

# BRIDGES

Newsletter of the Northside-Park Neighborhood

October 2014, Seventeenth Edition

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## THE 2014 NORTHSIDE-HESTER PARK HISTORIC GHOST TOUR

Want to learn the spooky side of our neighborhood?

The Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood is hosting a ghost tour Oct. 25. The walking tours will feature ghost stories and neighborhood history. The tours start at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. and period characters will guide the groups.

There will be treats served at rest stops along the 12-block tour. Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased by calling 320-296-2530. A limited number of tickets are available.

All proceeds will be used to fund neighborhood activities such as keeping the Hester Park wading pool open in the summer, new amenities at the park and the Neighborhood Proud program.

## CITY TO UPDATE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

After some initial delays, the city will update its Comprehensive Plan!

A community open house will be held on Thursday, October 23, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. This public session will be at Regency Plaza, 912 West Saint Germain Street. The evening begins with a review of the purpose of a Comprehensive Plan and concludes with input.

This single open house is just the beginning of a massive process. Earlier the same day, a meeting will be conducted with representatives of the Saint Cloud Neighborhood Coalition. On Friday, October 24, members of the local business community will discuss issues.

Additional opportunities for input will be offered as this project progresses. The public can stay informed and get involved by visiting the Comprehensive Plan website, [www.StCloudPlan.com](http://www.StCloudPlan.com).

Review of the Comprehensive Plan is of particular interest to the Hester Park neighborhood. In 2013, a survey was conducted of most residences south of Veterans Drive. Many of the houses in this area are zoned "R5," the designation for apartments. Consequently, landlords can easily remodel houses into separate apartments, or replace houses with apartment buildings. The 2013 survey showed interest in downzoning this area to a designation more compatible with existing homes and the surrounding neighborhood.

## MULT-GENERATION HOUSE: TO RENT OR FLIP?

Restoration of a century-old house at 715 Fourth Street North is almost complete.

This 1914 structure was home to the Hanson family, then the Monarski family. When Kay Monarski married Don Waldorf, it became known as the Waldorf home. However, in 2007, Don and Kay sold their meticulously maintained home.

In the subsequent seven years, the massive house fell into decay. The shingles and siding were crumbling. The porch and garage sagging. Hope sprang with a new buyer in 2014, Jannew Properties, LLC.



Current owner Sandy Saldana and former owner Don Waldorf discuss the proposed porch light.

On October 4, Sandra Saldana of Jannew Properties offered a tour to the Waldorf family. Though only for an hour, the Waldorf family was "at home" again, reliving memories. The house was much as they remembered, plus some new appliances. Don spotted his long-standing handiwork at the front door and elsewhere.

What does the future hold? The Saldanas are hoping to find quality renters. Selling is also an option. Who will soon occupy this 100-year-old home?

## NEIGHBORHOOD PROUD

In a campaign to recognize residents that are making an effort to make our neighborhood an inviting and safe place to live by investing time and money to their homes, the Northside Hester Park Neighborhood Association initiated the Neighborhood Proud campaign last year. Every month during the summer we take nominations for homes that residents feel have gone above and beyond in maintaining their homes and yards, thus improving the overall environment. To date this year we have acknowledged the following homes.



**Dean Borgman**, 713 7th Ave N  
**Jen and Ben Thompson** 620 7th Ave N  
**Dondra Roland**, 713 4th St N  
**Paula Donath**, 1535 8th Ave N,  
**Jan and Ron Brown**, 1263 8th Ave N  
**Sam Zosel**, 1219 6th Ave N  
**Gerre Ahlstrand** 915 7th Ave N  
**Clair Erickson**, 1201 7th Ave N  
**Patricia Partch** 500 17th St N  
**Jones**, 714 7th Ave N  
**Clair Erickson**, 1201 7th Ave N  
**Glen Palm**, 626 6th Ave N  
**John Eder**, 324 8th Ave N  
**J&D Baker**, 1242 8th Ave N  
**Hemming**, 1428 9th Ave N

The time and energy you put into your home and yard is recognized and supported by your neighbors. Thank you for your commitment to making our neighborhood beautiful and cared for. We have lots to offer and want to remain a destination neighborhood as the city continues to grow. Thank you!

## GORECKI GUEST HOUSE PLANS EXPANSION TO WELCOME MORE GUESTS

A generous gift by Benedict and Dorothy Gorecki of Milaca paves the way to begin the process of expanding the St. Cloud Hospital Gorecki

Guest House. The Gorecki Guest House will increase its guest rooms from 12 to 28 to be able to serve more families.

