NEIGHBORS MAKE ANOTHER CLEAN SWEEP

Every year, the end of April marks the return of the NNN Adopt-a-Block Program. The program is part of the NNN Environmental Committee's year-round efforts to beautify the neighborhood. This year, we are proud to report that Adopt-a-Block expanded yet again to involve a partnership with volunteers from Leadership South Bend/Mishawaka and included a Celebration Luncheon at the end of the day.

For the third time in the program's 12-year history, the entire neighborhood was adopted — well over 200 blocks. It was great to see more than 250 volunteers come together on a Saturday to collect 7.88 tons of trash in one day. This huge accomplishment would not be possible without volunteer commitment and hard work.

Neighbors organized their blocks and with the support of Leadership South Bend/Mishawaka volunteers we were able to make a difference in those blocks that are not as populated. To add to the event’s success, Leadership volunteers hosted a luncheon with live music (thanks to Gavin Ferlic), corn hole and plenty of good conversation.

Our thanks go out to Clark Glover, Adopt-a-Block coordinator, and members of the NNN Environmental Committee. They are a small but mighty group! The day exemplifies the benefit of our partnerships when you see the support of City of South Bend Environmental Services, Code Enforcement, the Mayor’s Office, Common Council, County Commission and the Police Department. Thanks to everyone who was involved. Your time, hard work and pride for our community are what make Adopt-a-Block a great success.

South Bend Common Council members joined residents in the cleanup effort.

HOPES STILL HIGH FOR REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

It was with disappointment that the Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc. received the news that the redevelopment of the Ford Distributing site was not selected by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority for a funding allocation of low income housing tax credits in early 2014.

There were 44 applications received in November 2013 requesting $36.8 million in credits — a highly competitive round for the tax credits program.

Fifteen projects were selected for a combined $12.1 million in tax credits. In the NNN's project set-aside category, a funding allocation was missed by 1.25 points. The NNN has been open about the highly competitive nature of the process. Missing by that slim margin shows our application was definitely a contender.

After discussions with the City of South Bend and IHCDA, the NNN is more encouraged than ever about the odds of receiving an allocation for the application due on November 3. The NNN held the first in a series of public meetings in early June to update neighbors and receive neighborhood feedback on the next phase of the process, preparing to resubmit the application again in November.

If you were unable to attend the recent meeting, a list of frequently asked questions is online at www.nearnorthwest.org or if you have questions feel free to call the NNN Offices at 574-232-9182 and ask for continued, p. 2
NNN celebrates a great year

Although the NNN Annual Meeting and Breakfast with Deputy Mayor Mark Neal seems just days ago, it was actually the end of February. The Annual Meeting had a particularly celebratory tone this year thanks to it being the first held in the new NNN Community Space. To add to the celebration, neighbors were on hand to showcase their efforts and plans that resulted from the completion of the Quality of Life Plan.

The Quality of Life Action Planning teams shared their plans and some of the things they had accomplished to date. The Economic Opportunity and Redevelopment Committee helped guide the Ford Distributing Building redevelopment proposal and the Youth and Families Committee hosted six weeks of free zumba classes in the new Community Space. There was discussion from the Infrastructure and Connectivity Committee about improving bike and pedestrian safety, as well as tree planting and benches in the neighborhood. The Safety Committee shared the desire to improve neighborhood safety and start an awareness campaign and the Quality Housing Committee introduced the desire to develop a plan to support a comprehensive redevelopment initiative for the neighborhood.

While 2013 was an exceptional year of hard work and achievement, you can tell from the above description of the Annual Meeting that 2014 is destined to be extraordinary as well. Neighbors are working on the vision developed in the Quality of Life Plan and meetings are happening to make those plans created a reality. It is never too late to join in to help make this vision a reality and the plan a success!

The next community meeting will be designed to receive feedback about unique features neighbors would like to see incorporated into the proposed apartments. It will take place on Saturday, Aug. 23 at 10 a.m. in the NNN Community Space.
Let’s Put the “Fun” in Fundraising

The NNN encouraged neighbors at the Annual Meeting to come up with ideas for small-scale fundraisers (or possibly better known as “fun”-raisers) to help the organization continue to fulfill its mission. As funding gets tighter across the board for everyone, the work load continues to grow in our neighborhood. The NNN is looking for ways to raise some additional funds while gathering neighbors together in fun social settings.

