A Pour-Over of Neighborhood Activity!
The NNN officially has a Coffee Shop

By Brook Hardy

The NNN Officially Has a Coffee Shop!

After years of neighbors asking, “When is our neighborhood going to get a coffee shop?”—we finally have one! The Local Cup, located at 1009 Portage Ave., opened March 28 and is now open every Saturday from 9:00 am to noon. Since then, it has become quite a gathering spot.

The Local Cup was founded by neighbors, and is completely volunteer-run. We serve locally-roasted Zen and Bendix coffees, and Cyn’s Fruitful muffins. If you're not a coffee person, we also have hot tea and organic juice boxes.

Why are people raving about The Local Cup? Maybe it's the friendly, welcoming environment that helps strengthen our neighborhood pride and relationships. That's definitely my favorite part—knowing that I'll get to see and meet so many awesome neighbors every Saturday. Others love The Local Cup for our signature craft drink called Wings of Coffee: two-thirds strong coffee with one-third hot milk. Coffee fans seem to love our pour-over coffee brew and some have even called it “the best coffee in South Bend!” And lastly, many appreciate our “pay it forward” model, which allows you to accept your coffee and muffin as a gift, or pay it forward for another neighbor. This is a way to honor the economic situations of all neighbors and make the coffee shop accessible to all.

The Local Cup is a great example of what can happen when neighborly creativity and volunteerism meets community support. We partnered with the Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc., and without them we wouldn't exist! We have also received tremendous support from the Sisters of the Holy Cross, who have provided us with two generous grants to buy equipment, build out our kitchen (coming soon!) and hire local teens. We are particularly excited to involve local youth, who have already been volunteering at the coffee shop. We hope to have our youth internship program up and running by fall.

If you haven't yet stopped by on a Saturday, head over to The Local Cup for a great cup of coffee, great conversation, and a muffin you can make a meal out of. If The Local Cup is already your Saturday ritual, spread the word and bring your neighbors, or ask us about how you can volunteer. See you there!

Sharing Our Space in the NNN

Thanks to the support of the City of South Bend Community Development Program and the generous support of many neighbors, we are pleased to have the former Van Buren market become the NNN Community Space at 1013 Portage Ave.

Our NNN facilities have had a “soft opening” as we began to understand how to most effectively use this space, a facility for the NNN and for us all. But now we have fully created an intention and guidelines for the use of the space, and I’d like to invite you to read them on our website:
http://www.nearnorthwest.org/neighborhood-projects/community-space-use/

We welcome your requests to use the space, and invitations that you might extend on behalf of the NNN in the use of our shared space. As you can see, the community spaces are intended for use in alignment with the NNN’s mission, and are not available for partisan political meetings, religious services, or private social functions.

We are open and look forward to hearing from you!

Would you like to be on the NNN ListServ and be in contact with your neighbors about Community information and announcements?

Please email us with your name and email address at nnnassistant@sbcglobal.net

NNN-AT-A-GLANCE

Job Fair
with Goodwill Community Career Center
Wednesday, June 17th, 2015
1:00 - 4:00 pm
NNN Community Space—1013 Portage

2015 Arts Café Brainstorm Meeting
Wednesday, June 24th, 2015
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
NNN Meeting Room—1005 Portage

The Local Cup
Pay-It-Forward NNN Cafe
Open Every Saturday
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
1009 Portage

2015 NNN Arts Café
Sunday, October 25, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY-WIDE EVENTS

Art Beat
August 29, 2015
12:00 - 8:00 pm
Downtown South Bend
www.arteatsouthbend.org

Then & Now: A Downtown South Bend Architectural Walking Tour
Dates: May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7, & September 4
Time: 5:00 pm; Cost: $2/person
Reserve by calling 574-282-1110.

Free Outdoor Movies on the Gridiron
7:00 p.m.; Movie will begin at dusk (approx. 9:15 p.m.)
At the Gridiron, next to the Chocolate Cafe
Friday, July 24: The Lego Movie
Saturday, August 22: Guardians of the Galaxy

South Bend River Lights
The River Lights turn on 1/2 hour before sunset and stay on until sunrise, however, the interactive feature stops at Midnight.

