

NEWSLETTER

February, 2011



Lake George Neighborhood
is a Member of the
SCNC
St. Cloud Neighborhood Coalition
www.scnc.us

The St. Cloud Neighborhood Coalition (SCNC) is a grass-roots consortium of St. Cloud's older, established neighborhoods. These neighborhoods united in October, 2003 with a desire to address issues affecting the quality of life for all residents of these "at risk" neighborhoods. In August, 2008, the SCNC was recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The SCNC is composed of seven neighborhoods:

- Lake George
- McKinley/Railroad Parks
- Northeast Wilson
- Northside Hester Park
- St. John Cantius
- Seberger-Roosevelt
- Southside University

Dates to Remember!

March 10 – Art Prize Deadline
March 14 – "By George Award" nomination deadline
March 22 – Annual Meeting & Dinner
April 16 – "Talk of the Neighborhood"
April 30 – Neighborhood Clean-up
May 1 – Cookbook submission deadline
Wednesdays, June – August
Summer Festival at Lake George

6th Annual Lake George Neighborhood Dinner Meeting March 22

You are invited to our annual neighborhood event! Meet and greet your neighbors, eat, and celebrate our accomplishments.

March 22, 2011 from 5 - 7 p.m.
Good News Assembly of God Church, 712 17th Ave. So.

Who is invited? Residents of the Lake George Neighborhood and Invited Guests (Sorry, but we will be unable to provide childcare)

A catered dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. and will be followed by a program including:

- Music provided by Kathie Younker, pianist, and Tina Lamberts, cellist
- Rick Miller, founder of the Central Minnesota Sustainability Project to speak on "Discovering Community in Local Food"
- A slideshow of neighborhood accomplishments for 2010
- Awards: (the "By George Award" recognizing a good neighbor, plus recognition of winning art work in the LGN art contest).
- Door prizes: Selected from registration and, also, from recipes submitted at the meeting for our LGN cookbook

Please join us for this opportunity to suggest new events and activities for our neighborhood, or to assist with those already in progress. See You There!

RSVP: To help us plan, please phone or email us with the number of people attending. Contact Marge Bates: 251-8653, margebates@gmail.com or, Suzanne Rodell 255-0930, csrodell@gmail.com.

This event is funded in part, by a grant from the Initiative Foundation.



4th Annual Lake George Neighborhood "By George! Award" Nominations Due March 14

If you have a neighbor in mind who has helped out others in the Lake George Neighborhood on a volunteer basis and has benefited more than one person in doing so, please nominate that person for the 2011 award. Kindly write your reasons for the nomination in a paragraph or a few sentences. Send your name and the name of your nominee for this By George! Award to jillwahman@charter.net. Deadline for award nominations is March 14, 2011.



The first ever By George! Award of the Lake George Neighborhood in 2008 went to Steve Kayser of 1218 South 8th Street. For more than 20 years Steve has cleared the snow from the sidewalks of his neighbors with his bobcat. Steve's efforts were advanced to the Rock On Awards of the City of St. Cloud and he accepted his award at the Lemonade Art Fair Concert that was the kickoff to the 2008 Granite City Days.

The 2009 award went to Archie Schelek for being a "four season helping hand for three of his neighbors."

In 2010, Izzy Cantu was honored for his repairs and "fixing of stuff" as well as mowing lawn for nearby neighbors. He also has an eagle eye in spotting potential student issues on 7th Street South, near Tech High School.

You can name a deserving person, group or business who adds to the quality of life in the Lake George Neighborhood for the 2011 award to be presented at the March 22 annual meeting.

Neighborhood Cookbook

The Lake George Neighborhood Association is putting together a neighborhood cook book and we are looking for one or two of your favorite recipes to share. You may want to consider sharing any interesting history or special memory that may be associated with your entry. Please bring your entry to the Annual Meeting or submit your written entries to Betsy Rakotz by email (cicimo@charter.net), mail or drop off at the address below by May 1, 2011. Please include your name and a contact number in case we need to clarify any details. Thank you!
Contact: Betsy Rakotz (253-4430)
904 10th Ave So, St Cloud MN 56301.



Lake George Neighborhood Association Steering Committee Members

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Free (small) Trees

Many varieties, mostly 3 ft or 2 ft in height. 202-1779

If your trees from last year did not survive, phone for better replacements.

This project has already put down roots along 7th, 8th, and 9th Streets, and 12th, 13th, 14th and McKinley Avenues, giving us something to watch grow as we walk around our neighborhood.

Lake George Neighborhood Blog
<http://lakegeorge.wordpress.com>

The mission of the LGN is to foster a healthy, thriving and welcoming neighborhood for all.

Did you know . . .

If you want the St. Cloud Police Department to look into activities or events that are not life-threatening emergencies, but may pose a threat to public safety, you should call the department's non-emergency number: (320) 251-1200.



