

# Bridges



## Newsletter of the Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood

April 2009, Fourth Edition

### Second Annual Meeting Wrap-Up

Everything from upcoming projects discussion to meeting task force members and committee chairs to eating delicious treats and winning door prizes was enjoyed by about 56 Northside-Hester Park neighbors at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual neighborhood meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.



Neighbors gathered for the annual meeting

People gathered in the lunchroom and Kaye Schimnich, chair of the neighborhood group, led a wrap up of the past year's events and accomplishments. Some of the highlights included the Earth Day Spring Cleanup, volunteering for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks, leaf raking, setting up Neighborhood Watch groups, the ALC holiday event, participation in the city-wide Neighborhood Coalition group, and publishing the first three issues of our neighborhood newsletter.

Members of each of neighborhood task forces spoke about what their groups are working on and invited neighbors to become involved. David Mohs demonstrated the new Wikispaces online site that he designed and maintains to facilitate communications between neighbors.

Cindy Harner, who chairs the Events Committee talked about upcoming fundraising plans. These include a tour of homes on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and possibly selling root beer floats at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks. She explained that we will need to begin raising matching funds for the grant money we have received from the Initiative Foundation. Michelle Johnson spoke for the Hester Park Committee to detail some of the beautification plans they are developing for the park. Sonja Berg gave a progress report on the River Walk project. The next phase will extend the walk under the Veterans Bridge and up onto the road around the apartments and condos on Fifth Avenue North.

Pat Shea, Public Utilities Director for the City of St. Cloud, joined us to give an update on the project at the Water Treatment Facility which will continue through this year into winter of 2010.

Denise from Studio D took pictures, including the ones in this article and of any neighbors who visited her "studio."



Steering Committee Back row: Steve Lanz, Kelly Haugen, Ann Marie Schlichting, Jan Reigstad, Michelle Johnson, Kristi Laliberte, John Augustin, Sonja Berg, David Mohs. Front row: Pam Haugen, Kaye Schimnich, Cindy Harner, Joan Rydberg.

### Historic Hester Park

The Hester Park Task Force has been meeting since the spring of 2008. Its goal is "to preserve and enhance the beauty of Hester Park, promote neighborhood involvement and oversight and to work to keep the park a safe, clean, and welcoming place for all who enjoy it." We have already been able to get new basketball nets for the hoops in the park and are planning to get more picnic tables and grills. More importantly, we plan to restore the WPA walls and garden areas.

Vicki Henry shared that members of the task force are researching what the park looked like in the past and discovered that the walls extended further than they do now and a rock garden was on the western facing slope near where the wading pool is today. In 1938 a brook was built into the gardens, complete with small waterfalls. Two swimming pools were also built at the bottom of the current sledding hill. Both the brook and the pools were fed by an underground stream that runs into the Mississippi River.

In 2010 Hester Park will be 100 years old, and the task force wants to spruce up the park as much as possible for this event. The Stearns County Historical Society has shared what information they have but the task force would like more pictures pre-1992, especially from 1930 to 1957 when the first expansion of the water plant took place. If you have pictures to share please contact Vicki Henry at 654-1106.



The "Wavy Brick House" at 1300 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. North

### The Famous "Wavy Brick" House

They say it was a hot beef sandwich at Wilfred Schwartz's saloon on Court House Square that twisted renowned St. Cloud commercial architect Louis Pinault's arm into building a house for Wilfred and his wife Mary.

Pinault had recently been to France where he was so intrigued by the multi-colored, wavy brick rural cottages that he vowed to take a stab at one back in St. Cloud. He knew the style was actually the result of inexperienced bricklayers and the use of recycled brick but he still found it quite beautiful. He built such a house for the Schwartzs in 1940 on a large corner lot north of St. Cloud proper. The large lot would give the house the rural European charm Pinault remembered.

The professional bricklayer Pinault hired couldn't get the wavy style down. He even provided them whiskey one day trying to get them to lay the bricks wavy. It was one of the bricklayer's inexperienced sons who finally got it right.

The house featured the first forced air heating system in St. Cloud. Wilfred and Mary lived on the first floor of the 1 \_ story home and the small room above was rented to nurses at the hospital.

The house has been called "a monument to St. Cloud's brick industry" and "an unusual piece of St. Cloud architecture." The St. Cloud Hospital now owns the house which is sometimes used as a guest house for visiting physicians.



(Consider placing your advertisement in 'Bridges'—call 259-8737 for ad rates.)

