

# BRIDGES

Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood  
January 2016

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

[www.HesterPark.org](http://www.HesterPark.org)



## Upcoming Events

Neighborhood Planning Meeting & Social

Date: Thursday, January 7

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Cathedral, door #1

Monthly Steering Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 4

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Cathedral, door #1

Monthly Steering Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 3

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Cathedral, door #1

## Digital Communication

Desire to receive email notices about neighborhood events? Sign-up online. [www.HesterPark.org](http://www.HesterPark.org)

Have Facebook? Hester Park is also there.

## Neighborhood Impacts of City's Plan to be Discussed January 7

By David Mohs, Seventh Avenue

A draft of Saint Cloud's new comprehensive plan was unveiled in October. Several topics impact the Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood:

- Core Neighborhoods
- Widening 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Streets
- Hospital Expansion
- Riverfront Redevelopment Near Downtown
- Bicycle Level of Service

Community Development Director Matt Glaesman will visit with residents of the Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood on Thursday, January 7 at 6:30 PM in Cathedral High School's cafeteria. Please enter via door #1.

Mr. Glaesman will give a brief presentation at 6:30 PM, followed by hors d'oeuvres and socialization. Groups of residents interested in specific aspects can meet with Mr. Glaesman during the social.

The 151-page plan is downloadable at [www.StCloudPlan.com](http://www.StCloudPlan.com). Neighborhood-specific highlights are accessible at [www.HesterPark.org](http://www.HesterPark.org).



## Cathedral Seeks Host Families

By Taffy Kroll, Cathedral

Three years ago, Cathedral High School started a program to intentionally diversify the student population and in turn assist our students in becoming knowledgeable global citizens. Students from all over the world are enrolling at Cathedral as full-time students. They bring with them a new perspective and culture to share with current students from Central Minnesota.

These international students have the opportunity to live with host families. The international program is currently looking for families interested in hosting a student for this coming spring semester as well as next year. Families are not required to have children attending Cathedral. The school needs interested and desiring families to share their home and family and potentially learn about another culture.

For more information, please contact Taffy Kroll, Advancement Associate for International Programs, at 320-257-2145 .

Create a friendship that lasts a lifetime!



## City 'Best Practices' Committee

By Janet Reigstad, Seventh Avenue

Concerns were expressed about poorly maintained properties during the neighborhood's annual meeting last October. Other core neighborhoods belonging to the Saint Cloud Neighborhood Coalition (SCNC) have expressed similar concerns.

The city council has appointed a time limited task force to look at these issues, and determine what additional initiatives could assist in addressing these properties. This is known as the "Neighborhood Best Practices Round III Task Force." The task force is chaired by council president Jeff Goerger, and facilitated by Matt Glaesman, Community Development Director.

The group will focus on the following: improve enforcement of existing city codes, increase landlord responsibility for property condition and tenant conduct, strengthen zoning ordinance, and strengthen nuisance ordinance. The group met five times in December, with five meetings set for January – on the 6, 7, 12, 14, and 19. Meetings are held in the city council chambers from 4:30-6:00 PM. Meetings are open for public observation, and interested parties are encouraged to attend and provide feedback to their representative.

## 8 Win Holiday Lighting Contest

By Susie Lies, Sixth Avenue and Brandon Paumen, Seventh Avenue

Four members of the Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood steering committee: John Augustin, Joan Rydberg, Brandon Paumen, and Susie Lies took an evening ride about the neighborhood viewing the light displays put out by our neighbors. This year we chose eight display winners. They are:

- 500 17<sup>th</sup> Street North (Partch residence)
- 719 4<sup>th</sup> Street North (Pallansch residence)
- 1020 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue N. (Hollenbach residence)
- 1545 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue N. (Pogatchnik residence)
- 1401 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North (Collins residence)
- 826 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North (Schloe residence)
- 713 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North (Borgmann residence)
- 1411 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North (Swanson residence)



## Wilson School Remains For Sale

By Nick Murphy, Sixth Avenue

At the 800 block of 12th Street stands Wilson School, a well-known landmark of our neighborhood.

Built in 1931, Wilson was architected by Louis Pinault, who designed several prominent local buildings, including the Daniel building downtown (now home to Konrad's), and the Bishop's House near SCSU campus. Its historic character is a reminder of the enduring craftsmanship of buildings from its time.

Wilson school is presently home to Little Saints Academy, a local childcare center. Little Saints has leased the space since 2011, while the property has been offered for sale by District 742. Several inquiries and bids have been made, though no agreements have yet been reached.

This past October, the school district was in negotiations over a bid by CommonBond Communities, a St. Paul-based nonprofit housing developer. Many neighborhood members attended a forum organized and promoted by Amy Bonfig, director of Little Saints. Shortly before the forum, the bid by CommonBond was dropped without further comment. Little Saints has also submitted a bid at less than half the assessed market value, which remains on the table.

Many residents expressed concerns over the CommonBond bid. A multi-family housing development of any sort would significantly impact the character of our neighborhood. Little Saints is also seen as an important resource by residents and Hospital employees as a provider of childcare.

Wilson remains for sale, and the current lease with Little Saints extends to 2017. Its future is otherwise uncertain. Residents are encouraged to stay connected and organized for this issue, and to contact local officials with any questions or concerns. It's vital for any issue to be sure our neighborhood voice is well heard!

An in-depth article of the building's history was written by Bill Morgan and published by the Saint Cloud Times on November 13, 2015.

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Newsletter mail assistance courtesy of  
Cathedral High School  
312 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Saint Cloud, MN 56303

## New Emergency Entrance Open

By Andra Johnson, CentraCare

The Saint Cloud Hospital's new emergency entrance is now open. The public should use this new entrance for drop-off access to the Emergency Room. The emergency garage is designated for ambulance and law enforcement only.



The Behavioral Health suite in the Emergency Room will open in February, which will complete phase one. Phase two of construction will begin in March and last approximately 18 months.