

Bridges



Newsletter of the Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood

February 2011, Ninth Edition

Annual Neighborhood Gathering

Please join us for our 4th Annual Neighborhood Gathering on Sunday, Feb. 27th from 1-3 p.m. in the Cathedral High School cafeteria. There will be a brief presentation with a slide show of highlights from the past year's events as well as snacks and plenty of time to get to know your neighbors. For details contact Kaye at 259-8737.

Celebrating 100 Years in Hester Park

The Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood held an old-fashioned birthday party on Sept. 19th at Hester Park, marking 100 years since the park's founding and honoring the park's namesake Hester Gilman.

Historic tours of the Water Treatment Facility took place, while outdoor games entertained the youngsters and musicians Sue Pundsack and Diane Billmark performed throughout the afternoon. Neighborhood volunteers who organized the event handed out generous servings of a birthday cake that was a miniature replica of the lower granite stone bridge (which serves as the Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood logo), as well as cupcakes, each decorated with the same neighborhood bridge design also seen on our neighborhood t-shirts.

Esther Burgeson, dressed in a Victorian-era costume, performed a one-woman historical dramatization of Hester and spent much of the afternoon chatting and posing for pictures with area residents. "People were very grateful that I was taking part in the celebration, and they liked that I was from the neighborhood," she said.

Esther grew up one block from the park and said she had never before known its history. "It was fun for me to learn the story of such a magnificent woman. I felt honored to perform for all these people who had such great respect for the part."

To view a video and photos from the event go to <http://northside-hesterpark.Wikispaces.com/>

Neighborhood Signs Follow-Up

In our August edition of 'Bridges' we reported that we would soon have new neighborhood identification signs. Those signs were installed last fall as planned and you will notice them throughout our area.

Project leader, Kaye Schimnich, and the steering committee members worked closely with St. Cloud's Department of Traffic System Services on the design and location of our signs.

Funding for the signs came from a Bremer grant that the St. Cloud Neighborhood Coalition applied for and received last year. We are one of seven member neighborhoods in the Coalition. One of multiple goals in that grant application included promoting increased neighborhood identification and cohesiveness, with the neighborhood street signs being considered one way to increase people's awareness.



Esther Burgeson as Hester Gilman with birthday cake

2010 Neighborhood Accomplishments

If you are reading this newsletter, you probably know there is a Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood organization, but are you aware of just how active this organization has been? A HUGE THANK YOU!!! to steering committee members John Augustin, Julie Gaetz, Pam & Kelly Haugen, Michelle Johnson, Kristi Laliberte, Steve Lanz, Ellen (Susie) Lies, Andra Middlestaedt, David Mohs, Judy Moldenhauer, Janet Reigstad, Joan Rydberg, Kate Schad, & Kaye Schimnich who have spearheaded these activities, as well as to many of our neighbors who volunteered and/or participated to help make these projects happen! Following is a list of activities and projects completed in 2010:

- 11 monthly steering committee meetings
- 3 newsletters published/distributed to entire neighborhood (February, April, August)
- Neighborhood wiki-spaces site regularly updated (<http://northside-hesterpark.wikispaces.com/>)
- 3rd Annual Neighborhood Meeting (Feb. 28) (55-60 participants)
- Notification/safety flyer related to Level III Sex Offender printed/distributed to entire neighborhood (March)
- March Social—Hemsing's Deli (app. 20-25 participants)
- Earth Day Cleanup (April 22) (app. 140 ALC & CHS students & neighbors)
- 2nd Annual Home Tour (May 1) (app. 115 participants, including guests & volunteers)
- Personal Safety Session (May 4)—(13 participants)
- Hester Park Wading Pool—donated \$1000 from funds remaining from 2009 fundraising to keep pool open additional 2 weeks this summer
- Hester Park Cleanup & Planting (April-June) (app. 6 regular participants/at least 6 other occasional participants)
 - Included cleaning out/planting a Memorial Garden (plants/tree donated by family & friends in memory of Marje Moore, an original steering committee member)
 - Continued to work with city on improvements for Hester Park:
 - When searching for a solution to enable regular watering of newly planted flower beds, we asked city

Park Dept. about installing a water spigot & hose. Seeing the results of a lot of hard work & wanting to assist in the continuation & success of that work, a sprinkler system was installed.

- We began researching & obtained an initial estimate for repairing WPA granite walls in park--approached Water Treatment Facility for help—north bridge was repaired this past Fall.
- Neighborhood t-shirts designed, ordered, available for sale
- Fourth of July Root Beer Float & Glow Stick sales in Hester Park (app. 35 volunteers)
- Hester Park 100th Birthday Celebration (Sept. 19) (app. 90 participants)
- 2 neighborhood reps involved in Mississippi River Corridor Project of which Beaver Island Trail expansion is one potential project
- Neighborhood street signs installed on main arteries/entry points into neighborhood (funds from Bremer grant)



Pam Haugen displays a neighborhood t-shirt.

Meet Some of Our New Residents!

When they consider our neighborhood many people assume that it is an “older” neighborhood filled with mature homes and mature people. They might be surprised to know that we are experiencing our own “baby boom”! In the past year at least six neighborhood families have welcomed new babies to their homes.



