

METRO Northsider

December, 2012

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New McKie Center opens



Northside's McKie Recreation Center has reopened after several months of reconstruction there.

The center is about twice the size of the original building and

has several new components.

When you enter the center you will find a reception center and office space up front along with an area with tables and chairs where people can

sit and chat.

Behind the reception area is a large meeting room where the Northside Community Council will again meet monthly

In the back of the what is now the second floor is a large exercise (*fitness*) room. There is even a large window where members can overlook a brand new gym. On the first floor

which can be reached via an elevator there is a computer room, game room and child care center along with additional small meeting rooms.

Outside is a play area and a

new pool which will open in the spring.

McKie Center is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Don Beimesche retires as treasurer of Northside Business Association

Don Beimesche was feted at the closing of the November Northside Business Association on his retirement as the group's treasurer.

He joined the old Northside Business Club about 1976. The name was changed from Northside Business Club

to Northside Business Association in the late 90s because it sounded more professional instead of a party group."

He became treasurer in 1991. Before that he held offices including 2nd vice president, 1st vice president, secretary and president

He joined North Side Bank & Trust Co. in October, 1964 and has been everything from teller, trust officer, cashier, vice president, manager of the Main office and corporate secretary. He has always been at the Main Office.

Other organizations he

belongs to include Northside-College Hill Kiwanis (*currently Treasurer*), Cincinnati Northside Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation (*formerly treasurer and now on the board*), Northside Community Fund of Greater Cincinnati

Foundation (*as a board member*), and a director of the Cincinnati Neighborhood Business Districts United.

He has been married to Nancy since May 22, 1971. They have three sons and four grandchildren. They have lived in Madeira for 34 years.



Beimesche

Northside



Northside Community Council

By Martha Dourson
President

Board bits

Kirby Road School - SOLD!

As you recall from the last issue, the Kirby Road School, along with several other Cincinnati Public Schools, was up for auction beginning in early November.

The auction occurred because there were no charter schools that expressed interest in this school.

I am happy to report that with only minutes to spare in this online auction, Bloomfield and Schon, successful developers of the American Can Building, were the winning bidders. Bloomfield and Schon worked tirelessly with the Northside community in its development of the American Can Building, and likewise, have been and continue to be very grateful to the community for its support. They look forward to working with the community

on this project as well.

The successful bidders will close on the building sometime in December. The first order of business is to secure the correct zoning and get city council to designate Kirby Road as a local landmark/historic building. Prior to the auction, the Kirby Road School Committee, chaired by Heather Sturgill, formed a Steering Committee involving some of the top planners and developers in the city (*who also happen to reside in Northside, a factor which sealed the deal for us!*): Tom Jackson, Todd Kinsky, Harry Blanton and Steve Bloomfield.

Bloomfield and Schon will work with these committees to envision a design. Moving forward, the developers will also begin to consider such things as construction estimates, environmental reports, financing and the process of Historical Register

designation.

We thank the extra efforts of the Cincinnati Board of Education that made this purchase a reality. Working together was not only beneficial but rewarding. What a satisfying way to transition Kirby School into its next purpose.

If you have questions, or want to be a part of the action, please call me at 542-8940, or e-mail at mcdourson@gmail.com.

Renew your Membership!

Did you know that giving can make you feel better? I have a suggestion: Give to Northside. Whether you are becoming a new member or renewing your membership to Northside Community Council, this is one expense you will not regret making and in all likelihood will receive immediately mental health benefits. The annual fee is \$6.00, but if you are lucky enough to be a senior like me (*age 55 plus*), the fee

is only \$4.00. Membership allows you to vote, so you always have a voice in your community. Sounds like it is worth it, doesn't it?

Of course, you can always choose to give more. Your contribution is tax-deductible and you can designate for what it should be used.

Get involved. Feel better. Membership forms are available at the meetings, or online at www.northside.net. Call Martha Dourson at 513-542-8940 or e-mail mcdourson@gmail.com with questions or concerns.

Branding of Northside

At our meeting in November, the Branding Committee (*Jeff Hinkle, Laura Conley, Tim Jeckering, Barry Schwartz, Isaac Heintz from the Northside Business Association, James Heller Jackson, and Martha Dourson*) presented the top three icons and the various uses of those icons,

See *Council*, Page 6, Col. 2

Northside Community Council Committees

Education Committee - Sue Wilke and Jeni Jenkins jointly co-chair. If interested in participating contact Sue at suewilke@cinci.rr.com or Jeni at visionforchange@gmail.com.

Northside Safety & Livability Committee—Safety and Livability Committee - this committee is undergoing revision and will be updated as soon as information becomes available. In the meantime, should you be interested in serving on this committee or have questions, please contact Martha Dourson at 542-8940, or e-mail at mcdourson@gmail.com.

Youth Soccer Committee - Currently NCC funds and sponsors two youth teams in both the spring and autumn. Contact Oliver Kroner for details, olliekroner@yahoo.com or 513-284-0899 cell. Visit www.northsidesoccer.com

Skate Park Committee — Currently not meeting but still working! Contact Tim Jeckering at 513-542-2500, or e-mail Tim at timjeckering@fuse.net. Visit www.skatenorthside.com.

House Tours/Porch Tours are usually the second weekend in October, on alternating years, House Tours are on even numbered years, and Porch Tours are on odd numbered years.

Porch Tour - Contact Tim Jeckering, 513-542-2500 ext. (1#) or timjeckering@fuse.net

House Tour - Contact Louise Watts, 513-541-7563 or louisewatts77@email.com.

Event Committees

4th of July — Chuck Brown at chuckb75@aaahawk.com
4th of July Committee works at planning, recruiting, getting permits and community participation for the 4th of July Parade. This Committee also coordinates w/organizers of the Festival in Hoffner Park after the Parade.

