities call 311 or, in the event of an emergency, call 911. The calls for service can be code letters/violations or police calls for service.

The ordinance requires that any single property that has more than five calls of service over a 60-day period or a property that consists of more than 50 units that has more than 12 calls of service over a 90-day period will be fined to recover the cost related to city services and the property deemed a chronic nuisance. If deemed a chronic nuisance, any additional calls for police service or violation/citation from code will result in a $250 fine to the property owner.

If deemed a chronic nuisance it will remain on the list for one calendar year and be posted to the city’s website. Once the property address is on the list, the owner can be fined $250 per additional incident, for one calendar year. After the year passes the property owner starts with a clean slate.

Creating and sustaining a secure, crime-resistant and code violation-free property is NOT a one-step process. The ordinance is designed to establish sustainable relationships with residents focusing on effective property management and enhanced long-term quality of life.

There is an appeal and a remediation process for all property owners to employ corrective actions and work with the city to resolve issues. Officer Keenan Lane has been assigned as Chronic Problem Property Officer. Lane will be handling complaints on any residential, commercial or industrially-zoned properties that are presenting excessive calls for service from city departments.

Join us at the NNN offices on Thursday, Nov. 7 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. to learn more about the ordinance from Councilman Tim Scott and to meet Lane.

Rebuilding Together, which offers free home repairs, will be coming to the near northwest neighborhood in April 2014! Repairs vary from yard clean-up and trash removal to minor repairs such as small carpentry jobs and painting walls to major skilled tasks such as roofing work and updating electrical and plumbing systems. To receive assistance, homes in the near northwest neighborhood must be owner-occupied and located in the area bounded by Portage Avenue on the east, Lincoln Way West on the south and the railroad tracks on the west. Priority will be given to elderly and disabled residents. Income and other restrictions apply.

Applications will be mailed to homeowners in the target area and can also be requested through Rebuilding Together. The application period will begin this month and end October 18. About 20 neighborhood homes will be selected for assistance.

Rebuilding Together, formerly known as Christmas in April, is a nonprofit partnership of volunteers from local government, businesses and other nonprofits that rehabilitates the homes of low-income homeowners and improves neighborhoods. Over the organization’s 25-year history, 39,000 volunteers have donated their time and skills to rehabilitate 841 homes, with repairs valued at more than $10.6 million, in neighborhoods across South Bend. Board members and staff will be available to answer any questions and accept applications at a drop-in session on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m. to noon at the NNN offices, located at 1005 Portage Ave. For more information, call (574) 235-9660 or visit www.rtsjc.org.

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An extremely good idea

In early September three neighborhood homeowners were named as winners of the Extreme Garden Makeover contest sponsored by the NNN Environmental Committee. Through the generosity of neighbors and more than 20 volunteers, these lucky neighbors received a variety of landscape designs, plants and the assistance to help make a garden makeover possible. The newly created garden spaces are part of an effort by the NNN’s Environmental Committee to make a positive, visible impact in the near northwest neighborhood.

The committee joined with youth in the University of Notre Dame’s Upward Bound program to make the transformations happen.

Ludy McCollester, who lives at the very visible corner of Leland and California avenues, was one winner. On the Saturday morning of the makeover, Ludy was in the middle of the action, working with volunteers preparing beds, planting and eventually mulching the new beds. All Ludy could say is, “I can’t thank everyone enough.”

This is a great example of the pride people have in the near northwest. The makeovers were possible because of the generosity of others. The plants offered were extras shared from a variety of neighbors’ yards and our local Home Depot. The landscape advice was provided by longtime neighborhood residents: Becky Kaiser who is a neighborhood Master Gardener, John Sellers, an amateur gardener clearly turned pro by the look of his own yard and Andy Grontkowski, a local architect with a special flair for landscaping.

Neighborhood residents and community volunteers helped create these new gardens, giving up a couple hours out of their Saturday to make the view a little better for all of us.

Thanks to everyone involved for their hard work!

And Kudos to...

Just across the corner from Ludy McCollester’s renovated garden is another “extreme makeover,” one that has evolved over the course of the past year. NNN neighbors Samuel and Erika Valenzuela, who purchased the property on the northwest corner of Leland and California, have replaced a derelict property with a beautiful garden space for all to enjoy.

As they have worked in the garden this spring and summer many passers-by have stopped to admire their work and chat. The impact of their private investment and meticulous maintenance of this urban oasis benefits all who live and travel through the neighborhood (including the honey bees!). Thank You!
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.

Near Northwest Neighborhood
P.O. Box 1132
South Bend, IN 46624

Non Profit Organization
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You like us!
...you really like us!

Want to hear more about what is happening in the near northwest neighborhood and the broader community? Like us on Facebook to keep updated on events, activities and opportunities for involvement throughout South Bend.

EXPERIENCE ARTS CAFE

Mark your calendars; tell your friends, spread the news: The near northwest neighborhood will be on display at the 11th Annual Arts Cafe on Sunday, Nov. 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Arts Café is a feast for the senses. It’s the place to hear local musicians filling the air with mood-setting tunes, to smell and taste savory culinary delights, to see and touch visual creations that dress more than just walls. And of course, we’ve included activities for the young and the young at heart. The event showcases the diverse talent of local artists in a neighborhood that dispels “sameness.”

It’s the perfect marriage between art and architecture.

There’s really no excuse for missing this free walking tour which offers solid proof of the exciting, positive developments in one of the city’s historic and most distinctive neighborhoods.

Don’t know where to start? Make a stop at the welcome tent, conveniently located at the corner of Portage and California avenues, adjacent to the NNN offices where you’ll find brochures and a map of the route. Oh and don’t forget to wear your walking shoes and bring a friend — you’ll want to share the Arts Cafe experience.