Weston, Cedar, Patrick, Sophia, Jacob, & Izabella

Izabella was born in February of last year and just had her first birthday. With her parents Laurie and Kirk she lives on the south side of our neighborhood and she loves to hear the train whistles blow. She was born on the same date as her older brother Austin who is ten years old. Their family also includes Ian, 15, and Logan 8 who spend every other weekend with them. She's been sledding at Hester Park with her big brothers and out walking in the neighborhood with mom and dad and she loves climbing the stairs in their old house. They'll be building a fence this summer to keep her in the yard since they expect her to be running by then!

Firstborn Sophia Michelle arrived a bit early in May to parents Kristynn and Ben. After having spent a couple weeks in the hospital, she is now healthy and thriving. Early indications are that she's going to be an outdoor girl, as evidenced by her delight in spending lots of time outside in her playpen helping her folks with the yard work and other fall chores.

Parents Sarah and John, along with big brothers and sister, Kate, 10, Isaac, 9, and Matthew, 5, welcomed little brother Jacob in July. He's joining a family of busy bikers, campers and sledding enthusiasts. Maybe he'll play piano like Mom, Kate, & Isaac?

Tammy and Mike's baby Weston was born in September and they are having fun being new parents. Mike is a pilot and they're able to do lots of traveling. Weston has already been to New York and Florida!

Peggy and Steve welcomed a new baby girl in October. Cedar was born at home with the help of a midwife. Peggy was surprised that her third baby was her hardest delivery. Big brother Tennessee, 10, is very active with skateboarding and snowboarding, while big sister Wren, 8, loves her scooter, snowboarding and piano. It's a good guess Cedar will be trying them all. Both Tennessee and Wren are great at helping take care of their new little sister.

Kristi and Dave's first baby, Patrick, was also an early arrival, born in November. Although he's only three months old he's already been out walking in the neighborhood with mom and dad as well as ice skating and snowshoeing – all from the safety of his pack and several blankets, of course.

Keep your eyes and ears open for these and all of the little ones who bring such life and vitality to our neighborhood. It is they, along with others of so many different ages and background who make up the rich tapestry of our neighborhood. (Note: our apologies to any new babies and parents not included in this article! We just don't know you yet.)



Daddy Dave and Baby Patrick Snowshoeing

Northside-Hester Park Steering Committee Officers:

Chair: Kaye Schimnich 259-8737

Co-Chair: (seeking)

Secretary: 2-month rotation of committee members

Treasurer: Pam Haugen 253-8068

Did you know you can see copies of our 'Bridges' newsletters with original color photos on our wikispaces site? To find these or more information about what's happening in our neighborhood visit our home page at: www.northside-hesterpark.wikispaces.org/

**NORTHSIDE-HESTER PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD VOLUNTEER WISH LIST
2011:**

Starting to see things happening in our neighborhood? Want to be a part of the action, but don't know what you can do or where help might be needed? Participating in our neighborhood activities doesn't have to be all-consuming or require a regular, ongoing commitment. Several people have expressed a willingness to help on an "as needed" or "as able" basis. Following is our "wish list" of volunteer opportunities for 2011. If you are interested and able to help in any of these areas, please call Kaye at 259-8737.

- **ORGANIZATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
 - create database of volunteers
 - call volunteers
 - welcome new neighbors
 - participate in monthly steering committee meetings (1st Thurs. of month 7:30 p.m.)—help determine and plan projects that can benefit our neighborhood
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - **Newsletter**
 - write articles
 - recruit advertisers
 - deliver newsletters
 - help coordinate delivery routes
 - **Flyers**
 - design
 - deliver
 - **wikispaces site**
 - help develop interactional aspect of site
- **PROJECTS**
 - **Annual Gathering** (Sunday, Feb. 27, 1-3 p.m.)
 - help obtain door prizes
 - help setup/takedown tables & chairs
 - **Spring Cleanup** (Saturday, April 16th)
 - participate sometime throughout the day
 - **Hester Park** (Saturday, April 16th & throughout spring/summer)
 - clean out flower beds
 - help with plantings
 - weed flower beds
 - sweep paths along flower beds
 - **Home Tour** (Sunday, May 1st 1-4 p.m.)
 - have your home on this or a future tour
 - help distribute posters
 - be a host/hostess at a home
 - be a musician
 - be a crafter/artist

- **4th of July Fundraiser**
 - work with project leader to help coordinate details
 - help setup or takedown booth
 - volunteer for 1 or 2 hour shift to sell root beer floats & glow sticks

- **OTHER**
 - start/continue a Neighborhood Watch
 - pick up trash around the neighborhood
 - 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!

CALENDAR OF NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS:

MONTHLY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Time: 1st Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m.
Place: Cathedral High School Conference Room
(Anyone is welcome to attend! We'd love to have you join us!)

4th ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING

Time: Sunday, February 27th 1-3 p.m.
Place: Cathedral High School Cafeteria

SPRING CLEANUP

Time: Saturday, April 16th
(details TBA)

NEIGHBORHOOD HOME TOUR

Time: Sunday, May 1st 1-4 p.m.
(details in April edition of 'Bridges')

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)

JULY 4TH FUNDRAISER IN HESTER PARK (contact Steve at 253-1840 if you would like to help out)

SUMMER NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC IN THE PARK
(tentative August activity)