

## NNN COMMUNITY DATES

### NNN Chili Supper

Wednesday March 7, 6-8PM, Holy Cross School  
Gymnasium, 1020 Wilbur St

### NNN Adopt a Block and Mulch Madness

Saturday, April 14, 8AM-Noon, starting from the NNN  
Community Center, 1013 Portage

**The Local Cup Pay-It-Forward Coffee Shop** at 1009  
Portage Avenue is Open

FRIDAY 9AM-1PM

SATURDAY 9AM-1PM

SUNDAY 1-4 PM

### Yoga Classes in the Mary Grace Room with Anne Clark

Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:00-5:15 PM

### Drawing & Painting with David Allen

Fridays, 10 AM-12 PM

NNN Community Center, \$10 per session

### Zumba with Carlos Centellas in the Community Center

Tuesdays and Fridays, 6-7 PM, \$5.00

### Urban Garden Farmer's Market;

On Hiatus until Late Spring

### NNN 55+ Group

Monthly Potluck Dinner, Call 232.9182 for details.

### Kids Time in the Community Center or Mary Grace Room, 10-11:30 AM

January 20 and 27; February 3, 10 and 24; March 3 and 24; April 7, 21, 28; May 5

### Registration Required Events:

Please Call the office for additional contact information

**Girl Scout Troop 51006** Meets Monday Nights

**SB Neighborhood Resources Connection's Engaging Youth Engaging Neighborhoods** course meets Wednesdays

**John Raven** is holding **Spinefulness** classes on Wednesdays

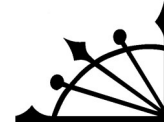
**Michiana Community Male Chorus** meets Thursday evenings

**Michiana Monologues** Rehearses on Sundays

**Argentine Tango Classes** will be starting on Saturday Evenings in February

**Muessel School** will be hosting **FaCE** (Family and Community Engagement) adult learning sessions of various lengths on Saturdays, also starting in February

Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc.  
1007 Portage Ave  
South Bend, IN 46624



## Save the DATE

### NNN Chili Supper and Adopt a Block Dates Scheduled.

We are pleased to announce dates for our major annual NNN Spring events.

This year we are holding the **Chili Supper** on **Wednesday, March 7**. The Chili supper is always a solidly engaging community event where we relax and enjoy each the company of our neighbors.

The supper will start at 6 PM at the Holy Cross School Gymnasium.

We are looking for volunteers for set up at 4 PM and take down at 8 PM. We also need kitchen helpers from 5 PM through the evening.

All Chili, Corn Bread and desserts for the event are donated by neighbors who make this event possible. Please call the office (232.9182) if you can help with any of these food items.

**Adopt a Block** is our Earth Day-connected event when we come together and clean up our neighborhood. **April 14** (one week before Earth Day) is the date for this year's event.

In addition to neighbors uniting to clean up our neighborhood streets, neighbors and Notre Dame volunteers can volunteer to hoist shovels for **Mulch Madness**. See Page 3 for more on their worthy mission.

Meet at the 1013 Portage Community Center at 8 AM on April 14 for light munchies and coffee, before getting adoption block and mulch assignments and heading out into the neighborhood to clean it up!

Finally, the **NNN Annual Meeting date** is not yet finalized. We are evaluating how the annual membership meeting can better serve our member interests. We will publish the date and event details soon, and hope you will look out for this announcement.

# THE COMMON GROUND

Near Northwest  
Neighborhood  
INCORPORATED

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc. 1007 Portage Ave. South Bend, IN 46616 574.232.9182

JAN/FEB 2018

## Introducing our Community Outreach Team

We are thrilled to have a three-person Community Outreach Team join our work for this year. Kim Brantley, Emily Dean and Kim Clowers (left to right, below) started their part-time roles in December with orientation to the neighborhood and issues of lead contamination. The second week of January, they participated in a 40-hour training for Community Health Workers in Hammond, IN. They will soon be knocking on doors and connecting with neighbors.



\* Kim Brantley attended Muessel primary school as a child and is a long-time member of St. Paul Bethel Baptist Church at Lindsey and Scott Streets. She works part-time as a receptionist at Alford's Mortuary.

\* Emily Dean moved to the neighborhood last year with her husband who is studying at Notre Dame. Previously, she taught high school history in a racially and culturally diverse school system in Virginia. Emily has two-preschool age children.

\* Kim Clowers helped start an anti-violence initiative in the Fremont Park neighborhood after a series of shootings there. She helped organize a block-party that drew six hundred people, and started a literacy program and peace circles for children. For a time she was a NNN neighbor, living on Diamond Ave.

