Garden Walk is One of a Kind
By Alesia Redding

The NNN’s Garden Walk, set for August 16, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., offers a one-of-a-kind experience.

It’s about unique and imaginative outdoor spaces — and the very special individuals who create and nurture them. It’s about flowers and trees and ponds and pergolas ... and let’s not forget the people.

What could be more enjoyable than spending some quality time on a summer day touring some of the most inspired places in the neighborhood and talking to the special folks behind them?

From newbie to long-established gardens, the event, a fundraiser for the NNN, promises to captivate — plus provide you with some great ideas to “borrow” for your own garden.

The 9 gardens featured at this year’s Garden Walk include:

- This small urban garden, similar to those in London and other European cities, is a no-herbicide, no-pesticide effort that is eco-friendly to birds and insects. Favorite features include a fountain surrounded by roses and grass pathways.
- This garden incorporates a family’s rock collection, some placed in various locations amongst the plantings, some used to create little paths all over the yard. You’ll find Oakleaf hydrangeas, lilacs and roses, among other perennials, in this unique outdoor space, as well as such repurposed items as old chicken feeders and children's art projects.

That’s just a sampling of what you’ll find on the NNN’s Garden Walk. Come join the fun. For ticket information, visit your local Martin’s Supermarkets, stop by the NNN offices or call (574) 232-9182. Tickets are $10 in advance and $12 the day of the Walk.

Your Input Needed to Enhance Redevelopment Project

The NNN is working hard to increase its odds of receiving an allocation of low income housing tax credits for the redevelopment of the Ford Distributing site. The application which is due in early November allows points for unique features. These features are not only meant to enhance the development project, but connect the project and surrounding neighborhood in innovative ways.

What makes up unique features? The easiest answer is your imagination. Is it unique to have a borrow a bike program on site? Is it unusual to have an onsite book lending library? Would a farmers market run by residents for residents be unusual? Come brainstorm and share the ideas you may have for the new development on Saturday August 23, 2013 from 10:00 am – 11:30 am in the NNN Community Space.

The NNN missed a funding allocation by 1.25 points in 2013, therefore these unique features could be the difference of the redevelopment being funding or not. This category of the application has the possibility to garner a total of 6pts. An hour and a half of your time and creativity could produce significant positive results for the neighborhood. Please join in!
City Initiatives Build Neighborhood Excitement

All you need to do is follow the local news and you can find many positive initiatives underfoot in South Bend.

Recently the City hit the 500th 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, 126 houses have been repaired and 142 houses have been demolished. Another 196 are under contract for demolition. The Hardest Hit Fund Blight Elimination Program will subsidize the demolition of 62 more. And two houses are being repaired by area Community Development Corporations with the assistance of the Community Development Block Grant Program. In all, the City has taken action on 528 houses in the first 500 days of the initiative.

Switching to our commercial corridors, architectural and planning consultants, Torti Gallas and Partners, continue their work on the West Side Corridors Plan. The plan shares concepts that include commercial and housing development locations, the reconfiguration of travel lanes to support business and non-motorized transportation, expanded public and green spaces, a cultural district promoting existing local businesses. The plan also provides for the addition of bus shelters, and spaces for urban agriculture along the Lincoln Way West and Western Avenue corridors.

The project ties directly to the City’s Smart Streets initiative underway, which is an effort to improve how South Bend’s streets contribute to safe, efficient transportation and the overall quality of life. The Smart Streets projects will make our streets more friendly for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders.

Phase one of this initiative will impact the neighborhood directly. Converting portions of Williams and Lafayette Streets in downtown that are currently one-way into two-way. This is the first phase of a larger multi-year project to convert all downtown one-way streets to two-way. This project is expected to be completed by fall of 2014.

Turn to our parks and yet more work is underway. The 5 year master plan for the South Bend Parks Department continues to forge ahead. Through the development and implementation of a cohesive five-year vision and a prioritized plan of action, the ultimate goal is to maximize the benefits to our community through our efforts of developing this plan. This citizen driven plan will establish a clear direction to guide city staff, advisory committees, and elected officials in their efforts to enhance the community’s parks and recreation programs, services and facilities.

The process of this plan will help in identifying strategies for strategic positioning, building upon existing partnerships and identifying new ones, encouraging significant community involvement and feedback, identifying necessary capital improvements and for ongoing operation and maintenance. The Master Plan will define a balanced system of city-wide facilities serving the City’s entire population and visitors.

This is just a sampling of the initiatives taking place in South Bend and impacting our neighborhood. All these initiatives are designed to work in conjunction and reinforce the City’s revitalization plans. To learn more about these projects and more visit http://ci.southbend.in.us/.

“Fun” Raiser Thanks!!

In the last newsletter we spoke about the NNN’s call for small scale fund-raisers (aka “fun” raisers) to help the organization continue to fulfill its mission while gathering neighbors together in fun social setting. On the heels of a successful Café Night in the NNN Community Space organized by neighbors Mike and Catherine Griffin raising $417, neighbor Linda Glover tried her hand at organizing a parking lot sale in early June.

What a neat idea the parking lot sale was! Not only did it provide a great way to clean out the extras in your basement and garage, but all the proceeds benefitted the neighborhood. I cannot speak highly enough of Linda Glover and family. She was an organizational machine. Not only did she personally collect the majority of donations that were sold, she priced things, had items displayed by category and then made arrangements to donate anything that did not sell. This was a wonderful gift to the organization raising $1,074 in one day. Thanks Linda! It also proved to be a beautiful summer day, giving neighbors the ability to interact and catch up as they shopped the various items.

Additionally, neighbor Nancy Tetzlaff took another approach and wrote a grant to her employer Praxair, Inc. and they provided $1,000 to support the fund to equip the kitchen in the community space. It is wonderful to see a local business such as Praxair working to improve the communities where they live and work. Thanks to Nancy and the Praxair Global Giving Program!