### Put Your Spring Fever to Work

Channel your spring energy into our Spring Clean-Up. We can pitch in and beautify our neighborhood together.

To accommodate varying schedules numerous times have been scheduled throughout the day. Times and meeting places are:

**Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> (rain date May 1<sup>st</sup>)**

9:15 – 10:45 In the ALC parking lot

11:25 – 1:00 At CHS South Bldg.

3:25 – 5:00 Along the river near Rau Field

5:00 – 7:30 At Hester Park tennis courts

The city will provide bags, gloves and pick up the trash collected. All you need to bring is your enthusiasm. For more information call Michelle at 230-5987 or Kaye at 259-8737.



Vance, Emily and Ann Ressler

### Meet Your Neighbors

In 1999 when Vance Ressler purchased the 1917 farmhouse at 1015 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. N, he had no idea that his future wife Ann (who he had not yet met) had also looked at the house and was considering buying it. Vance grew up in Cottage Grove and came to central Minnesota to teach Social Studies and coach baseball at Albany High School. During his mother's first visit to St. Cloud he took her driving to show her some of the "cool neighborhoods" and they noticed the house across from Hester Park with a "for sale by owner" sign. Vance's mother convinced him to stop and knock on the door and when he went through the house for the first time Vance said he "just knew."

Later Vance met his wife Ann who teaches Special Education and is the

swimming and diving coach at Albany High School. Ann is a long-time St. Cloud resident and her family's roots go back several generations in the area. She has always wanted to live in this part of town.

Rounding out the family is 13 year old Emily, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Albany Jr. High where she is active on the varsity swim and speech teams, plays basketball and softball and plays the saxophone in band. The entire family loves the "neighborhood" atmosphere of the Northside-Hester Park area, especially seeing so many people getting out of their homes and walking.

In 2004 Vance and Ann decided to undertake a major renovation project on their home. They wanted to update it, make it more family-friendly, highlight the beautiful views of the park and keep as many of the original features as possible. People told them that such a huge project could take a toll on their relationship, but they are like-minded and found themselves in agreement about the details of the job. The bulk of the renovation was completed in 3 to 4 months. They almost doubled the size of their home while maintaining the original style and character. They are still working on stripping paint off of old woodwork, refinishing the basement and working on the landscape and exterior of the house – they consider their home a work in progress.

The first time Ann's father came to the front door of their house he had a moment of déjà vu. He used to date a girl who lived there about 50 years ago.

The organizers of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks have asked us to get the word out about their need for volunteers. The focus this year will be just on the fireworks. It's not too early to call for information or to offer your help. Contact Wanda Schroeder at 320-248-3900.

If you'd like to make a donation send a check to Fireworks Fund P.O. Box 822 St. Cloud, MN 56302.

### Calling All Parked Cars

With another summer of construction approaching, the St. Cloud Hospital staff has indicated that parking congestion will be just as problematic as last year was. They began their project last summer with the renovation of the South Parking Ramp, causing an increase in parking difficulties and congestion in our neighborhood.

We are working with the Hospital and the Police Department to take a proactive, positive approach to this parking dilemma. Although they offer off-site parking to their employees, many still choose to park on the neighborhood streets. Drivers rushed for time may not realize they have parked in a manner that could cause an accident or injury.

Members of the neighborhood have created a flyer to educate drivers who park dangerously (i.e. next to a stop sign or a fire hydrant, in a crosswalk, blocking an alley, etc.) The flyer is being printed courtesy of the Hospital and will be available to place on the windshield of problem parkers. A sample flyer can be found by going to <http://northside-hesterpark.wikispaces.com/> To obtain flyers contact Kaye at 259-8737. You may also leave a message with the street address of illegally parked cars on the St. Cloud Parking Violations Department voicemail at 650-3630 and the police will try to respond to the information between more urgent calls.

### Hester Park Spring Prep & Planting

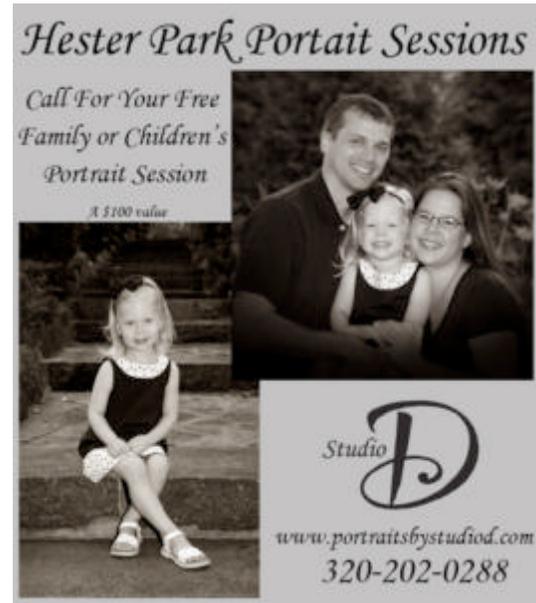
The Hester Park Committee is organizing a spring planting in the park sometime in May. If you're interested in getting on your knees, smelling freshly-turned earth, planting the seeds of new life and getting a little dirt under your fingernails please contact Michelle at 230-5987 to offer your assistance.

