

# Nelson News



## Downtown and Proud

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

Office - 1330 Fifth St.

Winter 2006

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

### Contacting NNIA

#### President

Larry Spataro (725-9384)

#### Membership Committee

Dollie Hippchen (726.4890)

#### Activities Committee

Marcia Hovey-Wright (726-4929)

#### Communication Committee

Dan Rinsema-Sybenga (740-5676)

#### Finance Committee

Bill Wright

#### Hospitality Committee

Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga

### Upcoming Events

**March 15** - Monthly general meeting at 1330 Fifth St. at 6:00 p.m.

**April 8** - Dumpster day at Craig School. 8:00-12:00. Neighborhood clean-up starts at same time and location.

**April 15** - Easter egg hunt at Heritage Landing. Family activity for Nelson residents. 10:00-12:00 with refreshments and games for kids

**April 19** - Monthly general meeting at 1330 Fifth St at 6:00 p.m.

**May 17** - Monthly meeting.

**June 17 (tentative)**- NNIA Summer picnic at Muskegon High School. 12:00 - 3:00 pm.

**June 21** - Monthly meeting.

**July 19** - Monthly meeting

### Membership Time

NNIA is supported through dues paid by its members. If you are not a member we would love to see you join. Being a member ensures that you will be notified of all meetings and NNIA events and only costs \$2 per person per calendar year. See insert for a membership slip and more information.

## Nelson welcomes visitors "home"

Taking off on an idea that has benefited neighborhood associations around the country the Nelson Neighborhood Improvement Association (NNIA) held its first successful home tour in December. Twelve Nelson homes were featured on the tour which attracted side media coverage and visitors from all over West Michigan. "It was a great opportunity to showcase the homes of Nelson and show people what a wonderful place we live in," said organizer Marcia Hovey-Wright, chair of the NNIA activities committee.

Over three hundred

guests participated on the tour. One of the most common sentiments expressed to tour home owners and volunteers was surprise at the wonderful houses in downtown Muskegon.

The tour showcased a wide variety of homes ranging from a modern apartment overlooking Muskegon Lake, to homes bearing the Hackley name, to a string of houses along historic Jefferson Street.

Thanks to our sponsors including the Muskegon County Museum, the Langeland House B & B, Positiv-i-Teas, Benson's Drug Store, and Ryke's Bakery among others.



## Level 6 brings cool to Nelson

A new store, appealing to youth culture opened in February 2006 at 559 W. Western Avenue. Level 6 carries shoes, apparel and skateboarding equipment that appeals to youth. The store itself is an expression of cool with videos playing in the background and light colored hardwood floors and counters. The store is the brainchild of Joe Lalonde who says his venture in downtown Muskegon is modeled on big city shoe boutiques.

## Block clubs reach to Grand

The block group movement continues to grow in Nelson neighborhood. Already in 2006 block group captains have met twice. At both meetings new captains were oriented and are now busy organizing their blocks. An exciting feature of this current growth is the new areas of the neighborhood that are warming up to the block club concept. Some of the newest block clubs have formed on Jefferson St, south of Muskegon High School, and

on Grand Avenue between 6th and 7th Sts. In these areas block club captains have been busy visiting neighbors and to both deal with concerns and to promote positive interaction between neighbors.



## Nelson prepares for future with strategic planning

Without vision the people perish goes a well known saying. With this in mind the board of the NNIA organized two strategic planning sessions during the late fall of 2006. An outside facilitator, Mary Robb of MSU Extension, graciously agreed to lead the sessions which had the goal of coming up with a snapshot of where the association stands currently and where it would like to go in the future. The sessions

drew over 50 neighborhood residents who were eager to share their perspectives. All of the session required audience participation and soon poster sized paper jammed with notes were hanging all round the room where the planning was held. Residents had an opportunity to choose which priorities they saw as most fundamental to the future of the neighborhood and the association. Those were, the perception

and reality of safety, the supporting of neighborhood businesses, and organized and effective neighborhood activities. Now the job of the association and residents is to see these incorporated into a bright future for Nelson neighborhood.



## Holiday contest lights up Nelson

While there were bright lights all across Nelson Neighborhood over the holiday season some in the North Nelson neighborhood were especially bright. And thanks to the efforts of Neighborhood Investment Corporation some of those hearty souls were rewarded as part of the

North Nelson Holiday Decorating contest. The judging was performed by some students from Nelson Elementary and their mom who picked 1225 Fifth St as the winner of the contest. For their efforts the homeowners were rewarded with Summer Celebration concert tickets and

a gift certificate from Positiv-i-Teas. Second place honors went to 394 Houston who received Fury tickets and a gift certificate from Postiv-i-Teas. Third prize was a 3 piece vase set from Details and Design by Mary Kaye and also a gift certificate from Positiv-i-Teas.

## Neighbors join in Holiday spirit

For the second year in a row, neighborhood business was set aside and Nelson residents came together for a holiday potluck the Wednesday before Christmas. With the room decorated in holiday spirit, and holiday tunes filling the air, a feast was enjoyed with neighbors each bringing something to contribute. After the meal awards for the North Nelson decorating contest were announced and the raffle winners were drawn. A great time of fun and fellowship.



## Neighborhood Mystery

By Kim Lemke, Positiv-i-Teas  
1137 3rd Street 722-3807

Who used the printing press? A very old printing press, Our Dairy of the 1940's, Big Bob's Restaurant of the recent past, a few apartment residents and now the busy Tax Tyme Service all have one thing in common, the address at 1133 Third Street. As with all buildings in the Nelson Neighborhood 1133 Third Street has a past, a future, and a mystery.

In preparing for the future opening of a new restaurant, which will feature locally grown organic produce, the printing press was found in the basement. Some very old paper was also found, however there were no clues as to how the press was used, or who used it.

You may be able to help solve the mystery. Do you remember who used the printing press? Was it the dairy to print advertisements or another business before that. If you have any information please share it with us at the next NNIA meeting.

## Nelson welcomes community officer

New Nelson Neighborhood community officer Scott Vanderwier is off to a busy start in his assignment in Nelson neighborhood. He has spent time pounding the pavement meeting residents, employees and business owners. In addition he partnered with the NNIA block club committee to hold a first of its kind downtown business and resident gathering which gave Officer Vanderwier an opportunity to meet peo-

ple personally and explain the various ways he plans to be active in the neighborhood.

A Muskegon native, Vanderwier is pleased to be serving the community and we look forward to partnering with him.