ADS

The Lake George Newsletter advertisement policy is:
- Each line is \$5 with a maximum of five lines.
- Business cards- \$25
- Money must be received with ad two weeks before print time by Marge Pryately, 1016 8th Street South, St. Cloud, MN 56301.
- Content should be appropriate for neighbors of all ages. (LGN reserves the right to edit ads.)

LGN & Tech HS Partner on Lake George Neighborhood Art Prize

The Lake George Neighborhood Steering Committee, with the cooperation of Jennifer Heydt-Nelson and the Art Department of Tech High School, has established an annual prize for the best work of art produced by a Technical High School student depicting some aspect of Eastman Park/Lake George. The rules for the award are:



- It must be by a Tech student created during the 2010-2011 school year.
- Graphic work can be no larger than 18" by 24".
- It must be submitted to Jennifer Heydt-Nelson, at Tech by March 10 2011.

The prize will be \$100. The winning entry will be displayed in the Lake George Municipal Complex for one year and will become the property of the Association.

The goal of this award is to help further the relationship between Tech and the neighborhood. The award will be announced and presented at the Association's annual dinner meeting on March 22, 2011, at the Good News Church.

Talk of the Neighborhood April 16

The third annual "Talk of the Neighborhood" is scheduled for Saturday, April 16th, 10:00 AM. The location will be the Lake George Community Center (the former bathhouse). Neighbors Bill and Tina Lamberts will talk about their experiences of living in Japan....living in Japan with a 5-year old and a cello. Come join your neighbors for a pleasant hour of information and refreshments. Address any questions about this event to Suzanne or Chuck Rodell, ph 255-0930. We hope to see you on April 16th.

Annual LGN Spring Clean-Up April 30

If your thoughts drift to beautiful cities, outdoor activities, blooming flower gardens, and children free at last to play outside ---- consider joining your neighbors in our annual Spring cleanup to beautify the Lake George Neighborhood so that your Springtime fantasies will become a reality.

When? Saturday, April 30th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Where? Concession stand/maintenance garage building in Eastman Regional Park (Lake George)

What? Garbage bags, disposable gloves are provided by the City of St. Cloud, and map assignments will be distributed to volunteers

Why? Because we take pride in our neighborhood and we, as Minnesotans, seek out every opportunity to be outside in the Spring even if it involves picking up litter! Treats are usually provided by our generous neighbors.



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Summertime by George!

As a neighborhood, we can appreciate our proximity to Eastman Regional Park and Lake George. Thanks to a partnership between the Rotary Club and the City of St. Cloud, the newly renovated park will be the site for a summer festival taking place for 13 consecutive weeks on Wednesday evenings from June 8th to August 31st.

Attractions will include live music, a farmer's market, food and artisan vendors, and a "kid's zone". All proceeds from the event will go toward the Rotary Foundation that funds numerous community projects, and will ensure the maintenance of the renovated Eastman Regional Park into the future.

Representatives from the Rotary Club have been keeping the steering committee of the Lake George neighborhood informed regarding these exciting plans for the summer, and have been receptive to our comments. If you have an idea for a Lake George Neighborhood concession booth as a fundraiser and to represent the Lake George Neighborhood, please contact a steering committee member.

What's New at the James J Hill Monument?

Major improvements were accomplished at the site in 2010 including the planting of a new perennial flower bed on the north side using plants donated through the Minnesota Green program of the Minnesota Horticulture Society. Other additions were the on-site water supply installed by the City of St. Cloud, and the new granite bench top manufactured by Kollmann Monumental Works to replace the wood bench top. The granite bench was funded by the City of St. Cloud and by the Great Northern Railway Historical Society. LGN volunteers maintain the flowers, trees, and shrubs that have been planted around the monument.

The Great Northern Historical Society is holding its annual convention in St. Cloud this summer July 17 – 20. The editor of the GNRHS quarterly magazine requested photos of the monument for the March edition of their publication.

Thank you to Scott Zlotnik, director of the Parks and Recreation Department for a continuing partnership in renovating this historic monument, and to the volunteers of the neighborhood who helped roto till, plant, mulch, water, and weed. Those volunteers include: Mary Harlander-Locke, Nancy Rehm, Chuck Rodell, Carol Stahnke, and Laurie Thrush. If you have an interest in helping to maintain this monument site please contact Suzanne Rodell, or Carol Stahnke.

Here Come the Rain-Gardens!

Watch our three "greenspaces" along University Drive for a pilot project showing best practices for managing stormwater. As part of a nationwide effort to move communities away from allowing rain to just wash oil and salt into rivers as fast as possible, St. Cloud's city water plant is sponsoring and promoting rain gardens around our municipality. The Lake George Neighborhood is getting three to show how these work.

