

# BRIDGES

Newsletter of the Northside-Park Neighborhood

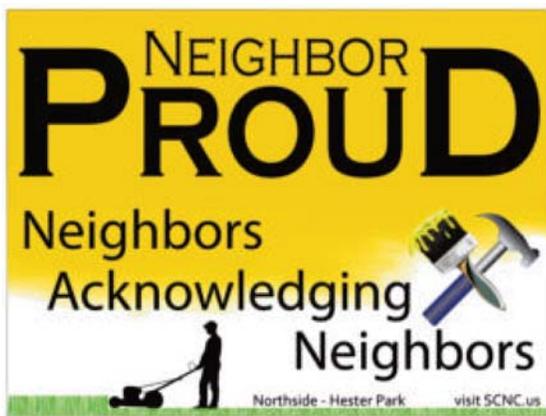
May 2014, Sixteenth Edition

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## NEIGHBORHOOD PROUD

Once again this summer, Northside Hester Park Neighborhood group plans to recognize those neighbors who take special pride in their homes and yards. Starting in June, we will be looking for nominees. If you know of a neighbor who deserves recognition please feel free to contact one of the members so we can include them in the group. We will place a NEIGHBORHOOD PROUD sign in their yard and also reward them with a \$25 check.



## NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

On Saturday, May 17th, the Neighborhood Steering Committee will be hosting a fundraiser garage sale. The sale will be at 729 6th Ave N, from 8 am until everything is sold. We're gathering donations (tax-deductible) from committee members and neighbors. If you have something to donate, please contact Susie Lies at 251-5194. Otherwise, please come and support the neighborhood by finding some treasures at great prices. All funds raised benefit the neighborhood directly.

## LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

The Hester Park Neighborhood has long been special, but now we can add to its attributes our very own library!

Geoffrey Tabakin and Marilyn Nelson had been enthralled by the Little Free Libraries they'd run across on recent trips around Minnesota and Wisconsin. When Geoffrey saw one in his office building at St. Cloud State University he had to investigate. He found that building

a number of Little Free Libraries had been a project in Adam Klepetar's College 150 class, part of the community involvement and sustainability class goal. Geoffrey was able to adopt this last Little Library and has installed it next to his rock garden in front of their home at 611 7th Avenue North.

Little Free Library, Ltd. is a program of the non-profit organization Wisconsin Partners for SustainAbility. It

began in 2009. You can read more 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 and Marilyn are in the process of officially registering the new library and soon it will be included on the map.

Geoffrey and Marilyn hope you'll walk up or pull up often and explore YOUR new little neighborhood library. Help yourself to any book that catches your eye and if you have a book to share, please do!



## ADOPT A GARDEN

In case you didn't realize it, the Northside Hester Park Neighborhood group has been maintaining the flower gardens in Hester park for the past 5 years. It is a big job and unfortunately as often happens the brunt of the work has fallen on just a few generous people. We have been trying to think of ways to engage more neighbors in our activities and share some of the work. We are planning to pilot a new program starting this spring. The park gardens are divided into five different sections. They are all of reasonable but not overwhelming size. We are looking for a few families or groups who would like to adopt the spaces. We know from the beautiful yards that grace our neighborhood that we have many talented gardeners. We would like to invite anyone interested to take over a section and design the garden of your dreams. The Northside Hester Park neighborhood group will cover the cost of plantings. The city has brought water to the garden area to help in keeping them thriving. Please consider this opportunity to bring a little more beauty to the neighborhood. Contact Joan Rydberg at (320)253-8403 anytime. She has voicemail.

## HOLIDAY CONTEST WINNERS

Despite the formidable cold and snow of this past winter, the Northside Hester Park Neighborhood did a beautiful job of bringing the Christmas spirit outside with lights and decorations. The hospital stands out the most of course due to the size and scope of their efforts, but we also want to recognize the homes that also add so much character with their efforts. The following Neighbors were honored with recognition that included a 25\$ check.

Don and Gail Tatreau 924 7th Ave N

Vance Ressler 1015 6th Ave N

Gloria Lucas #8 8th Ave Brownstone Apartments

Nathan Hoffman 1553 6th Ave N

Larry and Roseanne Hollenboch 1020 9th Ave N

Ryan and Tania Heath 1301 13th St N

## HRA HOME LOAN PROGRAMS

Do you or someone you know want to get some home improvements done, but don't quite have the cash to get them done? Well, the St. Cloud HRA might actually have an option for called the CDBG Rehab Loan. The details of the loan are as follows:

- Owner-occupied home rehab for health, safety, and/or weatherization related issues in designated CDBG target area
- \$20,000 maximum loan amount
- 0% interest; repayable at time of sale, refinance, ceasing to be owner's primary residence or after 30 years
- Must be 80% AMI or below and less than \$25,000 in assets
- Approximately 2 year waiting list (although it can be much shorter)

Another useful loan program for someone looking to buy an old rental property and reconvert it to single-family housing is the Core Neighborhood Rental Property Conversion program. The details of that loan are as follows:

- \$25,000 maximum loan amount
- 0% interest; repayable at time of sale, refinance, ceasing to be owner's primary residence or after 30 years
- No income or asset limits
- No waiting list



There are a number of other HRA programs that may be of benefit to the neighborhood. Go to <http://www.stcloudhra.com> for further details.

## 2013 NSHP NEIGHBORHOOD ZONING SURVEY REPORT

Thank you for participating in the 2013 zoning survey.

As a result, the city planning commission will discuss our neighborhood's zoning on Tuesday, May 13, 2014. The 6:00 PM meeting is in the council chambers of city hall, 400 2nd Street South.

No formal application for rezoning has been submitted.

A summary of survey responses and other zoning details are on the neighborhood website., [www.HesterPark.org/zoning](http://www.HesterPark.org/zoning)



## NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

As you may have noticed by recent news reports, we are experiencing a spike in crime. This is a typical occurrence every spring. We have a safe neighborhood and want to keep it that way. Please, always be aware of your surroundings, especially at night. Don't be afraid to report any suspicious behavior to the police. If you are interested in starting a Neighborhood Crime Watch, talk to the St Cloud Police Community Services Officer, John Justin. You can reach him at (320)345-4444 or [john.justin@ci.stcloud.mn.us](mailto:john.justin@ci.stcloud.mn.us) He will help you get one started and train your group. Let's all work to keep our neighborhood and all residents safe.



## KEEP IN TOUCH!

Use the links and QR codes 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>

