

Bridges



Newsletter of the Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood

February 2009, Third Edition

Neighborhood Watch Groups Take Off

About 30 people gathered Cathedral High School on November 13th to hear John Justin, Community Service Officer from the St. Cloud Police department, explain how we can get involved in the Neighborhood Watch Program.

Justin shared four important points to consider when you're thinking about forming a Watch group.

1. When times get tough, crime goes up.
2. People committing crimes in our neighborhood are usually from out of the area.
3. Neighbors know each other's schedules, etc., even if they don't really know each other well.
4. Joining a Watch group is a great way to get to know your neighbors!

Bernie Evans, who is a block captain for the first Watch group in our neighborhood, also spoke about his experiences. When considering who to partner with you should join with neighbors within your visual range. Your cell could include several houses on a block, across an alley or street, or even people who live on four corners of an intersection.

A number of groups are already beginning to take shape. Pam Haugen and Dave Kunze are working to set up several cells in the 1300 block of 7th to 9th Avenues. Another group is beginning to take shape just north of ALC, and in the Cathedral High School neighborhood David Mohs sees the possibility for two cells.

If you're interested in joining an at existing group or starting a new one, talk to your neighbors about it. Once you have an idea of who would be involved you can contact Officer Justin to set up a training session to get you started. He can be reached at 650-3682.

Hey Neighbor - You are Invited!

Please join us for the **Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood 2nd Annual Meeting** on **Sunday, February 22, 2009** from **1:00-3:00** in the **Cathedral High School Cafeteria**.

One year ago about 80 neighbors worked together at our Visioning Event to identify neighborhood assets and challenges. We brainstormed ideas for potential goals to keep our neighborhood strong and vibrant.

Come and see what has evolved out of that Visioning Event in the past year. Members of our Steering Committee will update neighbors about how goal areas were chosen and task forces were formed. You will get a sneak preview of plans that are in the works. Find out how you can stay informed of and/or participate in the planning and carrying out of projects or activities.

There will also be food and fun to share. Hors d'oeuvres, sweets and beverages will be served, a game or two will be played, complimentary family photos by Studio D will be taken, and door prizes will be awarded. Free childcare will also be provided. Come and enjoy a Sunday afternoon outing with your neighbors!

ALC Wilson Talent Show/Neighborhood Gathering

Students from the Area Learning Center-Wilson Building, along with featured guests "Beats on the Block" entertained neighbors from the Northside Hester Park area on December 16th. In return, the neighbors treated students, staff and families to cookies and juice for their efforts. The event was a real community-building evening with people of all ages interacting and getting exposed to a wide range of art forms – some VERY traditional, some cutting edge new.

Six ALC students shared their talents: Jenee Haas, Kira Gustafson-Davis, Ashlee Scott, Kevin Walker, Cherelle VanHanegin, and Nick Becker. They sang, played instruments, did "foot work" and shared original poetry. From the South Side Boys & Girls Club "Beats on the Block," led by Buddy King, played traditional African drums.



Members of "Beats on the Block"

Anne Marie Schlichting from ALC said that the neighbors and students share the goal of coexisting in harmony. She sends kudos to the students who were real stars and to a neighborhood that embraces all the pieces that make up our community.

Be a great neighbor! Grab a plastic bag and take a walk around your block once a week to pick up trash.

Come to Stamp Camp!

Make 8 cards for a variety of occasions.

Enjoy the company of your neighbors.

**Friday February 27, 6:30-8:30
1127 6th Ave. North**

\$10 includes all materials & envelopes

Space is limited.

Call 515-865-3718, or drop a note with name, phone number and payment in the mail.

This is a paid advertisement

Welcome to the new neighbors!

In September 2008 Brent, Amanda and Celena Bundy-Cairns moved into their house at 1102 N. 7th Ave. Their second daughter, Piper, was born on Jan. 3rd.

Brent grew up in St. Paul, but after returning from a 13 month deployment as a soldier in Iraq three years ago he wanted to live in a quieter place. Unlike most of us, he actually has enjoyed our cold winter – he says it's a relief after the heat of Tikrit. Brent now works as an installer for a wind and solar power developer, Innovative Power Systems.



Brent, Amanda, Celena and Piper

Amanda grew up in Elk River. She and Celena lived in St. Cloud at one time, so the area is familiar to her. Right now, she's busy taking care of a new baby. She also works for Thrivent Financial and is able to work from her home.

Celena, age 12, attends the St. Cloud Christian School. She also studies dance – ballet, tap and hip-hop – at Northcrest.

Piper mostly eats and sleeps.

The Bundy-Cairns family also includes two guinea pigs, Brownie and Sheila, and two dogs, Carmel and Sven, both Labs.

When they moved to their new home neighbors came over to say hello and some brought cookies to welcome them. To return the favor Amanda, Celena and Amanda's mother baked 14 apple pies in one day for their new neighbors. Wow! Welcome to the neighborhood.

A Piece of Neighborhood History

Cathedral High School is preparing to demolish the Zardetti House, built in 1890, one of the oldest buildings on their campus and in the Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood.

CHS President Bob Stewart said that there are many problems with the building, including structural issues that make it unsafe to use any longer. Stewart's office was on the second floor of the building and he was told to stay off of the second-floor balcony because it might collapse. Asbestos removal left some damage and walls and ceilings are cracked. Bricks on the outside of the building are crumbling.

The house was built for Otto Zardetti, the first bishop of the St. Cloud Diocese. It is a huge three story brick structure with about 20 large rooms and a second floor balcony that was intended for the Bishop to use to address parishioners gathered below. It is connected to the Broker House, believed to have been built in 1866. The entire structure will be torn down.

The building was used as a residence for many years. Long after the last bishop lived there it was used to house the priests who taught at Cathedral through the 1960's.

Recently the building was used as an annex to the diocese's Pastoral Center and Tribunal offices. When the diocese groups moved into the renovated Pastoral Center across 7th Avenue from the school about 5 years ago CHS moved some administrative offices into the space.



Zardetti House on the CHS Campus

Today the building stands mostly empty. The school held a very successful auction at the end of January. They sold electrical fixtures, office equipment, woodwork, railings. The ornate stairwells were the hot sale items according to Stewart. Lori Reed, who is restoring the red brick house at 230 6th Ave. N. was excited to get some of the stairway and woodwork trim to use in her home.

CHS plans to demolish the building during Spring Break week, March 9th through the 16th. They're working to remove all recyclable materials, will remove all of the windows and then the building will come down.

The area will be filled in and two new storage garages will be built (the old garage will also be torn down in the process). The balance of the property will be used for additional parking for the school.

Help us Spread the News!

Do you have information you'd like to share with your neighbors?
Do you have story ideas for our newsletter?
Would you like to advertise in our newsletter for a nominal fee?

Contact our newsletter editor Julie Gaetz
call 253-1486

If you want to get involved in the Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood group in any capacity, or for more information call Kaye at 259-8737, Kristi at 251-0019 or Cindy at 240-9280.

Check out our experimental web site at:
<http://northside-hesterpark.wikispaces.com/>

Our goal is to make this an informational and interactional site.

The Hester Park Task Force is working to obtain as much information as they can about Hester Park and are collecting pictures and postcards. Anyone with information and old photos is encouraged to contact Michelle Johnson at 230-5987 or Vicky Henry at 654-1106.

Watch for upcoming events:
Spring Cleanup
Home Tour
Parade Float
Park Beautification