University Drive already is sloped toward the gutters, so engineers will design deep water catchments at the corners of the empty lots and create channels to direct street water into them. To complete the project, Parks will supply rain garden plants to beautify these swales, plantings whose roots are known to break down street pollution.

The City is now creating water catchments when doing street repairs. Check out the inlets for rainwater along the 7th and 8th Avenue renovations on St. Cloud's North side. Homeowners can also keep more moisture on their property by digging gentle swales into sloping land.

You can help along our rain gardens by picking up any trash that blows into the gardens as you pass by during the summer. If interested in sitting in on conversations to plan them, phone 202-1779. In any case, we hope you will enjoy seeing flowers in front of our new granite monument on Washington Memorial and in front of the trees the neighborhood got to fill the vacant lots at 16th Ave.

A Short Review of LGN Activities and Funding

Organization of the Lake George Neighborhood began in 2005 with a startup grant from the Initiative Foundation. The program was called "Healthy Neighborhood Partnership Plan". With this start up money, interested neighbors were trained to lead and organize others with a goal of having our own neighbors identify common goals toward which to work. Some of the first things accomplished were to establish what our geographic boundaries are (Division Street to University - North to South, and 9th Avenue to Cooper - East to West), name the neighborhood Lake George Neighborhood, create a mission, and decide on a logo and motto. All of which you see here in this newsletter.

For the last six years the LGN has been an active group! There have been five annual entire neighborhood meetings, task force groups and a steering committee working toward the original goals established by neighbors. These goals are creating community connectedness, beautification, increasing home ownership, enforcing existing ordinances, improving streetscape and neighborhood identity. We have had special speakers, social gatherings, printing and distribution of three newsletters yearly, art contests and home tours.

Our neighborhood is one of seven in St. Cloud that make up the St. Cloud Neighborhood Coalition (SCNC), now a 501 C-3 non-profit organization. The SCNC is our fiscal agent and in conjunction with the SCNC we apply for other grant dollars to fund the goals we have established as an individual neighborhood and as a coalition. In addition to initial and renewed dollars from the Initiative Foundation, we are working off grants from the Bremer Foundation and Great Northern Railway. We, as neighbors, have also earned money ourselves, with the Hidden Treasures Historic Home Tour, selling t-shirts and mugs and holding a Coborn's Brat Sale. As grant dollars become more difficult to

get, raising our own money may be our only option to fund activities and project for the LGN. Thank to these combined efforts, the LGN currently has a strong financial situation.

Much of the work your neighbors have done with the funding of the first five years are visible changes. The James J. Hill memorial gardening site, the street signage of Lake George Neighborhood, the granite sign on University Drive, tree plantings in three lots on University Drive and the twice annual "cleanup" dates are some of those projects. Of course, Eastman Regional Park at Lake George improvements are the most obvious in the neighborhood. However, because it is a regional park, LGN money was not used to fund improvements. Your tax dollars and the Rotary Club's private fundraising are the financial sources for these stunning improvements.

We hope you have been involved in the annual meetings, read the LGN newsletters, which are delivered to your homes, and participate in group e-mail notifications. Your neighbors have been awarded prizes for Holiday Lights, gardening excellence and the By George! Award. If any of you wishes further information about the activities and funding of the LGN, please contact your steering committee members.

The original work of "visioning" for the future began six years ago and continues today. Please stay involved with your neighbors. It takes interested people with a stake in the future of the LGN to keep the ball rolling. Because of the work of the previous and current steering committees and several key individuals who do one or two tasks for the neighborhood, we have a strong, thriving organization and know that "It's a GREAT neighborhood, By George!" *Thanks to Jill Wahman for this history.*

Behind the Scenes LGN Volunteers

The steering committee would like to recognize some of the volunteers who are helping to make the Lake George Neighborhood, great!

- Judy Dorn - chair of the Lake George neighborhood Association 2009 - 2011, tree planting in the LGN, University Drive - granite marker and landscaping
- Lori Eggers - newsletter distribution chair
- John Hamerlinck - newsletter editor and design layout
- Larry Keenan - architect who donates the use of a room in his Architecture Office Building for steering committee meetings
- Jack Wahman- treasurer of the LGNA
- Joyce Wittenhaugen - chair of the Hidden Treasures Historic Home Tour
- Kathie Younker - designer and publisher of the home tour booklet and flyer
- Dan Younker - initiator of the LGN/Tech H.S. art award
- Lisa Zahn - organizer of the LGN annual garage sale

Thanks to all the neighbors who have served on committees, hosted home and block parties, and movies, delivered newsletters, worked for fundraising events, and have participated in beautification projects throughout our neighborhood. If you would like to volunteer, please contact a committee member listed on page two.



Photograph of Lake George by Ted Sherarts

This newsletter is made possible in part by a grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation.

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