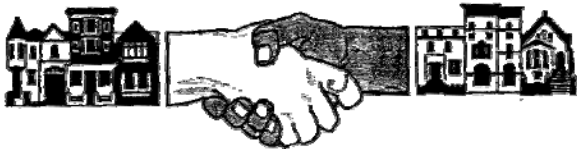


Nelson News



Downtown and Proud
 A NNIA quarterly publication informing and encouraging
 the residents of Nelson Neighborhood, Muskegon, MI

P.O. Box 1224 Muskegon, MI 49443

Spring 2009

<http://nelson.rinsema-sybenga.com>

Contacting NNIA

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 Marcia Hovey-Wright (726-4929)
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 Dan Rinsema-Sybenga (286-8608)
Finance Committee
 Bill Wright
Block Clubs
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NNIA Mission

Nelson Neighborhood Improvement Association, as a community-based organization, is an agent of change empowering the community to maintain and improve the quality of life, plan for the future, and encourage good relationships among residents, agencies, churches and businesses of our neighborhood and other neighborhoods.

Nelson Boundaries

The Nelson boundaries are Muskegon Lake, Terrace St, Peck St, Laketon Avenue, and Seaway Drive.

Community Gardens Underway

Thoughts have turned to summer, and as the first vegetables have hit the Muskegon Farmer's Market, neighborhood gardeners are looking ahead to an exciting summer. Last year the neighborhood's only community garden got it's start at the corner of Monroe and 8th Street, on land Love Fellowship Baptist allowed neighbors to use. This year a second garden is sprouting, also on land owned by a church, this time Central United Methodist (CUM), near the corner of Third and Muskegon. This garden is a partnership with the NNIA. The CUM garden is being funded through the Healthy Communities Grant, making it cost free for the gardeners this year! The garden will have about 17 plots, 9 of them

are raised beds made of cedar wood for disabled gardeners. There are also plans for flowers, fruit bushes, picnic tables and decorative fencing. You must live in Nelson Neighborhood and be willing to commit yourself to maintaining your plot for the entire season. Norman and Rebecca Flowers have agreed to be our first year Garden Coordinators and will work with gardeners to develop and maintain the garden. If you are interested in participating, please call Deb at 288-9760 or Rebecca at 736-7225 to sign up. A waiting list will be established if necessary, and additional site needs evaluated.

Sat. May 16th Planting Day! Kick Off Lunch at 12:00PM provided by Central United Methodist Church.



HAS GARDENING BECOME YOUR PASSION??

Would you like to learn more about growing your own healthy nutritious vegetables? Attend one or both of these workshops:

Tues May 12- 5:30 – 9:30
 Vegetables Gardening

Tues, June 2- 6:00 – 8:00
 Composting for Homeowners

There is a cost of \$15 for each class; Nelson Residents may apply for a scholarship if involved in the Healthy Communities Grant. Contact Muskegon County MSU Extension office 724-6686 for more information.

Membership information

NNIA is supported through dues paid by its members. If you are not a member, we would welcome your participation. Being a member ensures that you will be notified by email of all meetings, NNIA events, and other special notices and also allows you to vote for board members at the annual meeting. The NNIA membership year is from January through December, so memberships are renewed in Jan.

Yes! I want to join the NNIA!

Name _____ Address _____

Telephone _____ Cell _____ Other _____

Email _____

Annual Dues:

____ Resident(s) (\$ 5.00 each) ____ Supporting Individual (\$ 10.00) ____ Supporting Org/Business (\$20.00) Free will Donation \$ ____

Make Checks Payable to Nelson Neighborhood Improvement Association or NNIA .

Detach this panel and mail, with payment, to Membership Chair:

Dollie Hippchen, 325 Houston Ave, Muskegon, MI 49441

Collaborative moves to community organizing

Many groups are hard at work in Nelson neighborhood, all united by the goal of community improvement. This spring when an opportunity presented itself to bring an Americorps volunteer to focus these efforts these groups saw an opportunity to unite and work together. The result is a collaborative of business, church, nonprofit, and residents that are meeting regularly and who have accomplished the goal that brought them together in the first place, the hiring of an Americorps volunteer. On June 1 Dollie Hippchen, a longtime Nelson resident and organizer will begin to implement the collaborative's vision for a better organized neighborhood. The collaborative's vision comes from the principles of Asset Based Community Development and so Dollie will be spending her time first identifying the assets in Nelson and then organizing initiatives around those assets. This is an exciting time for Nelson and we welcome you to participate. For more information contact Marcia Hovey-Wright at 726-4929.

Nelson Neighbors Uniting

Dumpster Day Scheduled

Spring is coming, and with spring comes spring cleaning. Get rid of all the junk you have collected on May 16 with the bi-annual Dumpster Day which will take place at Craig School (1580 Park St) between 8:00 a.m. and noon. Nelson residents may dump many large household waste items in dumpsters provided by the City of Muskegon.



Upcoming Nelson Neighborhood Events

- May 16, 2009 - Dumpster Day—8-noon at Craig School
- May 20, 2009 - Monthly meeting at Nelson Place. 350 Houston, Board 5:30, Members 6:30 p.m.
- June 17, 2009 - Monthly meeting at Nelson Place. 350 Houston, Board 5:30, Members 6:30 p.m.
- July 15, 2009 - Monthly meeting at Nelson Place. 350 Houston, Board 5:30, Members 6:30 p.m.
- Starting July 15 - August—Mcgraft Park Concert Series on Tuesdays from 7-9pm .
- August 4, 2009 - Nelson Picnic. Muskegon High School statue, 6:00 p.m.
- August 19, 2009 - Monthly meeting at Nelson Place. 350 Houston, Board 5:30, Members 6:30 p.m.
- August 29, 2009 - 2nd Annual Academic Olympics at Nelson School field
- September 16, 2009 - Monthly meeting at Nelson Place. 350 Houston, Board 5:30, Members 6:30 p.m.
- September 19, 2009 - Dumpster Day—8-noon at 1144 Third St
- December 5, 2009 - Holiday Heritage Home Tour—Noon-5 p.m.



Job Opportunities

1. Michigan Works is hiring 100 kids through age 24 through the Orchard View Work Force Development. They are looking for workers and work sites. Call (231) 760-1999 for more information
2. The City of Muskegon Public Works Department has 1-2 positions mowing lawns etc for \$9/hour. Contact Bernadette at Public Works at (231) 724-4100.

Resident
<Address>
<City>, <ST> <ZIP>

Nelson Neighborhood Improvement Association
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Muskegon, MI 49443