

Neighborhood News

The Northfield East Side Neighborhood Association is dedicated to fostering community and improving the quality of life in our neighborhood by communicating relevant issues to residents, addressing safety and housing issues, hosting social events, and facilitating cooperative efforts between the neighborhood, the city, and our institutional neighbors.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 1 Winter 2011

Old Memorial Park

Have you seen the improvements - including paved trails and new landscaping - in Memorial Park? See how you can help add more trees!

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Happy New Year

A message from the new Carleton College president, Steve Poskanzer.



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What's up with the LDC?

Many neighbors were involved in NESNA sponsored neighborhood meetings around the LDC. Get a recap of those meetings and next steps.

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This Old House



Hints for taking care of your older home

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Our New City Councillor

Greeting from Suzie Nakasian, our new Ward 1 Representative. Learn how you can stay informed about issues and policies.

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Contact Us

Have a question, concern, or idea you would like to share with the NESNA Board? Please contact us!

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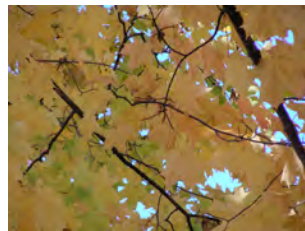
Help "Green" Old Memorial Park

From: Scott Carpenter

Members will recall that NESNA has been actively engaged in a campaign to improve the quality of Memorial Park. Attendees at the 2010 annual meeting provided crucial input about priorities for park development (among the key issues: improved access to and within the park by way of paths; and trees), and we set about communicating these to the City.

Anyone who has gone through the park in the last months of 2010 will realize that significant progress has been made: the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board allocated \$50,000 for paths (now completed - be sure to thank any PRAB members you know!), and some remaining funds have allocated for the planting of over twenty new trees.

In November NESNA launched a fund-raising campaign to increase the number of trees (and possibly other amenities), with a goal of collecting at least \$3000 before spring of 2011. We've made



significant headway toward that goal (our total currently stands at \$2000), but we still need your help!

Every little contribution will move us toward our objective. A new tree costs \$150; however, feel free to donate fractions of that amount -- a twig or a trunk! Here's how it works:

1. Make your check (in any amount) out to "City of Northfield." (Of course, the contribution is tax deductible.)
2. To contribute to the tree fund, write "Trees for Memorial Park" in the memo line. If you don't mind whether the contribution goes for trees or benches, write "NESNA Amenities for Memorial Park"

3. Send the check to NESNA board member Scott Carpenter at 602 Prairie St., Northfield, MN 55057. (The City has agreed to reserve these funds for the designated purpose, but they've asked that NESNA collect the checks to deliver them in batches to the City.)

Currently we would like to thank the following contributors: Grace & Cliff Clark, Scott & Melody Bierman, Scott Carpenter & Anne Maple, Andrea & Gary Iseminger, Barbara & Dennie Alstaedter, Rick Vanasek, Molly Woerlin, Ed Lufkin, Shirley M. Falk, Susan & Mike Harper, Richard & Barbara Crouter, Nancy Caspar, Chris & Katie Clark.

For questions for further information, don't hesitate to contact Scott Carpenter at scarpent@carleton.edu.

We look forward to working toward a greener, better Memorial Park!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

To our Northfield friends and neighbors, I send greetings and best wishes for a prosperous new year. The Poskanzer family is so excited to be part of such a vibrant and wonderful neighborhood. Jane, Jill, Craig, and I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to get acquainted with some of you at the lovely reception the NESNA board held for us in August. Since then, community members have gone out of their way to help make my own transition to Northfield a delightful experience, and I very much look forward to meeting many more of you in the coming months.

Since I was raised in a college town—very similar to Northfield, much to my delight—and am the son of a college professor, I know Carleton and the City of Northfield depend on each other and both need to play important roles to ensure our collective vibrancy and success. We want to continue to explore ways that you, as neighbors and community members, can interact with the College and our faculty, staff, and students, and how we at Carleton might benefit from your insight and enhance the broader community. We have much to gain by working together.

Among the highest priorities for the College in the year ahead is completion of our arts union facility on the site of the former Northfield Middle School. The project is progressing right on schedule and the building is expected to open in the fall of 2011. We are also excited to announce the formal naming of the arts union as The Weitz Center for Creativity -- in honor of our leadership donors, Wally and Barbara Weitz and their family. The College is planning a grand opening of the Center next fall and of course we look forward to having our neighbors and community members participate with us.

On a personal note, Jane will be moving from our previous home in New York to Northfield and into Nutting House this summer. Our son, Craig, will continue his studies at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire but Northfield will be his home during vacations and summers. And in what is surely the best family news this fall, our daughter, Jill, has become so enraptured with Northfield and Minnesota that she is set to come to Carleton next September as a first-year student! On their behalf, and

mine, I want to thank NESNA for all it has done to make us feel welcome, and to help strengthen the partnership between the neighborhood and Carleton.

- Steve Poskanzer

Caring for Older Homes: Exterior Siding

Narrow wooden siding (or clapboard) and shingles give Northfield's historic neighborhoods much of their visual distinctiveness. If properly maintained, wood building products are long lasting and durable. No manufactured product - including vinyl siding - has been able to substantially improve on the long-term performance or appearance of wood.