Best Viewing Spots: Seitz Park, Colfax Bridge, Island Park, and Pier Park. 24 hour access is available to Island Park except during private events

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2015 Arts Café & SB150 Arts Gallery

The Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc. took a year off from the well-loved Arts Café in 2014, during a transition between Executive Directors. We are pleased to announce that the Arts Café will return in 2015! Please put Sunday, October 25th on your calendars and plan to enjoy the day shared with local artisans, musicians, and of course your highly talented neighbors.

We welcome your help with this event, and will be hosting a “Brainstorming Meeting” regarding the event on Wednesday, June 24th, at 6:00 p.m. at the NNN Meeting Room, 1005 Portage Ave. Any neighbors also interested in participating as an artist, musician, or culinary provider may contact us at nnnassistant@sbcglobal.net or 574/232-9182 to receive information about participation in the 2015 Arts Café.

To celebrate South Bend’s sesquicentennial birthday, the NNN will be hosting a SB150 Artists Gallery during the 2015 Arts Café, and on a semi-permanent basis in the future at our Community Room. This project is being made possible by a Community Impact grant by South Bend 150, where the NNN was one of fourteen recipients of grant money provided to help fund community projects related to the city’s yearlong 150th birthday celebration.

We will be inviting local artists to participate in a Call for Artists, and seeking artists of all ages and backgrounds to participate in providing art for this gallery, which will focus on South Bend neighborhoods. With the help of the SB150 grant, we will be able to provide small commissions to up to ten artists who apply. Please contact us at nnnassistant@sbcglobal.net if you are interested in receiving more information, and be on the look out for our Call for Artists, which will be rolled out by June 24th.

Updates and Information on City Initiatives

We are pleased with how much discussion we hear about current City Initiatives, and we share in the excitement of the City Wide celebration of South Bend’s 150th Birthday!

Recently the City hit the 830th day mark of Mayor Buttigieg’s 1,000 Houses in 1,000 Days initiative that set out to repair or demolish 1,000 vacant and abandoned houses in 1,000 days.

To date, 308 houses have been repaired and 442 houses have been demolished. 10 houses have been deconstructed, 4 houses were rehabilitated by CDC partners with the assistance of the Community Development Block Grant Program, and 64 will be impacted by the state’s Blight Elimination Program. Another 196 are under contract for demolition. The Hardest Hit Fund Blight Elimination Program will subsidize the demolition of 62 more. In all, the City has taken action on 828 houses in 836 days of the initiative.

In partnership with the City of South Bend, the Urban Enterprise Association of South Bend, Inc. (UEA) is offering the Vacant To Value Matching Repair Grant Program, which provides matching grant funds to repair a vacant & abandoned property within the City of South Bend. The applicant can receive up to $10,000 to make repairs – which must first be used to address any and all code enforcement violations – to a house that they will reside in as their primary residence for at least three (3) years. The applicant is required to provide a minimum of 20% matching funds for the qualifying repairs (i.e. to receive the full $10,000 grant, the applicant must contribute $2,000 making the total improvement cost $12,000). For more information, see http://www.ci.south-bend.in.us/government/content/vacant-abandoned-property-matching-repair-grant

Switching to our commercial corridors, as you’ve been experiencing, initial phases of the West Side Main Streets Plan (http://www.ci.south-bend.in.us/government/content/west-side-corridors) are already impacting our neighborhood with the repaving and upgrade of Lincolnway West.

The City of South Bend awarded a $1.5 million project in fall 2014 to improve the entire stretch of Lincolnway West from William Street to Maplewood Avenue. Sections of broken sidewalk are being replaced, and new street trees are being added. The street will be resurfaced, and traffic signals will be improved. The lane stripping will be changed from four lanes (two lanes in each direction) to three lanes (one lane in each direction with a left-turn lane). As space and demand dictates, on-street parking and bike lanes will be added.

The NNN will attempt to keep all updates which impact our neighborhood coming your way!

Thank you for your amazing generosity and hard work in the successful 2015 Adopt-a-Block! With the help of our City partners, we combined to gather more than 5 tons of trash this year despite the rain! You are a hearty bunch!