Our Community Outreach Team will focus on the problem of high levels of lead contamination in our neighborhood. They will be building relationships with many families in Census Tract 6 with children under the age of seven. One goal will be to increase the percentage of children who have been tested for lead contamination. (Only 8% of the children have been tested in recent years).

This work is funded for one year by an environmental justice grant from the EPA and a matching grant from the St. Joseph County Community Foundation.

We have an awesome trio, that brings a wide range of relationships and experiences to us. Please welcome our Community Outreach Team and introduce them to other neighbors. If you would like to be contacted by the Community Outreach Team, please call or email us at the Office.

## YOGA Class Longevity

The next time you see our resident Yoga Guru, Ann Clark, shake her hand and thank her for 5 years of yoga classes at the NNN.

Ann recently totaled up sign ins in notebooks she uses to record who comes to class. It turns out there are almost 1,700 sign ins on those pages. That means hundreds of neighbors, friends and acquaintances have Anne and the NNN to thank for a firm grounding in the Practice of Yoga.

Ann still holds Yoga classes Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00-5:15 in the Mary Grace Room, 1005 Portage Ave. Monday is *Gentle Restorative Yoga* and Wednesday is *Developing Your Yoga Practice*. All are welcome.

BYO mat and wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing to find out why Ann has helped so many for so many years enjoy the benefits of practicing Yoga.

## The Art of Neighboring

*Thoughts from your "Neighborhood Networker"  
André Gingerich Stoner*

The Near Northwest Neighborhood includes an amazing mix of people. Like America as a whole, we are a racially and economically diverse community. But unlike much of America, people of different backgrounds live right next to each other and rub shoulders every day. This poses challenges, but also remarkable opportunities.

I have a dream of a neighborhood where each person is seen and heard, their experiences and stories are honored, and their gifts and perspectives are valued. Imagine with me a community that is a demonstration plot for how people who are quite different learn to respect each other, recognize differences and look out for each other's well-being. Each day, I already see glimpses of that. What would it take for this to be commonplace?

"Cultural humility" is a term I've recently encountered. This phrase captures a number of things. For one, it requires self-awareness of one's own cultural background and biases. It also suggests acknowledging how much we don't know about other cultures. I think this is especially true for White people, like me, who have rarely studied, worked or worshipped in settings run by people of other cultures.

"Cultural humility" also suggests we approach other cultures with curiosity and openness, rather than judgement. Sometimes we are surprised. I was humbled, for example, when I realized that middle-class culture tends to value saving and keeping for oneself, while people in poverty often put a premium on relationships and sharing what they have. Which is better?

And "cultural humility" requires a willingness to acknowledge the history, pain and past hurts of our own communities as well as others. Racial discrimination and injustice is an integral part of U.S. history. Becoming a community where each person is seen and heard means taking those experiences seriously and working together to create a different future.

Will you join me in learning and practicing cultural humility?

**Seeking contributions for the Common Ground: News You Can Use** Feel free to write 100-300 words about your non-editorial neighborhood happenings. Subject to editing and space available, we welcome your contributions. Jill Joachim at [nnnassistant@nearnorthwest.org](mailto:nnnassistant@nearnorthwest.org) or Kathy Schuth at [nnndirector@nearnorthwest.org](mailto:nnndirector@nearnorthwest.org) have more information.

## Organizing Project Steering Committee

Last year, with help from our Neighborhood Networker, Andre Stoner, the NNN has strengthened and built new relationships with leaders across the community and hosted trainings in one-on-one relational meetings. This helped build a base for the NNN to give leadership to pressing issues of lead contamination and the possibilities of our Portage grocery down-sizing or closing.

Now, seven leaders in the neighborhood have stepped up to give support and direction to our ongoing community organizing work. This committee is forming, distinct from the NNN Board of Directors, to increase leadership opportunities, and the voice of neighbors regarding issues which impact our neighborhood. They will listen to neighbors, strategize about current work and help identify other specific issues affecting our neighborhood where we can make a difference. This Steering Committee met for the first time in December.

Members are:

- Rev. Shirley Coates, pastor at Emmanuel Community Church
- Jess Hunter-Bowman, recent law school grad, father, member of Cana Community, Cottage Grove neighbor
- Della Jenkins, mom, grandma, and long-time resident of Cleveland Ave
- Joy Moore, immigration attorney, mom and neighbor on Cottage Grove
- Mike McGee, elder at Kingdom Life Christian Cathedral, sanitation worker in our neighborhood
- Rev. Gilbert Washington, pastor of St. Paul Bethel Baptist
- Traci Winston, founder of Hear our Tears, and a member of St. Paul Bethel Baptist Church.

Mike Hebbeler will serve as an NNN board liaison to this steering committee.