Neighbors Catherine and Mike Griffin heeded the call and in mid-April organized the first Café Night in the new NNN Community Space. The event raised $417, benefiting the fund to equip the kitchen in the Community Space. Neighbors and friends of the NNN enjoyed an evening of good conversation, desserts and locally roasted coffee. The Music Village sponsored live music for the evening, donated by our friends in the Chillbillies.

The event was a great example of what can happen when committed neighbors come together to improve their neighborhood. Thanks to Mike and Catherine for organizing the entire thing. Then, as always, it takes a village. So many made the evening possible: Zen Coffee, neighbors and NNN friends who baked treats and set up and broke down the space. All the efforts were much appreciated. It was an enjoyable evening and the support is appreciated.

The next idea percolating is an NNN Parking Lot Sale in early June. What’s better than cleaning out your extras and benefiting the neighborhood at the same time? Thanks to neighbor Linda Glover, who is organizing things for this sale.

If you have an idea for a “fun”-raiser, give the offices a call at 574-232-9182.

Energy Efficiency A Seminar Topic

In mid-May the NNN’s Property Development Committee hosted a seminar in conjunction with 1st Source Bank, Energizing Indiana’s partner agency Purdue University Extension and the NNN Property Development staff. The seminar was inspired by one of the action items developed as part of the Quality of Life Planning process: the desire for neighbors to identify programmatic, material and financial resources available to help homeowners improve their properties. After a harsh winter the committee realized a conversation on energy efficiency would be a welcome topic for homeowners in our neighborhood.

Among the topics mentioned was an offer provided by 1st Source Bank called the Neighborhood Impact Program. This program provides rehab measures for health & safety, energy efficiency upgrades, or accessibility improvements.

NIP will provide rehab measures for either health & safety issues (replace HVAC, new water heater and new roofs), energy efficiency upgrades (new energy efficient thermo pane windows, insulated primary doors, storm doors, etc.) or accessibility improvements (handicap stools, upgrading bathrooms with low-lip showers, ramps, etc.). NIP will provide up to $10,000 when 1st Source has a first lien position on the property or a 3:1 match if the household is receiving matching funds from a local government home improvement program. Otherwise up to $7,500 is available.

The funds are provided by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis, channeled through 1st Source Bank. NIP funds are considered a “no payment-no interest” loan for five years.

To take advantage of this program, call Solomon Anderson at 1st Source Portage banking center at 574-271-3130.
**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
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**Chili Supper Offers Good Food, Great Camaraderie**

The NNN Chili Supper is a longstanding tradition in the near northwest neighborhood. After a winter that acquainted us all too well with the term “polar vortex,” it was great to come together at the end of March for a warm bowl of chili.

The turnout for an event like this — and the great neighbors who organize and make things happen — is simply amazing. Only a month before the Chili Supper, there was no event coordinator signed up and no funds to secure kitchen equipment to make the event possible in the new NNN Community Space. A call out to neighbors during the Annual Meeting attracted a competent organizer, Becky Kaiser (pictured, left, with Meanest Chili award winner Marika Anderson). Not only do you get Beck’s leadership skills when you sign her up, but you get her wealth of volunteers — a group of friends, relatives and contacts that only a lifetime of living in the neighborhood can provide. Then a call to our great community partner, Holy Cross School, which was happy to provide its gymnasium for the Chili Supper until the NNN facilities are up and running.

The chili, desserts and corn bread were tasty and plentiful. Neighbors relaxed, shared a great meal and hung out well after they had finished their food to experience the conversation and camaraderie. This event is entirely supported by the neighborhood and made possible due to our neighbors and friends generous donations and volunteer help. This is a unique tradition that is part of what makes the near northwest a very special neighborhood. Thanks to everyone whose efforts allow this tradition to continue on each year.