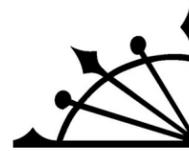


Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc.
1007 Portage Ave
South Bend, IN 46624
574-232-9182
nearnorthwest.org



NNN Community Dates

Portage Farmstands has closed for the season. Thanks to all the wonderful vendors who populated our little market.

Hope for the Hungry Food Pantry dates are **Saturdays** Dec 16, 2023, Jan 20, 2024, Feb 17, 2024, March 16, 2024, April 20, 2024, May 18, 2024, June 15, 2024, July 20, 2024, Aug 17, 2024, Sept 21, 2024, Oct 19, 2024, Nov 16, 2024, Dec 21, 2024 from 11AM-1PM or as supplies last. All dates are at the NNN Community Center, 1013 Portage. See hope4thehungry.com for information.

The **Artist Group** meets Fridays (and the occasional Tuesday) in the 1013 Portage Community Center, 9:30 AM to noon. Bring your art gear and join them any time.

BOTANY, No. 6, The Portage Collective, and Brain Lair Books all share special events online at : www.botanyorbust.com, www.eatno6.com, [@theportagecollective](https://www.facebook.com/theportagecollective) on FB , and www.brainlairbooks.com respectively. There are seasonal events aplenty with our area shops/restaurants.

The Local Cup at 1009 Portage Ave. is open with hours that change seasonally. Currently, they are open *Fri 8AM-1PM, Sat 9AM-1PM, Sun 1-5PM*. Find them on Facebook [@TheLocalCupSB](https://www.facebook.com/TheLocalCupSB).

Miss Kim's Culinary Crew, Meets monthly on Saturdays teaching children basic, no-cook kitchen skills. Call or email Ms. Kim to register and join the fun!!! Phone: 574-520-8408. Email: eatyolocafe@gmail.com

French Conversation Groups meetings take place at the St. Joseph County Public Library Main Branch classrooms, downtown South Bend Thursdays from 6:30 - 8:00PM. For details, watch the ListServ or contact grgloster@hotmail.com.

The **NNN Ignite Grant Committee** has all but completed the St. Paul Bethel playground (715 Leland Ave). Meetings will continue to be held on the second Monday of the month in the 1013 Community Center. Please call Dré Northern at 574-303-7990 with any questions or concerns.

Financial Readiness Classes continue. Contact Dré Northern at 574-303-7990 to get on a waiting list.

The Community Fridge accepts donations of perishable food (in the fridge) and shelf-stable food 24/7. It's on California adjacent to the NNN Patio.

NNN's holiday closures are November 23-26 for Thanksgiving and December 22-January 1 for December Holidays! See you in 2024



Beautiful Leeper Park , Fall, 2023

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

NOVEMBER, 2023

Clean-up Long in Coming in the Northwest Side

While the Drewerys Brewery site, adjacent to Muessel Grove park, was once a positive sign of industry in the neighborhood – the site, after abandonment, was in limbo for such a long time that we know many neighbors despaired any positive change to this area at the “heart” of the north-west side of South Bend, adjacent to the NNN, Keller Park, Far NW, and other impacted neighborhoods. We add our voice of celebration to the City of South Bend in their efforts to claim the property, and work with the EPA to remove debris piles, underground tanks, and environmental issues from the site. EPA work concluded on the site earlier this month, with all asbestos removed from both the debris field and the remaining buildings. The EPA removed approximately 14,000 tons of debris from the site. The City is now beginning the next steps to further remove non-hazardous debris materials as well as demolish the remaining buildings.

As reported by WVPE, Drewerys brewed beer at the site until closing in 1972. A few businesses have rented space there since, and recent owner's plans for the site never materialized. With the environmental work, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management issued a report that concludes that residential and commercial development can occur on the site safely once the clean-up is complete, although it may be limited to certain portions of the site. As of right now, the City intends to demolish all of the Drewerys buildings except for the smokestack, which has been found safe to remain standing.



Fond memories, a friend of the NNN, and an outlook to the future

John Charles Bryant, who passed at the age of 84 at the beginning of 2022, was a long-time neighbor, a long-time friend of the NNN, a community historian, and was a long-time neighbor and loyal friend to a countless array of South Bend family, neighbors, friends, organizations, arts groups, and institutions. John Charles was a descendent of the Powell family, one of the first Black families to settle in what would become South Bend, and John Charles collected and promoted knowledge of the history of Black families in the South Bend area.

