

# Bridges



## Newsletter of the Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood

December 2013, Fifteenth Edition

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

### Neighborhood Proud

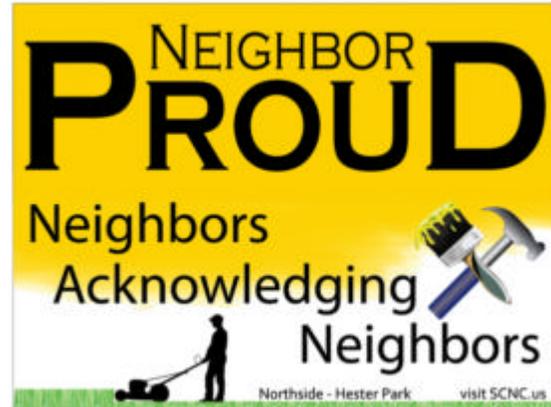
Hopefully you have noticed the black and yellow Neighborhood Proud signs sprouting up throughout the neighborhood this past summer. Our most recent effort to promote all the good things happening here is called NEIGHBORHOOD PROUD!

When driving through the Northside-Hester Park area, you can't help but be impressed by the efforts people have made to make this a destination neighborhood. We want to promote a safe and pleasant environment that will help maintain strong and stable property values along with being an open and accepting atmosphere.

We've been amazed by the time, energy and money people in our neighborhood have invested in their homes and yards so we decided to create a sign that would let residents know that their work is being recognized and appreciated.

We had 5 signs made (unfortunately one appears to have been stolen) and at our monthly meetings we take nominations for homes that deserve recognition for their work on their homes and yards. Along with the sign placed in their yard for the month each recipient also receives a \$25 check from the neighborhood group.

The NSHP neighborhood is bordered by the east side of 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N, the Mississippi River, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave N near downtown and north at the Sauk Rapids Bridge. With this newsletter we are trying mailed delivery. The most cost-effective method is the Every Door Direct program through the USPS. This means a few folks who live near, but not within, our boundaries will receive this. Enjoy!



The homes recognized to date include:

**July** – Laurie & Kirk Smith 230 6<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Merrill & Elizabeth McKibben 1511 8<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Thomas & Mary Zupanc 304 8<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Scott & Connie Schettler 1250 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Marnie Narlock 814 8<sup>th</sup> Ave N.

**August** – Robert Ogiba & Sarah Kolodziej 1230 8<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Thomas & Connie Jensen 1253 7<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Brandon Pauman & Seal Dwyer 528 7<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Jason & Amanda Ziemann 903 6<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Peggy Carlson 610 15<sup>th</sup> St N.

**September** – Dave & Connie Eull 1317 8<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Pat Bliss 1438 8<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Baron & Julie Majette 814 4<sup>th</sup> St N, Gerald & Ellen Geurkink 814 4<sup>th</sup> St N, Fay Haws 555 5<sup>th</sup> Ave N.

**October** – Steve Zinsli & Becky Van Ness 711 5<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Marilyn Nelson & Geoffery Tabakin 611 7<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Kathy Maloney & Connie Burczyk 819 13<sup>th</sup> St N, Phil Kramer 1343 8<sup>th</sup> Ave N.

*More Info - 'Like' us on Facebook*

## City Support Services

At our last monthly meeting we had a number of city officials attending. We took the opportunity to express a wide range of concerns about neighborhood issues from housing to parking to crime. They answered many questions about how the city tries to manage growth and development and we were reminded of the wide range of services and resources available to us through City Hall.

If you have questions or concerns, there are many resources that may be able to help you.

Health & Inspections (rental, nuisance, food inspections) 255-7214  
(Debbie Gruska is assigned to our area and available at 255-7236)

Building Safety (building, plumbing, electrical permits) 255-7239

Engineering Department 255-7294

Planning & Zoning (parking) 255-7218

Public Works (refuse & recycling) 650-2900

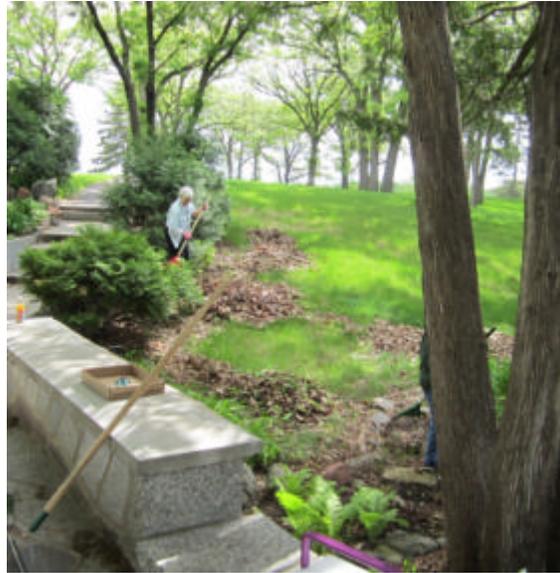
Fire Department 650-3500

Neighborhood Crime Watch 345-4182

Please feel free to contact any of these offices if you have concerns. They are there to serve us. If you have any special neighborhood concerns we would be glad to make them a focus of one of our monthly meetings and will invite people who can address the issues. We would love to have more people attend the meetings that occur the first Thursday each month at Cathedral High School.

