



## NNN COMMUNITY DATES

As a stay at home edict is in effect, the NNN is not currently sharing Community space with any of our partners.

### Changing Dates for 2020 NNN Events

Here are updates for our traditional annual events:

- **APRIL, ADOPT A BLOCK:** Though no longer a group event, neighbors are encouraged to clean their own yard during the month of April. The trash you pick up should be bagged and sealed and go in your solid waste container for weekly pickup. Bags and gloves are available at the NNN if you call to arrange a time to get them. Use best physical distancing practices.
- **Mulch Madness** has been cancelled for 2020.
- **NNN Annual Meeting and Mixer** date will be decided by April 15. News to follow. Originally planned for May 14, 2020.
- Best Week Ever and **Best Game Night Ever** will be rescheduled for the Summer of 2020. Date TBA.
- **Arts Café is Sunday, September 27**, with a new start/end time of 12-6 PM. 1000 Block of California.

## Your household counts for all of us! Fill out Census 2020

Neighbors, by now you likely have received your Census forms or online codes in the mail. Quite simply – you are required to fill them out. We also urge you to fill them out. Results from the Census influence how \$650+ billion in annual funds are distributed across the country. Programs affected by the census include: National School Lunch Program, Head Start, Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Medical Assistance Program among many other funding count areas.

### But what about my privacy?

By Federal law, Census responses are confidential and cannot be shared with anyone, including law enforcement, immigration, and tax agencies.

### How do I fill out the census?

You'll be able to respond online, by mail, or by phone. If you don't want to or can't respond in those ways, a Census worker will safely check on the status of your Census form and help get it completed.

### What is Census Day?

Census Day was April 1, 2020. This means that you'll fill out your Census form based on your household on that date.

Questions? Comments? Ideas? Get in touch with the City and our partners by emailing [census2020@southbendin.gov](mailto:census2020@southbendin.gov) or email our NNN Community Outreach Team member Kat Redding at [kat@nearnorthwestneighborhood.org](mailto:kat@nearnorthwestneighborhood.org). Kat will be sending out reminders throughout April and May to participate in the Census.

# THE COMMON GROUND

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

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

APRIL 2020

### Neighbors Helping Neighbors and COVID-19 Response

It is clear that our usual way of life is going to be disrupted for several weeks, perhaps longer, due to the coronavirus outbreak. Social distancing is crucial. We must limit the number of people who get sick - this means that even healthy people, and people not experiencing symptoms, should limit where they go and who they interact with to avoid making others sick. Our office will remain closed to walk-in traffic, but we are available by phone and email.

**Neighboring is one of our strongest resources.** If you are interested in joining a neighborhood Neighbors Helping Neighbors network, please contact us: 574-232-9182 or [n2n@nearnorthwestneighborhood.org](mailto:n2n@nearnorthwestneighborhood.org) and on Facebook at : NNN Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Additionally, the NNN has an email List serv—if you'd like to join, please email us.

If you and your family are in need of errands run for groceries, pharmacy, or other items, please contact us at the information listed above. We will match a neighbor volunteer with you – and many are eager to help out. We will do our best to accommodate all requests, including if you'd like someone to be calling to check in on you. Do you know a neighbor that we should check in on? Please let us know that as well.

### Other Community Resources

- School lunches available from 11 am – 1 pm every day school would have been meeting at Muessel and Madison Elementary Schools. Students do not need to be present for food to be picked up.
- General Assistance for food, health care, housing, or medical questions: Call 2-1-1
- The City of South Bend is offering an excellent resource list at <https://southbendin.gov/covid-19-resources-support/>
- Unemployment information can be found at the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. Applications can be completed electronically. Visit [unemployment.IN.gov](http://unemployment.IN.gov).

### Government Payout

Details have not been provided regarding the federal economic package. Details and updates are available at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus> . If the Internal Revenue Service already has your bank account information from your 2019 or 2018 returns, it will transfer the money to you via direct deposit based on the recent income-tax figures it already has.



*Friendly, safely-distant bear in window on Forest welcomes photographer*

## Spring Cleaning and Playing, With Lead Safety in Mind

*By Emily Dean, COT*

Although it is snowing as I write this, the blooming crocuses tell me that Spring is just around the corner. At my house, that means opening the windows to get fresh air, and lots of time spent rediscovering our yard with my kids. This is the time of year too, when we have to be awake to the fact that our homes may have lead hazards that can be really harmful to children under 7 and pregnant or nursing mothers. Taking some easy precautionary steps can ensure that our little ones do not get lead poisoning.