Upon his passing, John Charles donated his home on Harrison Ave to the NNN in the hopes of encouraging the development of Harrison, to offer assistance in preserving the legacy of his family in the NNN, and to provide future opportunities for families in the neighborhood. The home was built by his great-grandfather Esquire Powell, who was a carpenter and built 7 or 8 homes in the area, around the year 1900. The home stayed in the family, and was also owned by John Charles's parents, John Charles Sr. and Georgia Ward Bryant. We've been delighted to work with the family of Mr. Bryant, along with local historians and directors at the Northern Indiana History Museum, the Civil Rights Heritage Center, and the Casaday Costume Collection to preserve items from Mr. Bryant's estate. And soon, the NNN will get underway with a renovation of the home itself, with the intent to sell to a low-to-moderate income homeowner upon completion.



Bryant home, pre-1960

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 or 232-9182.

¿Le gustaría ser parte del grupo de emails de "NNN ListServ" y estar en contacto con sus vecinos/as respecto a la información de la comunidad y sus anuncios? Por favor, mándenos un email al nnnassistant@nearnorthwest.org o llámenos al 232-9182.

This newsletter was produced with the assistance of the City of South Bend Community Development Program through funds made available by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1977.

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.

Tackling Food Security in the NNN

by Community Organizer in Training, Jeanie Benedict

Greetings to all Near Northwest Neighbors! I am Jeanie Benedict, a proud new Community Organizer In-Training for the neighborhood and a current junior at the University of Notre Dame. Originally from Southern California, I may be far from home, but never far away from community. Working alongside many dedicated team members on the completion of the new Booker T. West Pocket Park funded by a city of South Bend IGNITE grant, I have already had the pleasure of meeting many neighborhood members and community stakeholders. I would like to thank all that have given me such a warm welcome. We are still working towards the completion of this park and cannot wait to open it to the community!

I am presently immersed in a new project for the neighborhood regarding food security that I am eager to share with you! The Near Northwest Neighborhood boasts an engaged community dedicated to creating a safer and healthier living environment through food pantries, soup kitchens, and farmers' markets. However, the NNN also currently faces a major issue regarding the limited access to affordable, healthy food options due to the departure of two neighborhood staples: Martin's and Walmart. Currently, nearby fresh meat and produce are not available in walking distance, as they are now 3 miles away from the center of the NNN. With 3 small groceries close to the NNN carrying limited food items, our community needs immediate solutions to address this pressing issue.

This project aims at understanding the depth of the problem and addressing the immediate needs of our neighbors. By having frequent and honest conversations with community members about their experiences when having to travel to shop for groceries, my team and I are aiming to find a few root needs that we can directly address in the short-term. Simultaneously, we are looking towards successful solutions undertaken by similar neighborhoods across the country. While imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery, it also serves as a pathway to guide us to success! Access to food is a basic human need – something so crucial to our survival that it must be a top priority for the neighborhood. Your insights and experiences are invaluable in steering the success of this project. If you would like to get involved or have any feedback, please do not hesitate to reach out: jeanie@nearnorthwestneighborhood.org.



A Tenant Story

We would like to introduce you to Doug Simpson, our tenant and friend. Doug has lived in an apartment above the 1013 Portage building of the NNN since 2012. Which means he has seen a thing or two as his apartment overlooks the community center parking lot. He is an unassuming, smart, open-minded gentleman with a very dry wit and a family that loves him. He loves to ride his bike to and from Leeper Park and many of you might know him from seeing him there.

Eleven years is a long time to live in a place, and at this point I think we all feel like Doug is our uncle as well as tenant.

The NNN's transition from small-time to less-small-time landlord has been interesting. It's time consuming, transactional and no where close to meeting the demand for quality low to moderate income level rental housing. We're very happy to increase these opportunities, however, and we are still taking applications and have openings in the new apartments.

Which leads me back to Doug and his story. Doug is less young than he was 11 years ago. He's still employed and very active, but the stairs to his second level apartment became less and less enjoyable. So Doug has decided to move into one of the lower apartments in the Cushing Quad. It's time for fresh digs! And it's a win-win because we love him as a tenant and would miss his uncle-ness if he left us.

All our tenants have stories. Lives change as people reside with us in our apartments. We wouldn't have it any other way. Let us know if you have low to moderate income level referrals for our rental units.