### Get Involved in our Summer Events

The Granite City Days Parade is June 27<sup>th</sup>. Anyone with creative ideas to help showcase the spirit of our neighborhood should contact Cindy at 240-9280 and

watch for info about a Northside-Hester park parade entry.

We have tentatively planned a Fourth of July Fireworks Fundraiser at Hester Park. We are looking into selling root beer floats at the park. More info will be coming as our plans progress.



### Committee Meetings & Contact Info Steering Committee

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30 in the CHS lower level conference room. Anyone is welcome to attend.  
Chair/Contact Kaye Schimnich 259-8737  
Treasurer Kristi Laliberte 251-0019

### Hester Park Committee

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30 in the CHS lower level conference room.  
Chair/Contact Michelle Johnson 230-5987

### Events Committee

Meetings arranged as needed  
Chair/Contact Cindy Harner 240-9280

### Communications Committee

Meetings arranged as needed  
Chair/Contact Julie Gaetz 253-1486

### River Walk Committee

Meetings arranged as needed  
Chair/Contact Sonja Berg 253-5437

### Experimental Web site:

<http://northside-hesterpark.wikispaces.com/>

# Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood Home Tour

Plans are in the works for the inaugural Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood Home Tour, which will be Saturday, May 2, 1:00-4:00 PM. In addition to being a fundraiser, the tour is intended to highlight the variety of unique homes in the area. Neighborhood musicians will perform in several of the homes. Crafters and artists will be displaying and selling their wares in some of the homes and at Area Learning Center.

Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 the day of the tour. Advance tickets can be purchased at Coborns, the hospital gift shop, Falcon National Bank, or from Northside-Hester Park steering committee members. On the day of the tour, tickets will be available at Area Learning Center. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Kaye at 259-8737 or Cindy at 240-9280.

Homes featured on the tour (further details on reverse):

- 1446 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
- 1300 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
- 613 12<sup>th</sup> Street North
- 1015 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
- 921 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
- 813 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North

Additionally, realtors may have open houses.

## **Area Learning Center**

As a bonus, Area Learning Center will be open to the public. Located at 809 12<sup>th</sup> Street North, it is the Wilson School building, which was constructed in the 1930s. People are welcome to explore the building and browse crafts. ALC students will be selling items they have created, with profits going to the Reading Buddies program and the Food Shelf.

## **Cathedral High School & John XXIII Middle School**

The Home Tour coincides with the inaugural "Spring Fling," sponsored by the Cathedral High School Student Senate and Junior Optimist Club. The Spring Fling schedule of events:

5:00-6:30 PM • Cookout (in "the Pit", north of gymnasium), along with outdoor games.

7:00-9:00 PM • Free children's movie "Cars" with free popcorn and soda pop (North Gymnasium).

9:00-11:00 PM • Free teenage/adult outdoor movie "The Dark Night".

- Outside on Rau Field (along Mississippi River)
- Free popcorn and soda pop.
- Bring lawn chairs or blankets.

Come see why Northside-Hester Park residents love their neighborhood!



### **1446 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**

See what kind of transformation can take place when a small, abandoned core neighborhood home is purchased and receives a little TLC.



### **1300 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**

The “wavy brick” house near the hospital. Take a step back in time upon entering this landmark house, currently owned by the hospital.



### **613 12<sup>th</sup> Street North**

Modified two-story stucco home. Full of character and unique features, this is a perfect example of how an older home can be updated to make it more functional while still honoring its age.



### **1015 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**

The “farmhouse” across from Hester Park that doubled in size since 2004, remaining remarkably true to the architectural style of the house. The owners “hope that the work we put into this home might serve as a reminder of how old homes in core city neighborhoods can be saved and brought back to life...”



### **921 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**

The stately, eye-catching, multi-colored brick home, also across from Hester Park.



### **813 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**

The charming stucco arts and crafts cottage that also houses a leather worker’s studio and showroom.