

## WALKIN' WITH RICH

By Rich Kelly



I can remember like yesterday the warm spring morning I ran into Mary Mathews at the greenhouse and we came to the conclusion that ".....nothing will ever happen without a plan." After years of work, we now have the opportunity for our plans to become city comp plan priorities. A green space connecting the river/SCSU to Lake George is close to my heart. Before moving to my current home I lived on the last remaining bit of the ravine at Highbanks and 3rd Ave. I remember daydreaming of a time when the ravine was reopened as a connection between the river and Lake George. Total excavation may still be a dream, but a green space for trail connection, runoff cleansing rain gardens, linear park space and greening of the neighborhood is a definite possibility. I know that biking/walking trails are important to many of our neighbors and needed for a city wide trail system. It is not the time to create a detailed greenbelt plan, that can and should

be completed through professionals. Now is the exact time for us to make this a city priority and to offer our ideas on what we would like to see done. At the last comp plan meeting the planning professionals said that visible and sustained improvements are the way to change perceptions and show revitalization of a distressed neighborhood like ours. As per our last Initiative Foundation Healthy Neighborhoods planning session our basic goal is to create a lively, urban neighborhood where people want to make their home. We have a reinvigorated downtown, SCSU, Lake George, 5th Ave Live, the river, dedicated neighbors, and a strong beautiful and historic housing stock and streetscape. We should be the premiere neighborhood in central Minnesota! It is a documented trend that people are moving back to American cities to be within walking distance of the amenities that make for a good life. The South Side Greenbelt, along with the rest of our SSPP, is a way to make that trend a reality on the South Side U.

– REK

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## THE SOUTH SIDE UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOR

Newsletter of the South Side University Neighborhood Association  
(formerly SCH&NPA)

# November 2014

“Beautify your city as you would have your home” – Charles Barden

### South Side University Neighborhood Assn.

A founding member of the St. Cloud  
Neighborhood Coalition (SCNC)

<http://www.scnc.us/>

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

- “Ring the Bells” progressive Christmas Party  
December 5th, 2014
- “Patrons” Events
  - SSUNA/SCSU 1st Annual Juried Alumni Art Show, April 2015
  - SCSU Spring Play Cast Party (TBD)
- Annual Meeting and Soup Buffet  
April 2015
- National Night Out Potluck – first  
Tuesday of August 2015 in Barden Park

## Every 10 years... or so

The City of St. Cloud tackles the enormous task of creating a comprehensive plan to set priorities and guide investment for the next decade.

This process began last month and is expected to last ONE year. The last comprehensive plan focused on the outer edges of the city while this year’s round is putting a spotlight on the core of Saint Cloud. That core includes our own South Side University Neighborhood (SSUNA) and our partner St Cloud Neighborhood Coalition (SCNC) neighborhoods. We know that nothing happens overnight or without planning. Knowing this, we have created the South Side Partnership Plan (SSPP.)

The SSPP lists our Top 4 Priorities:

- 1) Increasing permanent residents
- 2) Repurposing grand old homes
- 3) Redeveloping the NW corner
- 4) Creating a Greenbelt to connect the River and SCSU with Lake George

We would like to have all of our four priorities included in the city comp. plan, but two of them, the N.W. corner and the greenbelt, are particularly suited for inclusion. It has

### SSPP Priority #4 – GREENBELT CONNECTING NEIGHBORHOOD



“Before & After of Greenbelt for Bikin’/Walkin’, Water Runoff and Recreation”, Seattle, WA”

already been decided by the city that our N.W. corner will be one of four case studies for possible redevelopment as part of the comprehensive plan process. We will include that plan in future newsletters when it is finished. The city has invited the SCNC chair, vice chair, and executive director to sit on the comp. plan committee. That means that three South Siders (Juliana Elchert, Rich Kelly, as well as SCSU VP Tammy McGee) are on the committee. SCSU is also in the process of their long term planning. We have shared our SSPP with them and hope that all of our SSPP priorities are included in their future plans, as well.

We also have the opportunity, as a neighborhood or individually, to give input and opinions. The Planning Office has created a packet and process for small group meetings of neighbors to get together and discuss opinions on positives and negatives and priorities. If you would like to set up a small group discussion to give input, please let our chair know.

## SCSU SCHOOL OF THE ARTS EVENTS CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

November 14, 2014

#### CYNTHIA WADE – FILM

7 P.M. / MILLER CENTER AUDITORIUM

Guest filmmaker, Cynthia Wade, presents and discusses her Academy Award winning documentary “Freeheld”. This event in partnership with the Learning Resources Services.

November 18-23, 2014

#### HAMLET – THEATRE

7:30 P.M. / CENTER STAGE, PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

An adaption of William Shakespeare’s tragic masterpiece. Event is St. Cloud State alumni produced & directed.

November 16, 2014

#### MUSIC AT ST. MARY’S – MUSIC

CONCERT 2 P.M. / ST. MARY’S, 25 8TH AVE S, ST CLOUD

St. Cloud State’s annual choral concert tradition continues with performances from Men’s Choir, Women’s Choir, Chamber Singers, and Concert Choir. A signature St. Cloud State event, join us for an afternoon of enchanting voices.

### JANUARY

January 26, 2015

#### TREVOR PAGLEN – ART

7 P.M. / ATWOOD THEATRE

This event features guest artist, Trevor Paglen’s work which deliberately blurs the lines between science, contemporary art, journalism, and other disciplines to construct unfamiliar, yet meticulously researched ways to see and interpret the world around us.