The building footprint only will grow roughly by a third, with the existing square footage of 8,760, adding another 2,850.

CentraCare Health Facility Director, David Larson, is working with local architects to design the addition to complement the existing building as well as fit in well with the neighborhood.

Several neighborhood meetings inviting input from nearby neighbors have taken place.

"We feel strongly about being a good neighbor and will do our best to create a home that is as pleasing on the outside as it is comforting to our guests on the inside," said Larson.

"This addition really is about being able to help more families in need," said Sally Allen, manager of the Guest House. "It is heartbreaking having to turn away people who already are in a very vulnerable position."

## BENEFITS OF EXPANSION:

- Serve more families in need, and have the ability to accommodate families immediately upon request.
- Extend registration hours to accommodate families who arrive later in the evening.

## ABOUT THE GUEST HOUSE:

Conveniently located across the street from the St. Cloud Hospital, the Gorecki Guest House welcomes patients and family members who are receiving medical care in the St. Cloud community. The house offers a comfortable, homelike atmosphere that allows families the opportunity to stay close to their loved ones.

Since opening on June 15, 2009, the Gorecki Guest House has served more than 9,600 guests from 84 counties in Minnesota, 45 states, and as far away as Canada, England, France, Kenya, and Spain. The Guest House averaged 85 percent occupancy in fiscal year 2014. The house has experienced one out of every two nights at 100 percent occupancy, having to turn away as many as 15 families per night.

For more information, contact Janene Riedeman at 320-251-2700, ext. 54482.

## HESTER PARK 4TH OF JULY

It seems that the last couple of years the 4th of July has been deeply affected by the weather. Global warming? Who's to say? The problem was that it was very difficult to predict the day, weather and park conditions. Weather is a persistent Minnesota problem. Despite this past history, there is no doubt that this 4th of July was a real gem! The crowds showed up in droves. No downed trees, no tropical dew points

and thankfully no rain. The fireworks display had the crowds roaring. The day was flawless as much of this summer has been. The weather forces must be trying to make up for the hard winter we survived!

Our annual fundraiser on the 4th was a great success thanks to the many people who helped contribute to the effort. We were able to clear \$576 dollars that will help us meet the matching grant from the Initiative Foundation. We use our funds to extended hours for the Hester Park Pool, pay out \$25 rewards for Neighborhood Proud recipients and provide financial support for any other projects we initiate. Thanks to Peggy Carlson for the beautiful signage and Ann Ringness for the use of her canopy and Joel from Coborn's Centennial for their support for the fundraiser. Thanks to the volunteers who helped with the booth, John and David Augustin, Joan and Mike Rydberg, JJ Helms and his children, Sonja Berg, Kristi Laliberte, Susie Lies, Malcom and Mariani Nazareth, Kris and Nathan Kroschel, Dan Becker, Marco and Huaying Lanz. If there are others I forgot, I apologize. Any of these activities takes time, planning and organization. If you have ideas about how we can improve our neighborhood or projects we might undertake that will have a positive effect on the Northside-Hester Park neighborhood please contact us or attend our monthly meetings. The more hands, the lighter the work.

### ANNUAL MEETING A GRAND GATHERING!

We held our annual meeting on October 3, at Cathedral High School in the cafeteria. Neighborhood members, hospital representatives, and the steering committee came together over pizza to talk about what we've done this year.

Some of our highlights include: planting new shrubs in Hester Park, organizing our first-ever neighborhood garage sale (we raised over \$600 for the neighborhood), our annual Fourth of July fundraiser in the park, newsletters, our Neighborhood Proud program (which received recognition from the City this year), and the upcoming Ghost Walk.

Neighbors raised concerns about crime in the neighborhood, noise and traffic from the hospital, and rental properties. They liked the Neighborhood Proud program, our park work, and the general changes they are seeing in the neighborhood.

Steering committee members asked for more volunteers to help make our projects better. We're having elections at the November

meeting for officers for our neighborhood, and the steering committee always welcomes new faces!

All in all, the annual meeting was a great success! We had some great conversations, wonderful door prizes, and it was lovely seeing so many of our neighbors. If you couldn't make it, please come next year!



Seal Dwyer, Acting Neighborhood President was also the emcee of the Annual Meeting.



A panoramic picture showing the meeting in full swing.

## KEEP IN TOUCH!

Use the links below to keep in touch with the latest happenings in the Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood!

NHP Website: <http://www.hesterpark.org/>

NHP Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthsideHesterParkNeighborhood>

Local  
Postal Customer

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL



Brandon Paumen and Sonia Berg, candidate for City Council



Janet Reigstad