

NNN Community Dates

Hope for the Hungry Food Pantry dates are *Saturdays December 10, 2022; and January 21, February 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, Sept 16, October 21, November 18 and December 16, 2023 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 Tuesdays and Fridays in the 1013 Portage Community Center, 9:30AM to noon. Bring your art gear and join them any time.

BOTANY, The Portage Collective and The Brain Lair all share special events online at : www.botanyorbust.com, <https://www.facebook.com/theportagecollective/> and <https://www.brainlairbooks.com> respectively. You can also find more information there on volunteer opportunities and specific holiday events they are planning.

The Local Cup at 1009 Portage Ave. is open with hours that change seasonally. Currently, they are open *Tues, 7-11AM, Fri 8AM-1PM, Sat 9AM-1PM, Sun 1-5PM*. Find them on Facebook @TheLocalCupSB.

Fantastic Fridays The merchants of the Near Northwest Neighborhood (Botany, Brain Lair, The Local Cup, No. 6, The Portage Collective) are planning FANTASTIC FRIDAYS for 2023 for you to discover our corner of the city. Enjoy music, food trucks, family activities, plus special hours and discounts in local shops. Dates TBA starting in February. Watch the Listserv for info.

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 or eviebarton@aol.com.

The **Restorative Justice Conversation Circle** group, which currently meets on the second Monday of the month, will be joining the Ignite Grant Committee group in assisting in revitalizing the St. Paul Bethel playground. All are welcome to join us regardless of your level of participation in the past. The meetings will continue to be held on the second Monday of the month beginning in the new year. Please call Dré Northern at 574-303-7990 for any questions or concerns.

Financial Readiness Classes will resume at the NNN again in 2023. Build your skills to improve your credit score or purchase a home. Watch the listserv for specific dates. Classes are usually held on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 and a meal is provided.

2023 NNN Events Planned: Please mark your calendars with our annual events

- Chili Supper: Wednesday, March 1, 6-9PM in the Holy Cross Grade School Gymnasium
- Adopt A Block, Saturday, April 22, Starting at 8AM in the 1013 Portage Community Center
- Annual Meeting, Thursday, May 18 from 6-8 PM in the 1013 Portage Community Center
- Arts Café, Sunday, October 1, Noon-6PM in the 1000 block of California and NNN building

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 2022

Restorative Justice Survey

Have you been affected by violence, property crimes, neighbor disputes, or other harms in the NNN? A group of neighbors who participated in the NNN Restorative Justice Conversation Circles is building a local response to incidents of harm that centers victim's needs, repairs broken relationships, and invites accountability and strong community relationships.

What do you want to see happen locally? Let us know in this 5-minute survey using the QR code or link to ND Qualtrics: <https://tinyurl.com/yuzc8ube>

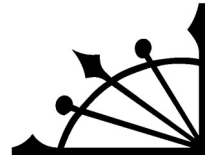


About the Survey: This voluntary and anonymous survey research project will help us understand what unmet needs our neighbors have when it comes to violence and harm in the NNN. Your responses will be kept confidential, and any open-ended responses will be stripped of identifiable information. This may address sensitive topics for you. You may discontinue the survey at any time.

Benefit to You: This survey research project will help us assess and design a local support network and a harm response process. We also want to help people across the country who are setting up community-based Restorative Justice efforts, so survey results will be used in a research article.

About Us: If you have questions about the survey, please reach out to neighbor Dania Straughan at dmvstraughan@gmail.com. The Notre Dame Office of Research Compliance has provided some oversight and can be reached at 574-631-7432.

We look forward to hearing from you by December 5, 2022! Be well, and thanks for helping make the neighborhood a better place. - The NNN Community Harms Working Group



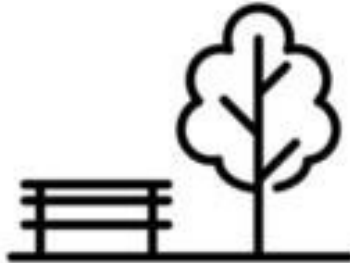
Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc.
1007 Portage Ave
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nearnorthwest.org

Brownfield Park Renamed to Stephen J. Luecke Park

The City of South Bend hosted a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony for the naming of Stephen J. Luecke Park and Coal Line Trail, which is the former Brownfield Park and Coal Line Trail. Phase I of the Coal Line Trail – the western boundary of the NNN – was completed this year. Brownfield Park was named after a prominent South Bend citizen, and is now renamed to honor a more recent prominent South Bend citizen, and NNN neighbor.

Mayor Stephen J. Luecke was the longest serving mayor in South Bend's history from 1997-2011. Some of Mayor Luecke's most notable accomplishments as mayor included comprehensive brownfield remediation efforts, the implementation of smart sewers and the restoration of the Morris and Palais Royale. Mayor Luecke also renewed the City's focus on the beauty of the St. Joseph River, paving the way for many of the riverfront paths, development, and outdoor spaces we cherish today.

A big congratulations to Steve and Peg and the City of South Bend, for this marvelous recognition!



The Bright Spot

The Bright Spot Committee is a community effort to recognize the beauty we seen in neighbor homes and yards. Each Newsletter we share a different but worthy photo.

This month we celebrate winter interest. Even in the dead of winter, the many large and small trees in the NNN have beauty to share. Trees all have a natural form—be they columnar, vase, lollipop or pyramidal. And that form shows through with and without leaves.

Here we feature Liz Maradek's Ash tree on California Avenue. Squint at the photo and you can tell the treetop has a round or lollipop form. With or without leaves it looks like a lovely globe atop a bole and reaching for the sky. In the fall, this tree's leaves were a striking purple/red color. Thanks to Liz and her lovely tree!

The Bright Spot is always looking for suggestions for recognition. Please send nominations to jomdowns29@gmail.com.



Unity Garden Recap 2022

Our Chapin Park Unity Garden had a great year. The concrete-block raised beds remain sturdy and productive, and we raised a lot of healthy food to pick for free. The best crops were this spring's thousands of strawberries, the summer's kale and lettuces, and autumn's bounty of tomatoes and okra. And our three apple trees produced a bunch of delicious, lumpy spotted fruit that Joni Mitchell would have approved of.

It was a hot summer! Our Wednesday evening volunteer gatherings didn't happen very often because of that. We need to devise a better, more flexible plan for community participation. But student volunteers from St. Joseph's High school showed up twice in September: they helped restore the brick sidewalks to a nearly weed-free condition and helped eradicate invasive plants from the wild area.

Unity Gardens' Mitch and Sara gave excellent fall classes on crop rotation and putting your garden to bed. Practicing what they preached, we piled cardboard, mulch and straw, and well-aged horse manure on the raised beds, which will all break down into good soil by spring. And in the spring, we will rotate the crops. Tomatoes will go in the ground, not in a raised bed. We'll switch the root crops with the beans. We will plant the peppers for afternoon shade. We will learn how to grow spinach! And we will work on better signage so volunteers can show up on their own and know what needs to be done.

Thanks to every volunteer and to the Unity Gardens and to the City of South Bend, who all make this wonderful endeavor possible. - Molly B. Moon, Chapin Park Unity Garden leader



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.