



Northside United

Issue #7: Fall 2016

Northside United Petitions Against the Maguire Development Proposal

At both the September and October meetings of Northside United there was intense discussion about the current proposal to put a car dealership on Route 13 near Third Street and to open up 5th Street to Route 13 traffic. Everyone was urged to attend and speak out at meetings of both the Planning and Economic Development Committee and the Common Council.

We decided to write a petition which could be circulated throughout the Northside community to present to the Committee and Common Council at their respective meetings.

More than 40 people from the neighborhood attended the September 14 meeting of the Planning and Economic Development Committee hearing. All of the members of the Committee spoke against the proposals but tabled the vote until the October 12 meeting. By the time of the October 12 meeting, the petition outlined below had been circulated and 170 signatures

were submitted to the Committee. In the presence of a packed crowd of Northside residents and Maguire employees, the Planning Committee discussed the project for an hour and finally voted 4-0 to pass a resolution stating that the Maguire project did not conform to the city's comprehensive plan. That resolution now goes to Common Council for consideration.

The wording of the petition was as follows: "We, people who live, work and worship in the Northside neighborhood of Ithaca are opposed to the proposed Maguire Planned Unit Development for Carpenter Business Park. An eight acre parking lot for a car dealership will not improve the health and welfare of the neighborhood and is not in keeping with the vision in the 2015 City Comprehensive Plan. Creating a new intersection at 5th Street will greatly increase traffic pollution and noise as well as increase safety hazards, especially for our children, in the resi-

dential area in which we live. We urge Common Council not to approve this plan."

In addition to the 170 signatures on this petition, more than 200 letters have been received opposing the plan.

Update: At the November 2 meeting, Common Council voted 8-2 that the Maguire proposal does not meet the guidelines of the city Comprehensive Plan. This means that the plan we were organizing against cannot be built.

Maguire is going to submit a new plan sometime in the future. They said that it will be significantly different than this defeated one. Under city regulations, this will be treated as an entirely different proposal; the entire process of application, including notices of public meetings, etc. must begin again. We will keep you updated on when the public meeting will be held.

In the meantime, come to our December 5 Northside meeting to discuss what you would like to see in Ithaca's revitalized Waterfront District.



2016 Northside Celebration

On August 13, we celebrated the diversity of our neighborhood with great food, lively music and lots of activities for the children. The rain didn't bother anybody.

The Burmese and Tibetan communities made delicious dishes from their respective cultures. There were great salads, BBQ wings, fabulous homemade pizza by the Twelve Tribes and desserts to die for! And last but not least ice cream cones from Purity.

The children raced around having fun with games—and water balloons. All of this was accompanied by music which was enjoyed by all—including the samba lessons which were attempted only by the brave.

We look forward to next year. Everyone is invited to come with ideas. We will start planning in May.

Left: Rain didn't stop the kids from filling water balloons! More photos from the Celebration on page 2.

Announcements

Upcoming Housing Summit: All are Welcome

Martha Robertson, County Legislator, came to the October meeting of Northside United to let us know about the Housing Summit which will be held Wednesday, November 30 and Thursday, December 1 in the Greenstar Space, 700 West Buffalo Street, Ithaca.

The summit will examine the growing housing shortage in Tompkins County and understand how it affects us. Many of us are aware that it is hard to find good housing in Tompkins County. The vacancy rate is very low; rents and housing prices are high. The County would like to hear your stories about how this has made a difference in your lives. It is important that housing be affordable for people of all income levels. The Summit is designed to discuss what we can do about it.

The Summit is free. Meals and refreshments as well as child care will be provided. Since space is limited, you must register before you go. Go online to Tompkins County Housing Summit to sign up as soon as possible:

www.housingtompkins.com

Waterfront Planning Committee

The City of Ithaca Department of Planning has put together a Waterfront Planning Committee that has 18

months to develop a plan of use for the waterfront which includes the area across Route 13 from Northside. This Planning Committee is coming to our December 5th meeting to get our input. Let Northside United know if you have ideas about the waterfront.

Northside United Meetings

Our meetings are the first Monday of every month at the Friends Meeting House, on the corner of Third and Madison Streets at 5:30 p.m. A free meal and child care are provided. We welcome anyone who lives, works or worships in the Northside.

Our upcoming meetings: November 7, December 5 and January 2, 2017.

Northside Saturdays

Northside Saturdays is a series of free programs at Northside Community Center, 625 Hancock Street sponsored by the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program. The programs take place on Saturdays from 2-4 p.m. It is free and open to the Northside Community.

There are two more programs left in this series:

- 11/19: Performance: ABSOLUTE ZERO DANCE CREW
- 12/3: Workshop: CORNELL GYMNASTICS

Compost Education Program

Cooperative Extension is starting a new program called the Compost Learning Collaborative. Thirty households are invited to join this program to compost food scraps and produce finished compost for member and/or the Community Gardens. The costs of joining include attending an initial 45 minute training session, participating in a 2-hour work party every 3 months and committing to the guidelines for using the site. For information or to register:

Adam Michaelides, acm1@cornell.edu or 607-272-2292 Ext. 124

Finger Lakes Climate Fund

Money is available through Sustainable Tompkins for home weatherization. Modest income homeowners and landlords can apply for up to \$5000 in matching funds to weatherize their homes. It can result in \$10,000 worth of work on your home for \$2500. If you are interested, contact gay@sustainabletompkins.org.

24th Annual Tibetan Cultural Day

Saturday, 11/19, 10-3pm. St. Paul's Methodist Church, 402 N. Aurora St, Ithaca. Lunch, folk dances & songs, religious activities, gift sale and more. Tickets: Tsokyi (607)280-4827



Northside United 2016 Celebration



clockwise from left: Rain showers!; thank you Purity ice cream; Community Unity Music & Education Program performed; Youth Organizing Fellowship's table.