### MARCH

March

#### TRISTAN PERICH’S – MUSIC

MACHINE DRAWING INTEGRATED SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING LABORATORY FACILITY LOBBY

A contemporary composer and sound artist, Tristan Perich’s work is inspired by the aesthetic simplicity of math, physics, and code. His award winning work couples 1-bit electronics with traditional forms in both music and visual art. Perich’s work will be on display through the semester’s end.



## SCNC NOVEMBER AGENDA

The St. Cloud Neighborhood Coalition, an umbrella organization for seven core neighborhoods, has been following the discussion of the Technical High School building and building location with great interest. Several of our member neighborhoods about Technical High School. On October 16, 2014, the SCNC Board adopted a motion stating that, “SCNC supports keeping Technical High School in its current location within the existing building for the following reasons:

- Technical High School has been located at its current site since 1917. Thousands of people have attended and graduated from Technical High School and are loyal to Technical High School in this location and in its existing building. It has been and should continue to be located in the City.
- The existing building and its use anchors the surrounding neighborhoods and the core city.
- It is important that schools have a presence in the core city. We need to build schools where people live. Schools infuse abutting neighborhoods with people young and old, with energy, with physical and intellectual activity, and with vitality.
- The City needs a strong, healthy core in order to maintain its own health.

• There are numerous examples of historic buildings that have been upgraded technologically and in other ways to accommodate current and future needs. Restoration and renovation are options.

• **Walkability:** Tech High School is centrally located and easy to walk to, bicycle to, and it is near Metro Bus routes. Walkability is one of the new values for people who choose to live in the center city. One reason that people move to the core city is to be near to schools located there.

• New trends and patterns show that millenials are choosing to move into core neighborhoods. They want amenities, including schools, nearby.”

\*\* Edited for length

SCNC requests that the District #742 School Board and Administration diligently search for ways to preserve and maintain Technical High School in its current location. We can work together to accomplish this goal. Thank you for your consideration.



The St. Cloud Comprehensive Plan will create a blueprint for our future that will guide the City in its decision making for the next 20 years.

use and development, key subareas of the City, transportation and mobility, open space and environmental features, community facilities and infrastructure, and implementation.

#### Who is involved in creating the Comprehensive Plan?

As the blueprint for the City, it is critical that all of St. Cloud’s stakeholders are involved in the development of the Comprehensive Plan. The City is committed to involving residents, businesses, and workers in the process in order to craft a common community vision for St. Cloud’s future. Ultimately, the Comprehensive Plan will be approved by the City of St. Cloud Planning Commission and City Council.

#### We already have other plans. What will happen to those?

Existing plans are an important part of the Comprehensive Plan process. These Plans will inform the Comprehensive Plan and, in some cases, will be incorporated into the plan if the goals and vision are still consistent with the community’s aspirations.

#### When will the Plan start and when will it be completed?

The initial phases of the Plan began in October 2014 with anticipated completion in Late 2015.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Congratulations to Dave Masters for being re-elected as our St. Cloud Ward 1 city council representative. Thanks, Dave, for your time, support, and dedication. We also thank Abdul Kolane for his time and effort to run for the seat. Abdul is a friend the St. Cloud Neighborhood Coalition and an asset in the South Side U and entire St. Cloud community.

## CITIZEN TASK FORCE UPDATE



The citizen task force looking at efficiencies in the St. Cloud Police Department gave a report to City Council at their October 27 study session, with many commendations as well as recommendations. That same evening, Sgt. Jim Steve and SCSU’s new Assistant VP for Safety and Risk Management, Jesse Cashman, reported on the CAPS program (Campus Area Police Service), which has completed the first of a 3 year contract

between the university and the SCPD to provide 3 additional officers, funded by the university and dedicated exclusively to crime in and around the campus. The unique partnership is proving very successful, and has drawn interest from other college communities. A 9 page summary of the task force report and the full 104 page report, including the CAPS update, are posted on the city’s website. Go to the city council agenda for October 27 and you will find the reports attached to item #3.

Again this year, members of the Office of Student Life and Development from SCSU collaborated with the CCIT and CAPS teams from the St. Cloud Police Department to facilitate the annual Neighborhood Safety and Prevention Walk in the south side. Reaching over 2380 individuals prior to move-in, the walks welcome renters to the new academic year and educate them about city ordinances, alcohol violations, and social host restrictions. This collaborative effort had a dramatic effect on safety, along with strong police department enforcement during the SCSU “Move-In” weekend.

The UChoose program continues to work with the city to operate their successful alcohol and other drug education programs for individuals who are referred following alcohol related citations in the community. To learn more about the IMPACT and Diversion programs offered at SCSU you can visit: <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/uchoose/default.asp>.

### ATTENTION NEIGHBORS

WANTED: A furnished room to rent.

Please consider the following.

This is our 3rd such request this year from SCSU faculty/staff. A real time market study.

“Does anyone have a furnished room to rent for the upcoming spring semester? I live in Minneapolis and would need to stay only 2-3 nights a week (Tuesday-Thursday). I would prefer the place to be close to campus, but I will consider places within a short driving distance. Thank you!”

Ilya Simakov

SCSU, Film/Theater Assistant Professor

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