



Northside United

Issue #11: February 2018

Neighborhood News

Teens Receive City Proclamation

At NU's November meeting we honored the four teenagers who petitioned the City for a playground and made the design for it. Seth Murdagh, 2nd Ward Alderman, read a Proclamation from the City that declared November 6 Northside Youth Empowerment Day. The teens gathered over 80 signatures asking the city for a play area for older children. The City decided to allot a site at the 210 Hancock Street complex. Northside United also presented an award to INHS, Beth Myers and Randy Keeler who all helped make this dream a playground reality.

The Proclamation was received by Serenity Dixon and Oni Gbangbe, two of the teens who gathered the petition and worked on the design. Once the initial design was done, the teens held focus groups at GIAC and BJM to get more ideas. They visited the Ithaca Children's Garden and other parks for ideas. Serenity made a slide presentation of the process. She said in the final design some things had to be left out but they were really satisfied with the way it looked. The playground is not completely finished. It will be in the Spring. Check it out on the northwest corner of the 210 Hancock Street site. The best part of this development is that it was completely done by the young people.

Friendship Donation Speaker

Sandra Wayman from the Friendship Donation Network spoke at our November meeting. FDN is an all volunteer organization. It collects food that is edible but would be thrown away. Most food comes from grocery stores, the farmer's market, college cafeterias and people's gardens. Sandra got involved when she had excess food

from her own garden. She was so impressed by the system of delivering food to those who need it that she decided to volunteer, too.

FDN moves about 1500 lbs of food daily to food pantries around the county. You can get a map of food pantries on friendshipdonations.org. FDN is always in need of volunteers.

INHS Renovation Project

INHS is renovating their housing in our neighborhood, both Cascadilla Green and individual homes and apartments. Construction began January. Cascadilla Green will be done in May.

The construction will include new siding, new porches, roofs and driveways. The inside of the homes will be completely revamped with new floors, bathrooms and kitchens. For those homes which do not need as much renovation, the tenants can stay in their homes but will need to be out during the day. "Day Lodges" will be set up with WiFi, cable, and snacks for those who must leave their apartments. Residents who need to leave their apartments overnight will be housed in the Hotel Ithaca and given food vouchers. If apartments need to be gutted or there is lead or asbestos removal, the resident will be given another INHS apartment at their current rent to stay in during the renovations. If you have questions call INHS. Call INHS at 277-4500.

Free Science Workshop

Attention Kids ages 3-15: The Free Science Workshop is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 3-6 pm at their space in 210 Hancock Street. The Workshop offers biology, geology, and physics fun and a spot where children can take things apart to see how they work. There are also snakes, mice, birds and tarantulas!

Free Science Family Night is the 4th Wednesday, currently bi-monthly. The next Family Night will be Wednesday February 28th 5:00-7:00pm. New fam-

ilies and volunteers welcome.

Free Science Workshop will be open for drop-in on SATURDAYS 10am - noon starting February 3rd.

Info: freescienceworkshop@gmail.com

Block Stewards Needed!

Would you be a Block Steward for your block? You will be the point person for your block with information in case of an emergency and bring neighbor's concerns to Northside. If you are interested, contact Teresa Grady, 607-277-8367. Please leave her a message.

Upcoming Northside United Meetings

Our next meetings will alternate between the Quaker Meetinghouse and the 210 Hancock Street Community Room. Meetings are always at 5:30, dinner and childcare provided. Bring a dish to share if you can.

Monday April 2: Quaker Meetinghouse, 120 3rd St.

Monday May 7: 210 Hancock Street Community Room. Use the Rental Office entrance on First Street.

Monday June 4: Quaker Meetinghouse

Monday July 2: 210 Hancock Street.

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Join the Northside listserv

Email lindaholzbaaur@gmail.com

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Although everyone is welcome at our meetings, you can become a member for \$5. What do we do with the money? We pay a meeting childcare worker, buy food for the meetings, print newsletters, and have special events. So if you can, please think about joining Northside United.

Welcome, New Neighbors! Party

In January 2017, I felt moved to do something that would welcome our new 210 Hancock St. neighbors, and start a relationship of warmth, trust and familiarity. I approached Northside United and INHS with a proposal for a potluck, and the idea was met with enthusiasm.

Northside United members rallied around the idea and set the date for January 8th, 2018, at 210 Hancock's Community Room of 210 Hancock. We sent invitations in a red bag of holiday treats made and assembled by NU members in the week just before Christmas. New residents at 210 Hancock apartments and townhomes received an array of delicious baked goods, fresh fruit, candies, and a coupon for Papa John's. On the day they were delivered, an apartment resident cheerfully escorted us through the building and helped with hanging bags on residence door-handles.

One week after New Years, we all gathered at 210 Hancock. Northsiders were in good attendance, and wow, did they come bearing food! The table held more than enough food for all guests: fruit, sandwiches, pizza, chick- en, crackers, cheese, des- erts, and a delicious charcuterie platter donated by the Piggery. Around the room, people were in pairs and groups, munching and chatting, introducing themselves, sharing smiles and stories. Phoebe Brown offered words of welcome on behalf of Northside United. As I listened to my new neighbors, I was struck by the diversity of their life experiences, as well as by stories about their previous apartments (too remote, too loud, too expensive). They were all appreciative of affordable living in a convenient downtown location.

I'm not alone with the feeling I carried home with me that

night. It is a new "Neighborhood Pride", a feeling that lives inside, and honors all of the visioning, planning, compromise and hard work that turned an empty building into homes for 64 families. It's the feeling of belonging in this diverse, welcoming and inclusive neighborhood that we call Northside. It's the feeling that permeated one warmly-lit room on Hancock Street on a cold January night, that all of us were indeed united in our mutual feelings of camaraderie, respect, and good will.

Hearty thanks to everyone who helped bring this evening together: Rene Funke, INHS; Organizers, Karen Friedborn & Sadie Hays; Cookie Fairies: Farr Carey and son, James, Micheline Contiguglia, Linda Holzbaur, Marion DaGrossa, Carolyn Kenyon, Pat Shea, Barbara Barry, Phoebe Brown; Welcome Delivery Squad: Carl Feuer, Rob, Sadie Hays & son, Max; Clean-up Team: Phoebe Brown, Irene Dixon and Linda Holzbaur.

This article was written by Sadie Hayes.

