

# Bridges



## Newsletter of the Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood

April 2010, Seventh Edition

### Earth Day Cleanup

Whoops! The garbage didn't melt with the snow! Please join in our efforts to beautify our neighborhood on our annual Spring Clean-up day. To accommodate people's varying schedules, numerous times have been scheduled throughout the day. Students from Cathedral High School and Area Learning Center will be participating with us during the day. Times and meeting places are:

**Thursday April 22, 2010 (rain date April 29<sup>th</sup>)**

9:30 - 10:30 meet in ALC parking lot

11:25 - 12:30 meet at CHS South Bldg.

3:30 - 5:00 meet along river near CHS Rau Field

5:00 - 7:00 meet at Hester Park tennis courts

The city will provide bags, gloves and pick-up of the trash collected. So all you have to bring is your enthusiasm. For more information call Joan at 253-8403 or Kelly at 253-8068.



**David Mohs, Spring Cleanup 2009**

### In Memorium

Marje Moore, our featured resident in the last edition of Bridges, passed away peacefully at the Quiet Oaks Hospice on Saturday, February 6. Marje lived a long, active life, and her wisdom and enthusiasm were appreciated. Fellow members of the Northside-Hester Park Steering

Committee, of which Marje was a member, have discussed donating money to plant flowers in one of the beds at Hester Park in memory of Marje. This has led to discussion of designating the small flower bed with the stone backdrop at the bottom of the ravine as a "memory garden." Would anyone else like to donate money to purchase plants in memory of a loved one? If so, please contact Kaye at 259-8737. Planting will most likely take place in late May or early June and in addition to you remembering in your hearts each time you pass that flower bed, we will acknowledge those loved ones in our next newsletter.

### **CALENDAR OF NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS:**

#### **SPRING CLEANUP**

Time: Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> (rain date April 29<sup>th</sup>)

#### **NORTHSIDE-HESTER PARK SECOND ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD HOME TOUR**

Time: Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> 1-4 p.m.

Place: Begin at Holy Angels Performing Arts Center

#### **"WHAT NEIGHBORS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PERSONAL SAFETY"**

#### **PRESENTATION BY BILL NELSON**

Time: Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 6-9 p.m.

Place: Holy Angels Performing Arts Center

#### **HESTER PARK CLEANUP AND PLANTING**

Time: throughout May & early June (call Joan 253-8403 or Kelly 253-8068 if you would like to help out)

#### **GRANITE CITY DAYS PARADE FLOAT**

Float Decoration: Friday, June 25 (for more details, call Joan at 253-8403)

Parade: Saturday, June 26 10:00 a.m. (note time change from previous years)

#### **JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> FUNDRAISER IN HESTER PARK**

#### **HESTER PARK 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

Time: Saturday, September 18, 2010

Place: Hester Park

### **Neighborhood Safety**

As most residents of the Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood are now aware, a Level III Sex Offender moved into our neighborhood toward the end of February. As stated in the public notification fact sheet: "This notification is not intended to increase fear in the community. Law enforcement believes that an informed public is a safer public."

With or without a Level III Offender living among us, it is always a good reminder for neighbors to be alert and aware of our surroundings and of each other. As a means of helping neighbors to increase their awareness of general safety practices, the Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood Steering Committee has arranged for a presentation of "What Neighbors Should Know about Personal Safety" on Tuesday, May 4, 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Holy Angels Performing Arts Center.

The evening will be facilitated by Bill Nelson, current chairman of the board and volunteer advocate at the Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center, Seventh Degree Black Belt Master Instructor in the art of Soo Bahk Do Korean Karate, private investigator for 25 years, and a former police officer. Mr. Nelson wrote the book "Your Weapon Within: How To Lower The Risk of Sexual Assault" and has spoken around the country on the issues of sexual assault prevention and self defense.

**Men, women, boys, and girls 12 years and older are invited to attend. To help us determine space needs, we encourage people to preregister by calling 259-8737 (leave a message if no one is available). Although the event is free, we will be asking for a modest donation to help cover expenses.**

Anyone interested in follow-up sessions or more in-depth physical training can contact Bill Nelson at 251-8726 or Barbara Novak of the R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) Program. For more information about the R.A.D. program, go to their website at <http://www.rad-systems.com>. For information on the radKIDS program, go to <http://www.radkids.org>.

### **Steering Committee Officers**

Chair: Kaye Schimnich 259-8737  
Vice-Chair: Michelle Johnson 230-5987  
Secretary: John Augustin 654-9428  
Treasurer: Kristi Laliberte 251-0019  
We welcome your questions or input!

### **Traffic Rerouting Near Hospital**

Residents of the neighborhood may notice a temporary change in traffic patterns starting May 3<sup>rd</sup> on the north side of the St. Cloud Hospital campus. Traffic will be rerouted to accommodate reconstruction of the north parking lot.