Vinyl (and aluminum) siding are heavily advertised to the owners of older houses. However, potential buyers should consider a number of issues related to long-term maintenance, value, and aesthetics before making the decision to cover over existing siding.

Because it sometimes removes or covers over trim and decorative details, vinyl siding can destroy the visual character of older houses. It also alters the qualities of shadow and texture provided by wood siding and trim. Once installed, the color of vinyl siding cannot be changed.

When siding alters the historic appearance of a house, it can actually lower resale value. Many buyers prefer wood-



sided buildings with intact trim and siding, and less potential for hidden moisture damage. Given the high cost of the initial installation of vinyl siding, homeowners should compare it to the cost of several paint jobs which will maintain the character of the house.

If you have questions, contact the Northfield Heritage Preservation Commission at 645-8833.

Reprinted from The Northfield Heritage Preservation Brochure - At Home in Northfield: Guidelines for Exterior Rehabilitation.

An update on the Land Development Code

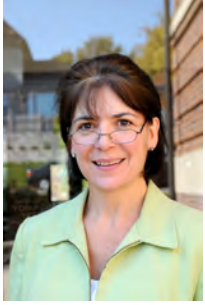
From: Rich Noer

Northfield is rewriting its zoning laws for the first time in nearly thirty years. A draft of a new Land Development Code (LDC) has been put together over the last couple of years by city staff and the Northfield Planning Commission, with input from interested community members including, from our area, Carleton and NESNA members. The main issues of concern to northeast side residents have involved the interface between Carleton and the nearby residential neighborhood, and in particular the blocks between the old Middle School (being converted into Carleton's new Arts Union) and the main campus area to the north. At a NESNA-sponsored neighborhood meeting on Sept. 26, attendees voiced their unanimous desire that (1) those blocks remain zoned residential, (2) there be no further conversions of homes into college offices, and (3) provisions be retained in the draft LDC that require, for any significant construction in the border of the campus facing the residential zone, negotiation with the neighborhood and approval by the city.

The latest LDC draft was formally submitted to the City Council on Dec. 14. It has not yet been made public, but we understand that it (1) includes no rezoning of any parts of our neighborhood, (2) allows no exceptions for non-conforming (college office) uses in residential zones, and (3) includes a "perimeter transition area" in the outer 200' of the college zone, where changes will require a Conditional Use Permit process that we believe provides generally adequate provisions for substantial input from neighbors and any neighborhood association (read NESNA). This draft will soon be open for public comment and (in response) further revisions by the Planning Commission and/or the City Council. We're keeping close watch on the process and will provide further input where it seems needed. Final passage into law is anticipated sometime this spring.

We believe that both Carleton and most concerned neighbors are now in general agreement that the final LDC will provide reasonable protections for our historic neighborhood without imposing unreasonable limits or burdens on Carleton.

New Year / New City Council



Greetings to East Side Neighbors and friends! I look forward to serving the Northfield City Council as representative of Ward 1 – which includes East Side residents north of 5th Street, Mayflower Hill, the residential neighborhoods along North Highway 3, Carleton College, and our historic downtown!

Throughout the year, I will host a series of town-hall style meetings as an opportunity to share information answer questions, and gather feedback on local issues. I look forward to that opportunity for discussion and I also invite you to contact me via email: suzienakasian@gmail.com or phone: 507-301-6756 (weekdays before 3:30 p.m. is best, if possible). I intend to be an active and accessible Council representative and I welcome your input!

Got Goals? The City Council will soon begin review of our goals for the coming session. If there are issues or policies that you would like the Council to address, I invite you to contact me with those recommendations. Obviously we won't be able to immediately address every issue suggested, but public input will help to inform our discussion. Thank you for considering this: you can see the slate of 2010 Council goals by clicking on this link to the Council's Web Site,

<http://www.ci.northfield.mn.us/government/citycouncil> .

To facilitate your access to the Council, consider saving, or “bookmarking”, that City Hall Website address on your computer - and use it as a handy one-stop resource where you can access Council emails and phone numbers, meeting Agendas and Minutes and the link to the online live “stream” of our meetings (more information below).

Council Meetings: The City Council holds its regular meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month (7p.m. at City Hall, 801 Washington Street) and the Agenda for those meetings is posted both in the Northfield News and on the Council's web site (above) a few days before the meeting. Public comments invited at regular Council meetings in person or in absentia. If you are unable to attend a meeting in person, feel free to forward your written comments to me, or to City Administrator Tim Madigan (Tim.Madigan@ci.northfield.mn.us) with the request that comments be shared with the entire Council in advance of the meeting.

Tuning-in: City Council meetings are broadcast on local Northfield Cable Television [NTV Channel 12](#) (check local listings) and can also be watched over the internet via an online “stream” to your computer by clicking on this link [KYMN online stream](#). (You can also use that link to access past meetings with the added convenience of a replay and fast forward option). If are not able to watch or attend Council meetings, I encourage you to contact me with your questions and suggestions.

I look forward to our ongoing conversation and to working with you on behalf of our community over the months to come!

With best wishes for a vibrant and healthy 2011,
Suzie Nakasian Ward 1 Representative, Northfield City Council

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Have an idea for an article for the newsletter?

Have a question or concern?

Want to be added to our mailing list?

Interested in being on the NESNA Board?

Please Contact Us!

We'd love to hear from you!

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www.northfideastside.org

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