



# Northside United

Issue #1: May/June



**Neighbors are teaming up to improve the appearance of the Northside neighborhood. This energetic group has plans for a new compacting garbage can for Conway Park and an anti-litter campaign and a neighborhood trash pick-up. Other items of interest are advocating for a footbridge at Monroe Street**

## News from the Hood

For the past few months residents from Northside Triangle have been gathering for dinner and discussion at the Friends Meeting House at the corner of Third and Madison Street. The food has been delicious and the discussions lively. Everyone agrees that Northside is a great place to live. We would like to make it even better. We have identified some areas of concern and improvement. This month we divided into interest groups that include Affordable Housing, Child Care, Neighborhood Beautification and Playgrounds. In addition we are planning the Second Annual Northside Community Celebration for August 8th with music, dancing, children's activities and free food! Our next meeting of Northside United is June 1st from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Friends Meeting House. Dinner is free and childcare is provided. So come and meet your neighbors and join in this new venture. We'll see you JUNE 1st!

### Save the Date!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Northside Community Celebration August 8<sup>th</sup>, 3-6 pm  
Madison and Third**

### Affordable Housing—a Thorny Issue!

Residents met with city officials Lynn Truame, Seph Murtagh and J. R. Clairborne in April to discuss what could be done about the price of housing rentals. Unfortunately, Ithaca has a very tight housing market (less than 0.5 vacancy rate) and this has pushed many low-income families out to rural areas where they do not have access to busing or services. Families who would like to stay in Northside are having a difficult time managing the increased rents that are frequently over \$1000. If you are concerned about affordable housing, join Northside United in

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***Northside United is a new grassroots organization dedicated to strengthening connections between people who live, work and worship in the Northside***

**Want to hear about neighborhood news? Sign up for the Northside United mailing list by emailing [northsideunited14850@gmail.com](mailto:northsideunited14850@gmail.com)**

# Getting to Know Our Neighbor

Serenity Dixon is a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at Boynton Middle School. In her spare time she enjoys being creative with art, jewelry and fashion. At a Northside United meeting Serenity raised the need for more playgrounds in the neighborhood. Jumping into action, she wrote a petition that was signed by many of her peers, which asked for new playgrounds in the Northside neighborhood, especially for older children. The young people want to be involved in the planning of these areas, and Serenity has taken leadership for this project. The petition was presented to JoAnn Cornish of the City Planning Department at our March meeting. Serenity has also contacted Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services and the City of Ithaca Park Commission advocating for a playground for older children. Stay tuned for more from this remarkable young leader.



**Free weekly bike repair gatherings held every Sunday. 1 - 3 pm at the Friends Meetinghouse. on Third and Madison**

## JOB TRAINING

GIAC is accepting applications for the **Hospitality Employment Training Program (HETP)**. This path to a fulfilling career with a hotel, restaurant or spa includes free training and a paid internship in the area of front office, food and beverage, clerical, maintenance, housekeeping, and/or management.

Priority given to City of Ithaca 18 to 35 years old who are currently under/unemployed. No previous experience is necessary. Applications are due August 21st, 2015 and are available at GIAC. For applications and more information contact Nagiane Lacka Arriaza, at [607-272-3622](tel:607-272-3622) or [NLacka@cityofithaca.org](mailto:NLacka@cityofithaca.org).

## Have you heard of the Robin Fund?

This emergency fund can help with a financial crisis such as a large utility bill, a car repair, or a partial rent payment. Contact the Greater Ithaca Activities Center (GIAC) to apply to the Robin Fund. Call 272-3622.



**Thursday Farmers Market** is moving to 210 Hancock Street! June thru October 4-7 pm. Featuring fresh produce and food vendors along with music, childrens' activities, and yoga!

**Announcing Northside United logo contest!** Inviting creative Northside Triangle residents of all ages to enter. Deadline August 1<sup>st</sup>. Call (607) 280-8496 for info.