For about six weeks, cars entering the north lot from Sixth Avenue will be directed to take an immediate right and drive beneath the E lobby canopy. Traffic will be one-way only. Vehicles will proceed to either the public or employee ramp.

Extra signage will be posted to help manage the traffic flow. All vehicles must exit the campus through the lowest level of the public parking ramp. They will use the service road to reach Sixth Avenue. A three-way stop will be installed to help with traffic flow.

### **Annual Meeting 2010**

Close to 60 people attended our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Neighborhood Meeting on Feb. 28. Guests taking time to speak included Mayor Dave Kleis, Sgt. Jeff Oxtan (Community Crime Impact Team or CCIT), Lisa Vollbrecht (St. Cloud Water Treatment Facility), resident Judy Moldenhauer on her history of neighborhood homes project, and Dan Rethmeier, who shared "ghost stories" from his childhood home on 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.



**John Augustin and Ellen (Suzie) Lies at February 28 Annual Neighborhood Meeting**



## WHO WAS HESTER? (Part 1)

Hester Cronk was born September 16, 1837 on the Canadian shores of the Bay of Quinte. The Cronk family farm was on "Big Island" referred to on maps as "Prince Edward Island."

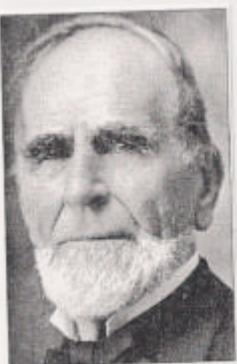
Hester had 6 older siblings (Anna, James, Sarah, Charles, Richard, and Philip).

On July 30, 1841, when Hester was only 3, her father, Enoch Cronk drowned in the Bay of Quinte while attempting to help livestock out of the water. In 1844 Hester lost her closest loved one when her brother Philip developed pneumonia and died.

The land for the Cronk home farm had been granted to Hester's mother, Sarah (Ferguson) Cronk, whose father had been a captain in the Canadian/British military. His pension allowed for each of his 16 children to receive 160 acres of choice public land.

Summers were beautiful, and with hard work, the island produced delicious fruits. However, winters were long and cold and food became a challenge. Hester, her mother, and her siblings struggled to survive in harsh wilderness conditions on the farm in Canada for 16 years, until Hester was 19.

Hester's oldest sister, Anna, had moved to Sauk Rapids, MN with her husband George W. Benedict. They lived in a magnificent house on a hill overlooking the Mississippi River. Anna had been writing her family back home in Canada and begging them to move to Sauk Rapids. When Hester was 19, they scraped together enough money to make the long journey.



Within a few days of her arrival in Sauk Rapids, Hester met Charles Gilman at the dance hall. He immediately fell in love with her. For 30 days he chased Hester, proposing marriage several times until she finally said yes. They were married January 1, 1857, within 3 months of meeting. They lived in a

grand house in Sauk Rapids until 1861 when they moved across the river to St. Cloud. Charles had been appointed by Abraham Lincoln to be the Land Grant Commissioner and his office was in downtown St. Cloud. Charles and Hester Gilman built a big house on what is now the south end of Hester Park.

### Wading Pool 2010

The city has announced that all 7 wading pools in St. Cloud will be open this summer, for fewer days than previous years, and with staggered opening and closing dates. The Hester Park wading pool is tentatively scheduled to be open June 15-August 8. Neighborhoods may have the option of funding additional hours if desired. For that reason, the Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood is considering allocating remaining funds from the 2009 fundraiser to extend the pool season in 2010. As those funds were raised specifically for the wading pool, we would look into applying the remaining money toward more hours this summer.

**Northside-Hester Park Second Annual Home Tour** is scheduled for Saturday, May 1 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Invite your friends and family to "Take a walk on the Northside." For further details, see insert in this newsletter.



**Joan Rydberg demonstrates her doll-making at the 2009 Northside-Hester Park Home Tour.**

**Check out our informational and interactive neighborhood website at:  
<http://northside-hesterpark.Wikispaces.com>**

## NORTHSIDE-HESTER PARK NEIGHBORHOOD VOLUNTEER WISH LIST 2010:

Starting to see things happening in our neighborhood? Wanting to be a part of the action, but not sure what you can do or where help might be needed? Check out the following ideas and see if any of them might be a fit for you:

