

Bridges



Newsletter of the Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood

August 2008, First Edition

The Neighborhood

Northside-Hester Park is one of the oldest neighborhoods in St. Cloud. Many homes have been here for more than 100 years. The land for Hester Park, which was established in 1910, was donated by Charles Gilman and named after his wife. The beautiful granite bridges and stairs in the park were built by WPA (Works Progress Administration) workers during the Depression and are monuments to the craftsmen of the era. The St. Cloud Hospital joined the neighborhood in 1928. Many more beautiful and unique homes were built from the 1920's through the 1960's. Residents in the neighborhood typically have taken great pride in their homes and yards. A favorite walking route for many residents is along the Mississippi River, which is our neighborhood's natural eastern boundary. Our neighborhood is truly a treasure to those of us who live here!

Join the Neighborhood Organization

Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood organization is one of the newest members of the St. Cloud Neighborhood Coalition. The Coalition is an umbrella organization with non-profit status and has been funded initially with money from the Initiative Foundation. The mission statement of our new neighborhood group is: "Our mission is to involve neighbors in working together to plan, make decisions, and implement plans and projects to keep our neighborhood an inclusive, safe, desirable place to live, work, play, and go to school. We will work to preserve the physical integrity and unique characteristics of the Northside-Hester Park neighborhood. In the process we will build relationships between neighbors based on communication, respect, courtesy, neighborly concern, and shared efforts." If you live in the neighborhood, you are a member of our group!

"Visioning" Our Neighborhood

More than 80 residents from our neighborhood participated in a neighborhood visioning event on February 24th at the Area Learning Center. They shared a soup and sandwich lunch and a bit of neighborhood trivia and then took part in lively small group discussions about what they saw as assets and/or challenges in our neighborhood. They also talked about what they would like to see in our neighborhood's future. After the data was pooled from the large group each person was asked to identify the goals they felt were most important to them and their neighbors as well as whether they'd be willing to work toward those goals. The final tally was then ranked according to importance and by how willing people would be to get involved in working on the goals.



Residents share ideas during the Visioning Event

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Steering Committee Gets To Work

Fifteen residents who had attended the Healthy Neighborhood Partnership Training Sessions

sponsored by the Initiative Foundation, the City of St. Cloud, and the St. Cloud Neighborhood Coalition formed the core group of Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood steering committee members. They took the suggestions gathered at the Neighborhood Visioning Event and further refined them to establish goals and create task forces to work on achieving results in four primary selected areas.

The Organizational Task Force will better establish the neighborhood group to work together toward our goals. This includes two committees – Communication and Events. The Communication group will publish our newsletter and other information as needed so that neighbors can be aware of and be involved in activities and planning. The Events group will plan social, service and fund-raising activities to bring our neighbors together.

The Hester Park Task Force will work on defining and achieving short and long term goals for the park.

The River Walk Task Force will be involved in the city planning for the development of a River Walk that will border our neighborhood on the east. We are able to get involved in the up-front planning process as the city begins discussions of the proposed 2010 extension of the Beaver Island trail.

The Historic Preservation Task Force will be formed this fall to gather and share information about what historic preservation and a historic designation could mean to our neighborhood.

We Want You! Get Involved

Do you have time and talents that you can share? Do you want to get to know more of your neighbors? Do you want to be part of keeping our neighborhood a strong and vibrant place where people want to live?

Then join us – our next Steering Committee meeting will be September 4th at 7:30 at Cathedral High School south building.

To get involved in any capacity, or for more information, call Kaye at 259-8737, Kristi at 251-0019 or Cindy at 240-9280.



Restoration work taking place at 230 6th Ave. North home

Historic Home Gets a New “Old” Look

Laurie Reed and Kirk Smith recently bought the historic home at 230 6th Ave. North and are working hard to discover the history of the house and to restore it to its past glory.

The home was built in 1889 by Dr. Lamouthe Ramsey, a prominent physician who passed away two years later. It was then owned by Edward Barum and Frank Zins until 1910. Many people know the house as the “Adams House”. It was purchased by Julius Adams, a successful cigar factory owner, in 1910, with all of the furnishings included. Julius and his wife Isabelle raised eighteen children in the home.

Beginning in the 1930’s the home was turned into a rental property and has had many and varied uses and owners since then.

Reed and Smith are spending their summer rebuilding the original porte cochere and porches and giving the house a historically influenced paint job. They’ll continue their work on the inside of the house once winter sets in. “We feel lucky to be able to own and restore such a beautiful piece of St. Cloud’s history” Reed told us. “It is, in fact, one of the oldest homes in our neighborhood.”

If anyone has any information about the house or old pictures or Julius Adams cigar boxes the couple would love to hear from you. You can reach them at 240-4113.

Help Build a Better community

When you’re out for a walk around the neighborhood, put a plastic bag in your pocket and pick up litter as you walk!

We’re looking for more tips on being a good neighbor and will publish them in future issues.

July Fourth Celebration Rocked

The 2008 July 4th Fireworks and Freedom Fest rocked the Northside-Hester Park neighborhood in many ways.

The annual fireworks celebration is a big part of the history of our neighborhood. This year the St. Cloud Freedom Fest was also moved to our neighborhood because of the Hwy 23 bridge closure. There were lots of family fun activities at Hester Park, highlighted by a performance by the St. Cloud Municipal Band. And along Fifth Avenue in Cathedral High School's parking area and football field there were food vendors and live bands playing from 5 p.m. until midnight.