- Use a wet dust cloth on all horizontal surfaces, especially windowsills. Many older windows were painted with lead paint. When you open and close them, this can create dangerous lead dust. If you can't avoid opening and closing windows, be sure to wet dust the sills and the window wells very frequently to reduce the amount of lead dust getting into your home.
- Avoid playing in bare soil. Mulch or brick pavers are a relatively inexpensive way to cover over any soil that might have lead in it.
- Avoid playing in bare feet outdoors, or if your child does, wash feet before going back inside.
- Wash hands frequently. This is a sure way to keep any lead that your child may have come into contact with from getting into their bodies.
- Don't wear shoes in the house - this can track in any contaminated soil from outdoors. Instead, take off shoes outside, or store them near the main doors.
- Make sure your child is tested for lead regularly. Don't wait for your doctor to offer to do a lead screening - ask them. You can say, "I live in a home built before 1978, and I know that many children in my neighborhood have had levels of lead in their bodies. I would like to get a lead screening done."
- Cover chipping or peeling paint. DO NOT SAND. There are a couple of temporary things you can do to cover chipping and peeling paint that you suspect or know has lead in it. For smaller areas, you can cover it with tape or contact paper, or paint over it with latex paint.
- Eat a diet high in Calcium, Iron and Vitamin C to reduce the effect or absorption of lead from environmental sources

If you are concerned about lead hazards in your home there are some options. You can get a Home Lead Screening Kit from the NNN Community Outreach Team: call 574-232-9182. You can also request a free lead risk assessment from the County Health Department: 574-235-9582

## Thank you to André Stoner

*Now at Faith in St. Joseph County*

For those who have not yet heard, André Stoner has moved off of the staff at the NNN in order to fill a full time position as community organizer with Faith in St. Joseph County. You can continue to reach André at his new email: [andre@faithindiana.org](mailto:andre@faithindiana.org)

We have been delighted to have had André work with the NNN since 2016, and André's leadership has increased our imagination of the strength of our community's relationships, assets, and potential for power together. We wish you all the best, and look forward to continued collaboration, André!

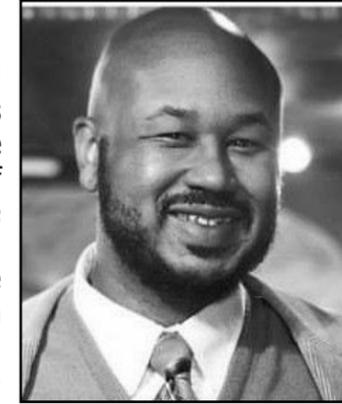
Would you like to be on the NNN ListServ and be in contact with your neighbors about Community information and announcements? Please email or call us with your name and email address to [nnnassistant@nearnorthwest.org](mailto:nnnassistant@nearnorthwest.org) or 232-9182. Ask us how to use our shared space,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

We gladly welcome Dré (André) Northern to the NNN team as our new Community Organizer.

Dré is a lifelong South Bend resident, and has been serving on the NNN's Board of Directors for the past three years. When the opportunity to join the team arrived, Dré was able to step forward into a position that matched his community experience and passion. Dré has previously worked with Federal Mogul and with Neighborhood Resources Connection.

We are very excited to welcome Dré's experience and to grow together in building neighborhood relationships. We hope that you will give Dré a warm welcome, and you can reach him at [anorthern@nearnorthwest.org](mailto:anorthern@nearnorthwest.org) or 574-303-7990



## Lead Grants Available

Funding is still available through the City of South Bend for grants to income-qualified homeowners for lead abatement or interim controls that make your housing safer. Property owners and landlords that rent to income-qualified tenants may qualify for grants or forgivable loans.

Who is eligible? Renters and homeowners who earn less than 80% of median income (\$54,000 for a family of 4). Call 311 for more information or more information is online at: <https://311.southbendin.gov/knowledgecenter/article/?id=KA-01818> or call the NNN Community Outreach Team at (574) 850-1296.

**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. Call the office for more information.

## Demolition Safety

Did you know that when a house is being demolished, it is supposed to be sprayed with water during the demolition process? That is the policy in the City of South Bend. This process of "wet demolition" is for neighborhood and contractor safety.

Demolitions can release toxic dust into the air, and this toxic dust can travel up to 400 feet! Using water during demolition is a way to limit how much of this dust travels from the demolition site onto cars, porches, furniture and windowsills, into yards and gardens and onto children's' play things.



Yet, we know that demolitions in our neighborhood do not always include these precautions. If you see a demolition happening without water actively being sprayed, here is what you can do:

- Call IDEM: IDEM (574) 245-4870 ASAP. This is the safe demo enforcement agency, and they MUST witness the problem to act on it. Call them so they can send an inspector.
- Can't remember their number? Call us, we'll call IDEM. (574-232-9182)
- Then make any other complaint you want (311, etc.).