- Organizational assistance
  - \_\_\_\_\_ create database of volunteers
  - \_\_\_\_\_ call volunteers
  - \_\_\_\_\_ welcome new neighbors
  - \_\_\_\_\_ participate in monthly steering committee meetings (1<sup>st</sup> Thurs. of month 7:30 p.m.)—help determine and plan projects that can benefit our neighborhood
- Communication
  - Newsletter
    - \_\_\_\_\_ write articles
    - \_\_\_\_\_ deliver newsletters
    - \_\_\_\_\_ recruit advertisers
    - \_\_\_\_\_ help coordinate delivery routes
  - Flyers
    - \_\_\_\_\_ design
    - \_\_\_\_\_ deliver
  - wikispaces site
    - \_\_\_\_\_ help develop interactional aspect
- Projects
  - Hester Park
    - \_\_\_\_\_ clean out flower beds
    - \_\_\_\_\_ help with plantings
    - \_\_\_\_\_ weed flower beds
    - \_\_\_\_\_ sweep paths along flower beds
    - \_\_\_\_\_ research/assist in repairs of WPA walls & steps
  - Spring Cleanup (Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>)
    - \_\_\_\_\_ participate sometime throughout the day
  - Home Tour (Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> 1-4 p.m.)
    - \_\_\_\_\_ help distribute posters
    - \_\_\_\_\_ be a host/hostess at a home
    - \_\_\_\_\_ be a musician
    - \_\_\_\_\_ be a crafter/artist
  - Granite City Days Parade (Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>)
    - \_\_\_\_\_ help decorate float
    - \_\_\_\_\_ be a part of float during parade
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fundraiser
    - \_\_\_\_\_ work with project leader to help coordinate details
  - Hester Park 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration (Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>)
    - \_\_\_\_\_ be part of planning committee
    - \_\_\_\_\_ help with 100<sup>th</sup> birthday shirt—assist with style selection and/or ordering process
    - \_\_\_\_\_ share musical or other talents
- Other
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Start/continue a Neighborhood Watch
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Watch children so their parents can participate in neighborhood events
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Pick up trash around the neighborhood
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Provide refreshments for a neighborhood meeting
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Promote the neighborhood to potential home buyers
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Help a neighbor with yard work or shoveling
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Other?

***What a way to make a difference in our own neighborhood as well as get to know some of our neighbors better!***



Northside-  
Hester Park  
Neighborhood

# Home Tour

Saturday, May 1, 2010  
1-4 P.M.

Advance Tickets: \$8  
Day-of Tickets: \$10

In addition to funding neighborhood projects, the second annual tour highlights the variety of unique homes in our neighborhood.

Featured homes (details on reverse):

- 822 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
- 806 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
- 803 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
- 713 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
- 621 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
- Holy Angels Performing Arts Center  
at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 3<sup>rd</sup> Street North

Advance tickets available at:

- Coborn's Centennial
- Coborn's Sauk Rapids
- Coborn's Cooper Ave.
- Hospital Gift Shop
- steering committee members

Day-of tickets available at Holy Angels.

Neighborhood musicians will perform in several homes. Crafters and artists will display and sell their wares at Holy Angels, in homes, and at Ann Ringness Leather (813 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue N).

For tour information, contact Kaye at 259-8737.  
For ticket information, contact David at 251-7608.

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



### **822 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**

Sold at just \$1.25 per acre, the land for this 1890 farmhouse was purchased by S. B. Lowry (who officially platted this area) in 1857. Notice the variety of unique doorknobs throughout the house.



### **713 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**

This large 2 ½ story “Victorian feel” house was built in 1896. Book lovers might be thrilled to learn that the garage was added to create more book space.



### **806 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**

In a former life, this house was a dentist’s office. Now one can see how the past several owners have lovingly maintained and updated this charming home.



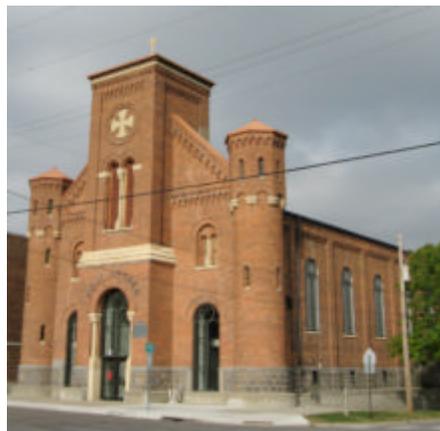
### **621 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**

This Milwaukee Cream yellow brick home, which was built in 1895, is described by current owners as a “Victorian Lite.” They were married in the home’s slanted dining room in 2003.



### **803 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**

Don’t miss the beautiful exterior brickwork on the front of this traditional yellow brick. This turn-of-the-century home, built in 1895, has had only two owners.



### **Holy Angels Performing Arts Center (6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street North)**

Originally constructed as a church in 1883, this building served as the Cathedral of the Saint Cloud Diocese until 1937, then a parish church until 1991. It was renovated into a theatre in 1995.