Tom Richardson, the American Legion Post 76 coordinator of the fireworks and much of the festival, followed in his father's footsteps to make this event occur and be extremely successful. Tom was careful to make the neighbors, especially those in the Cathedral area, aware of the plans. He asked our Neighborhood Steering Committee for input ahead of the celebration and for volunteers to help with the work. Everyone involved did a great job of set up and clean up to be sure the festival had the least possible effect on the close neighbors.

Richardson sincerely thanks all of you for sharing your neighborhood and helping to celebrate our Independence Day! He welcomes your comments, suggestions and feedback to help with planning next year's event. You may reach him at 612-940-6364 or <no email in web version>.

Longtime Resident Eleanore Augustin

Eleanore Augustin passed away in June at the age of 103. She lived in her home on 6th Ave. North from 1959 until 1995. She moved there with her husband Sal and her three sons. Augustin taught Home Economics at Holdingford High School from 1958 until she retired in 1966. She was an avid reader her whole life, often reading 2 to 3 books a week. She loved to walk to Hester Park and for many years she went to daily Mass at Holy Angels Church. She moved to St. Benedict's Center for the last few years of her life and remained active and involved. Her group of lady friends was planning a birthday party for her scheduled for the day after she died. Her twin sons John and David continue to live in and be active members of our neighborhood.

Working Together to Clean Up

About 15 northside neighbors met early on a Saturday morning last October to rake and clean up leaves for neighbors who needed some assistance with the chore. The leaves were hauled to a compost site and after the work was done neighbors met at Hester Park to enjoy a pot luck lunch.



Kids got into the spirit of fun after the leaves piled up
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And on April 22nd, Earth Day 2008, residents and students from Area Learning Center and Cathedral High School worked together to fill garbage bags with litter from the streets and alleys while we spent time getting to know each other. Who would have thought that spending the day picking up cigarette butts with teenagers could be fun? Kudos to Ann Marie Schlichting from Area and David Mohs from Cathedral for helping to set up this partnership.

Let Us Know What You Think

Is there something of interest happening or about to happen in your part of the neighborhood? Is there a special person or place you think should be covered in our newsletter? Do you have a comment about something you read in the newsletter?

We welcome your input! We plan to publish our newsletter every two to three months and we will be looking for news-worthy items.

In our next edition we plan to cover the candidates running in local elections. We will not endorse any candidate.

Please contact Julie Gaetz via email at <no email in web version>. with your opinions or ideas.



Harold Zosel in his home at 1219 6th Avenue North

Get to Know Your Neighbor

Harold Zosel likes living in his north St. Cloud neighborhood. In fact he lived at 720 6th Ave. North from 1967 to 1990 when he moved to his current residence. Prior to moving to St. Cloud Zosel lived in Anchorage Alaska where he worked in banking and hunted and camped in his free time. He lives with his wife Mary and his son Sam and has a daughter Katie, who lives in Phoenix Arizona.

“I like being close to the park and downtown,” Zosel said. “The homes are unique and cared for. I have good neighbors and I like the diversity of ages.” He also added that “it would be nice if people could get to know each other better.”

To get to know Zosel better we asked him about his famous postcard collection. He has collected over 2,000 postcards with about 1,000 of them being from St. Cloud. What he likes best about his hobby is “the history of it” Zosel says. He’s always been interested in history and has always liked “old things”. He has traveled frequently to postcard collector shows around the United States. He also purchases them over the Internet. Zosel recently bought a postcard being auctioned off on e-Bay by a woman in Oklahoma. The card was dated in 1906 from Bertha Minnesota and was written by his grandfather.

Zosel studies the architecture of the buildings on postcards as well as the photographer and business information and notes on the cards to figure out the date and place the card is from. He often works with the Stearns County History Museum on dating. He likes uncovering the dates of businesses and

organizations, “like when the Boy Scouts started a St. Cloud chapter” Zosel said.

Recently the St. Cloud Citizen Times published a story about Zosel and his unusual hobby.

Hospital Hospitality House Moves Ahead

The St. Cloud City Council approved St. Cloud Hospital’s plan for their new Hospitality House at the June 2nd meeting. The plan had been stuck in a tie vote before the Zoning Commission but moved forward after the City Council required several minor changes which will result in at least one more meeting between the Hospital and area residents who want to be involved in the decisions.

About 9 neighborhood residents and 3 City Council members have participated in varying degrees throughout the process. The Hospitality House was not included in the Hospital’s plan approved by the City Council in August of 2007, but at that time several northside residents expressed general disapproval of the Hospitality House as well as concerns about a lack of communication between the Hospital and residents. City Council members made statements directing the Hospital to include neighbors in dialogue during the planning stages of future projects. The Hospital responded at an informational meeting held last summer by extending a general invitation to any interested neighbors to be involved in discussion and provide input to the Hospitality House plans.

Input from these neighbors factored significantly into the request for PUD zoning rather than medical zoning, the preservation of the existing homes and mature trees on the lot, and the modification of several aspects of the building design including exterior rooflines, porch and landscape design, color and interior refuse area. The Hospital presented these and other specific details at an informational meeting held on March 30, 2008.

Although the Hospitality House did not emerge as a priority at our Neighborhood Visioning event this winter and will not be formally addressed by our neighborhood group, we know that many residents feel it is important that we keep informed and aware of the project. For more info on this you may contact Janene Riedeman, Director of Volunteer Services for the St. Cloud Hospital at 320-255-5638 or <no email in web version> . .