## Core Neighborhood Loans

The St. Cloud Housing and Redevelopment Authority administers loan programs to promote home ownership. The Core Neighborhood Rental Property Conversion Program provides up to a \$20,000 interest-free, payment-free loan (until time of sale or 30 years) to convert existing rental properties to single family owner-occupied homes with up to one licensed rental unit. The Homestead Incentive Program provides up to \$3,000 to pay a portion of down payment or closing costs. For more info contact Shannon Adamski at the HRA – 252-0880 or [http://stcloudhra.com/Purchase\\_&\\_Neighborhood\\_Improvements.html](http://stcloudhra.com/Purchase_&_Neighborhood_Improvements.html)



## Fourth of July

The Fourth of July is always a hugely anticipated event in our neighborhood. People from all over the area converge on Hester Park & Wilson Park to view the fireworks. The past couple of years have been challenging because of Mother Nature. Two years ago a storm took out many of our beloved trees and last year was the hottest 4<sup>th</sup> in over 20 years. But the crowds still came! Thankfully no major weather events occurred this year and thanks to our volunteers the park was in great shape.

We are happy to announce that we raised \$630 in profit for the NSHP group by selling beverages, ice cream, glow necklaces and patriotic necklaces. The money is used for projects including new lampposts in the park and NEIGHBORHOOD PROUD awards among other worthy causes.

It takes the work and cooperation of many, many people to make this happen every year and we appreciate everyone's contributions.

Thanks to the City for allowing us to set up our booths at no cost. And special thanks to John from Coborns (refrigeration,) Ann Ringness (canopy,) Peggy Carlson (signage,) and Mark McKibbon (setup.)

Thanks to the volunteers who worked our booth, including the Reigstads, Joan & Mike Rydberg, Susie Lies, Sonja Berg, Andrew & Kate Webster, John & David Augustin,

Malcolm Nazareth & Moncie, Max Washburne, the whole Kroschel family and a big group of neighborhood teens who canvassed the crowd to sell necklaces!

Sorry if we missed anyone – without all of you we couldn't do this every year. Thanks for making our neighborhood such a great place to live!

## Little Free Library

Geoffrey Tabakin & Marilyn Nelson were so enthralled by the Little Free Libraries they've run across on recent trips around Minnesota & Wisconsin that they decided to set one up in the front rock garden at their home at 611 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.

Little Free Library, Ltd. is a program of the non-profit Wisconsin Partners for SustainAbility. It began in 2009 as a project in a college class for Adam Klepetar. You can read more about this at [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org) where you'll also find a world map pinpointing the location of all 5000+ Little Free Libraries.

Geoffrey & Marilyn hope you'll stop by and explore YOUR new little neighborhood library. Help yourself to any book that catches your eye or drop off a book you'd like to share!

## Neighborhood Rezoning?

The NSHP area was built long before the city zoning maps were drawn. Once done, these maps didn't always match the neighborhood's actual use. Several blocks of single-family homes are actually zoned for apartments.

As a result of this anyone who buys property in those areas could tear down homes and build apartment buildings or town homes alongside the remaining single-family homes. It also means existing homes can be turned into duplexes or triplexes.

Does this "R5" (multi-family dwellings of up to four stories) zoning contradict the definition of zoning – to segregate uses that are thought to be incompatible and to preserve the character of a community?

In the summer of 2013, a survey was conducted of most landowners in the southern third of the neighborhood. Results indicate a strong desire to change the city zoning map to make these areas "R1" (single family homes.) Many did not participate in this survey and we are looking for more input as this issue progresses. Even if you have no opinion, please let us know by voting "no preference."

To participate in the neighborhood's effort to rezone, contact neighbors David Mohs at 428-0184 or Ellen 'Susie' Lies at 251-5194.

## Light up the Neighborhood

Members of our NSHP Steering Committee will be traveling the neighborhood again this year looking for homes and yards decorated in style for the holidays. The best of the best will be recognized in the next newsletter and will receive a small monetary gift. Share the spirit of the season and make our neighborhood a better place to live!

## Seeing Orange??

In early July construction equipment showed up from Cathedral High School to the St. Cloud Hospital. Why was all this digging going on? The answer is 89 miles northwest of here in Wadena where their hospital is implementing a fiber optic connection to the St. Cloud Hospital. Their vendor, Arvig Communications, chose a combination of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues for the final mile of the journey.

In a carefully detailed process crews surveyed the area last winter and in June white flags appeared along the avenues. Then crews hand-dug to several existing underground facilities and buried interduct using a directional drill to minimize disruption.

All damaged sidewalk has been replaced and lawns were sodded or seeded on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

A bit of history was uncovered in the process. During excavation the tall, thick granite wall on the west side of Cathedral's track field was exposed. It soon reclaimed its hiding spot buried in the hill and most likely will not be seen for many more years.

### **In Brief...**

- Staff at the Water Treatment Facility continue their work with a tuck-pointing contractor to rehabilitate the WPA walls in Hester Park. The second of four phases was completed this fall.

- The Public Utilities Department has installed a rope fence along the side of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue to prevent driving into the park. Modifications to make it more welcoming were done with input from the Hester Park people. An ADA compliant crossing area to the Mississippi River viewing area is being considered and a traffic study was done to look at a possible crosswalk and related signs.

- The City hosted a Lake Wobegon Trail planning study project Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. They are exploring a logical trail corridor to connect Waite Park's Rivers Edge Park to the Mississippi River.

**We welcome everyone's involvement to create an ongoing positive future for our neighborhood. Get involved by joining our steering committee or working on various projects.**

**For more information contact:**

**Joan Rydberg 253-8403**

**Susie Lies 251-5194**

**Janet Reigstad 249-1293**

**Our meetings are the first Thursday evening of each month at Cathedral High School.**

**Visit us at [www.HesterPark.org](http://www.HesterPark.org) or [www.facebook.com/NorthsideHesterParkNeighborhood](http://www.facebook.com/NorthsideHesterParkNeighborhood)**