

Bridges



Newsletter of the Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood

October 2012, Thirteenth Edition

This project is funded in part by the Initiative Foundation, a regional foundation

Stay Connected!

The North Side Hester Park neighborhood is a participating member of the St. Cloud Neighborhood Coalition. We'd like to keep you informed about the wonderful upcoming events in the neighborhood. Please visit SCNC.US to sign up and be sure to "like" us on Facebook. Also see our website at www.northside-hesterpark.wikispaces.com



New in Hester Park This Year

We saw plenty of activity in the park this summer, including the installation of a new bike rack (see above) near the kiddie pool. Come and safely park your bike while you enjoy fun in the park!

The city also repainted and spruced up the tennis courts along with repairing and painting the pool. The sprinkling system was repaired after an animal chewed through the pipes and the new trees planted to replace those lost in the storm last year are doing well.

The flower beds look better than ever and got lots of attention from volunteers including Joan Rydberg, Pam and Kelly Haugen and Susie Lies. This spring a group from Creative Memories also donated 8 hours of hard labor to help with the work in the park.

We have decided to let nature take its course this fall so we won't be having a clean up in the park as we have in the past. But we'll be looking for lots of help next year for the spring cleaning and planting!



Lots of fun at the Hester Park pool this summer

We were lucky to have our neighborhood pool open for a good portion of the summer this year to help cool down the younger crowd in the neighborhood!

NSHP Visioning and Priorities

Neighbors of all ages came together on April 12th at the Cathedral High School cafeteria to enjoy a pizza supper and discuss neighborhood priorities. We had a great time with lots of stories, laughter, and a chance to meet others who call the North Side Hester Park neighborhood home. We also appreciated the staff members from the City who joined us.

The event was facilitated by staff from the Initiative Foundation, which has generously supported neighborhood development efforts through financial grants as well as training and support.

Mayor Kreis opened the evening with remarks about the importance of healthy core neighborhoods like NSHP in promoting continued economic and social vitality in St. Cloud.

We discussed the assets and challenges of our neighborhood. Some of the assets include the Mississippi River, Hester Park, friendly neighbors, lots of walkers, sidewalks, low crime and living close to many things. Challenges include litter, traffic, bus, helicopter and train noise, problem rental properties, on-street parking problems and unshoveled sidewalks.

The next step was to collectively determine desired outcomes for the neighborhood. Small groups brainstormed and then joined a "dot-mocracy" exercise where each participant indicated what was most important to them. The top priorities (five or more votes) were:

- Bike trail and river walk completion
- Access to the river at the Hospital
- Community gardens in Triangle Park
- More Hospital involvement with neighbors
- Restricting non-owner occupied rentals
- Quietening down neighborhood noise
- New grills & trash cans at Hester
- Create a history of homes in NSHP
- Preserve natural areas and views
- Promote cottage industries in NSHP
- More crime watch groups
- Creating a gathering place near the river in the park (coffee, sandwiches, local art)

We welcome everyone's involvement to create an ongoing positive future for our neighborhood. You can get involved through participation on the steering committee or on various projects.

**For more information contact:
Joan Rydberg 253-8403
Susie Lies 251-5194
Janet Reigstad 249-1293**



CHS Rediscovered Holy Angels School

Late this summer a sinkhole was discovered in the Cathedral High School parking lot near their South Building. Some serious digging found remnants of the old Holy Angels Grade School that was on the site until it was torn down about 40 years ago. The crew got it repaired and ready in plenty of time for the new school year.





Jack & Silvia Eder's historic home gets some TLC

Preserving Our Historic Neighborhood

Our neighborhood is one of the oldest in St. Cloud. It was platted by Sylvanus B. Lowry when Minnesota joined the Union in 1858.

The homes still standing don't go back quite that far, but we have quite a selection of Nineteenth Century, early Twentieth Century and modern homes lining our streets.

One of our neighbors, Seal Dwyer, is beginning work on compiling a history of the houses in our neighborhood. She explained at the Neighborhood Visioning Session that her goal is threefold:

- Help to protect and preserve the oral history and written documentation on our homes.
- Serve as a resource for those remodeling, restoring and preserving their older homes.
- Catalog the unique aspects of area architecture for future generations.

She will gather what oral history she can find from current and former home owners as well as look for additional information from public records and documentation available at the County Historical Center.

In future newsletters we would like to chronicle the history of one home in our neighborhood.

If you would like to have your home included in this catalog contact Seal Dwyer at 320-229-0526.

Start Untangling Those Light Cords

It's not too early to start planning your holiday lighting displays! Members of the Neighborhood Steering Committee will be traveling around the neighborhood in mid-December looking for houses and yards that are decorated in style to help bring holiday cheer to one and all.

The best of the best will be recognized with a small monetary gift and will be recognized in our winter newsletter. Most of all you will be sharing the spirit of the season and making our neighborhood a better place to live.



Thanks to St. Cloud Hospital for their hard work every year to make our neighborhood such a beautiful place to live! How lucky we are to have a neighbor who has such a gorgeous garden each summer and a wonderful holiday lighting display each winter.

Hester Park Has a Bright New Look

The City has moved some decorative lights that had been at Munsinger Park to Hester Park. There are 8 lamps placed along the park on 6th Ave. N. There was no charge for the lights. We will just pay for the installation of the lights out of our neighborhood funds. Keep an eye out for the new additions!

Fourth of July 2012

We have certainly had our share of memorable Fourth of Julys in the past few years!

Last year we had a major storm tear through the neighborhood a couple of days before the 4th doing significant damage to the yards, boulevards, roads and Hester Park. There was talk of cancelling the festivities after the storm left dozens and dozens of trees down across roads and in the park, and left much of the neighborhood without power. But as they say, "the show must go on," and neighbors pitched in with a big helping hand from the City to clear the way to a fun and successful celebration last year.



Replacement trees planted in Hester Park

This year had its own challenges and as it does for any major event in Minnesota the weather was the issue. The story was all about the extreme heat. This was heat like we had not seen in over 20 years. Midday on the Fourth it was almost unbearable to be outside, especially if you had the luxury of and were used to home air-conditioning.

The pool was open and full of children enjoying the cool water all afternoon.

Once the sun began to set the breeze picked up and the evening mellowed out to the point where the fire works could be appreciated.

The St. Cloud Municipal Band played down below the park and a good sized crowd began to assemble.

The NSHP neighborhood group was ready with their annual fundraiser that supports efforts to increase the number of hours the pool is open along with other park and neighborhood improvements.

A canopy was set up not far from the pool and ice cream treats (a BIG hit), iced water and pop were served and greatly appreciated by the overheated crowd. And of course we sold the traditional glow necklaces.

Special thanks goes to Anri Ringness, John and David Augustin, the Riegstad family, Merrill and Elisabeth McKibbon, Jeff and Max Washburne, Kris Koshiol, Joan and Mike Rydberg, Diane White, Sonja Berg, Susie Lies, and Dan Becker for their time and energy. And thanks to Peggy Carlson, our neighborhood sign maker, for her work. We also truly appreciate Bernick's Bottling for their generous donation of bottled water.

From set up to tear down everyone involved had a great time. And we added almost \$600 to our neighborhood account! What a great bunch of friends and neighbors we have!

Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of volunteers to help with many areas in supporting our neighborhood group. If you can help or would like more information please indicate your interest below.

Yes, I can help with:

- Hester Park projects
- Newsletter articles
- Newsletter delivery
- Social Events
- Steering Committee membership

Name: _____

Contact me at: _____

Cut out this section and mail to:

Joan Rydberg
1450 8th Ave. N.
St. Cloud, MN 56303