We are excited about the experiences and relationships of each member of the Steering Committee and the leadership they will bring as we work together to create this kind of community. As you see them, please introduce yourself and share your vision for the neighborhood with them.

## Coal Line Trail Update

The City of South Bend has updated us on the Coal Line Trail, which is an anticipated recreational trail connecting the South West Edge of the NNN with the East Bank Trail. It will be constructed in Phases and there will be future Public Meetings as planning for the trail progresses.

Made possible by federal transportation funds, construction on the Coal Line Trail project is slated to begin in 2020 and continue in 2021. For more information, including the proposed trail route details and public presentations to date, please visit [www.coallinetrail.com](http://www.coallinetrail.com).

## Never too Young to be an Effective Change Agent

An established youth empowerment development program will be joining us in the NNN this semester. We are very glad to welcome *Engaging Youth, Engaging Neighborhoods* as a partner site for this spring.

*Engaging Youth, Engaging Neighborhoods (EYEN)* is a collaborative program between Neighborhood Resources Connection (NRC) and University of Notre Dame professors and researchers, Maria McKenna and Stuart Green. The program which began in 2011 develops youth empowerment by demonstrating how youth participants can become effective change agents in their local neighborhoods and communities.

Through the program, students explore their neighborhoods and use a research method called Photovoice to tell the story of their community through photographs. Using art, photography, and other forms of literacy, the program encourages youth to reflect on experiences, make connections in their neighborhoods, and work on justice issues and self-determination.

EYEN provides an opportunity for youth to learn how to engage in civic life which helps develop a new generation of community leaders. "Key points of EYEN are creating a sense of community, creating a sense of voice, and creating a sense of democratic space," says program partner Stuart Greene, a University of Notre Dame professor.

For 2018, NRC is partnering with the Near Northwest Neighborhood (NNN). Classes will be meeting in the NNN community room, starting January 24th, and exploring parts of the near northwest neighborhood. We will keep you in the loop as the program progresses.

If you are interested in learning more about participation in the program, please contact the NRC's Diana Hess, at 574.287.0425 or [nrcneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:nrcneighbors@gmail.com).

Would you like to be on the NNN ListServ and be in contact with your neighbors about Community information and announcements? Please email or call us with your name and email address to [nnnassistant@nearnorthwest.org](mailto:nnnassistant@nearnorthwest.org) or 232-9182. Ask us how to use our shared space, or find more information at <http://www.nearnorthwest.org/neighborhood-projects/community-space-use/>

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## Portage Grocery Update

The new Portage Meat and Market has marked over three months in its new business format.

Manager Doug Kizer and his team are working hard to re-brand the store: concentrating on a smaller, cleaner space, and shifting the product mix. Some neighbors, hoping for greater improvements and investment from the Martin's corporation, have expressed disappointment in the corporation's support.

Others have appreciated the bulk meat offerings; new, lower-priced items; and other new products neighbors requested. Doug and his team are also developing neighbor-focused customer service that many feel every time they visit the store.

Doug Kizer ([dkizer@martins-supermarkets.com](mailto:dkizer@martins-supermarkets.com)) welcomes comments and requests from neighbors. He and the team are actively working on finding the product mix that's right for our neighborhood.

A team of leaders from the NNN and other northwest South Bend neighborhoods have been working diligently to try to understand the long term interests and plans of the grocery and plaza owners and opportunities and challenges this presents for our neighborhoods. The "plaza action team" includes David Hurley, Mike Keen, Rev. Charles King, Pastor Canneth Lee, Apostle Michael Patton, Kathy Schuth, Andre Stoner, John Tugman and Thelma Williams. Feel free to be in touch with any of these individuals to discuss what we are learning.

The City of South Bend has indicated some interest in a public design session for the plaza area. We will send information out with any new developments.

## Mulch Madness: April 14, 2018

As we continue to study lead issues, we are learning that bare soil around homes is a potential major source of lead contamination for children. Mulching around the drip edge of the house can significantly reduce exposure to lead. Because wind and dust can spread lead dust over more than just one yard, mulching a number of adjoining houses is a recommended best practice for reducing lead exposure.

The NNN is working with neighbors and Notre Dame partners to provide and spread mulch in a target area of the neighborhood on April 14, in conjunction with Adopt a Block. We expect to partner with the City of South Bend to deliver mulch to central spots. Neighbors and volunteers can then distribute and spread the mulch. We are looking at several demonstration blocks south of California between Harrison and Allen.

We hope to do a trial run on one block in early March. Contact Andre Stoner, NNN Neighborhood Networker, if you are interested in getting involved. Andre's number is 574.440.4021.