Affiliates

Citizens On Patrol (COP) — meets 3rd Thursday of month at 6 p.m. at Ella.net Studio (*above Northside Tavern*). Contact Mollie Brumm at mollie.brumm@fmr.com

Cincinnati Northside Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation (CNCURC) — Stefanie Sunderland, executive director, 513-542-4709

METRO Northsider

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Home Page

By Mary Metzmeier

Principle reduction will solve housing crisis

On January 3, 2013, the 113th Congress of the United States will be sworn in to office and 18 days later, President Barak Obama will be sworn in for his second term.

During their new terms, Congress and the President have the opportunity, indeed the duty, to act swiftly to end the housing crisis. There is a simple, effective solution that should be implemented now.

Last year at Working In Neighborhoods, we offered help to 934 families in danger of losing their homes to foreclosure. While we were able to save 212 of those homes, this is a drop in the bucket compared to the 3,000 Hamilton County residents who face foreclosure each year.

Instead of watching increasing numbers of Americans lose their life's savings to the foreclosure crisis, Congress and the

President should require Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to reduce the principle on foreclosed homes. Principle reduction helps us all. The banks continue to collect mortgage payments, home owners keep their homes and neighborhoods continue to thrive.

In addition, when home owners are no longer shackled to a mortgage that is greater than the value of

their homes, they invest. They do the necessary repairs and updates that they could not afford when they were struggling to pay the mortgage. This investment creates jobs for roofers, carpenters and other tradespeople, and we begin to see the economy revive. The New Bottom Line estimates that principle reduction will inject \$71 billion into the

See *Crisis*, Page 8, Col. 3

“Dr. Bob”



Dr. Bob and Mite

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Council—from Page 2
 along with possible tag lines. These top three choices were chosen based on the comments garnered from input from the community at Second Saturdays, Facebook, *Northside.net* and written comments from North Presbyterian Church and the Farmers' Market. The visual presentation of each icon, including how it would look in black and white, on a tee shirt, on stationery, or in combination with a brand of a business or organization, will help residents make their final selection at the December meeting. Remember you must be a member to vote (*another reason to join now!*)

REMEMBER – Community Council meetings resume at McKie beginning December 17!

Recognizing contributions

By Board Member Sue Wilke

Many members of our community contribute to making Northside what it is, participating in our present and helping to chart our future. Some are known to us, some are not. The Northside Community Council is initiating the NCC Recognition Award to be given to an individual, business or organization that has advanced the mission of the NCC in a meaningful way.

Any resident can nominate and recognitions will be done at monthly Council meetings.

Nomination forms will be available at Council meetings; we hope to have them on the website shortly.

Please contact Sue Wilke at 513-368-5355/suewilke@cinci.rr.com if you have any questions.

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December Recipe

One batch of dough, four kinds of cookies

Ingredients.....1 lb.butter.....one half cup sugar.....one and one half cups brown sugar (*firmly packed*).....2 egg yolks.....one half

teaspoon salt.....2 teaspoons vanilla.....4 cups flour.....1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts.

Directions.....Cream together butter and both sugars.....Add egg yolks, salt and vanilla to butter and sugar mixture.....Stir in nuts.....Stir in flour, just until blended.....Divide dough into 4 equal parts.....Praline Squares.....Spread part of dough into 9 inch square baking pan.....bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes, until browned.....Prick with fork.....Boil together for 1 minute, the following ingredients.....



Barbara Rosenberg
Author

6 tablespoons butter, 6 tablespoons brown sugar(firmly packed and 2 teaspoons corn syrup.....Pour over cookie crust.....top with 1 half cup chopped nuts.....Bake in oven for 6 minutes, until glaze bubbles.....Place on wire rack to cool.....Cut into 1 and one half inch squares, while warm.....Raspberry Jam squares.....Spread part of cookie dough into 9 inch square baking pan, reserving one quarter cup of dough.....Put the reserved dough into freezer.....Spread pan of cookie dough with one quarter cup of Raspberry jam.....Grate frozen dough over jam layer.....Bake at 400 degrees for 20-30 minutes, until brown.....



Put on wire rack to cool.....Cut into one and one half inch squares.....You have 2 portions of cookie dough remaining.....Get creative.....Spread baked cookie crust with melted chocolate morsels.....If desired,..... top chocolate layer with toasted coconut or toasted nuts.....Happy Holidays and Bon Appetit, until next month, Barbara.....Quadruple Cookies.

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Gift of caring

Sometimes a book is so powerful that nothing else matters except sitting and reading it to the finish.

Such a book is Lois Lowry's "The Giver." The book was written in 1993 for young readers and many people have read it as part of a early childhood experience. I urge all adults to read this book. The book introduces a shocking world that is called, "peaceful." What would it be like to live in a world where there new born children are called, "products?" What would it be like to live in a world where passion, excitement, danger, risk and challenge were all removed from the human experience as a critical factor in "peaceful" relations? This world also has no people who are hungry, no people who have physical or mental difficulties, and no conflict that is overt. Even the hills have been leveled.

The world described is set at a distant point in the future. Somehow, decisions were made by the society's leaders that this kind of "peace" would prevail and that other examples of society would be forgotten or at least kept by the key storyteller of the society, the person we come to know as "The Giver." He has aged to the point where he is to be replaced and a very young boy has been chosen to replace him. Becoming a storyteller involves a form of private education, an apprenticeship in learning of the earlier times of the world's existence, a learning that includes war, hunger, violence, and positive experiences as well. The education of the young storyteller is the turning

point in the story. As he learns the stories, he experiences the pain and the joy of those prior times in history. He finds the stories of war, orphans, homelessness, and hunger too much for his heart. And, he finds a story of Christmas so delightful, so amazing, and so warm that he wants to experience more of these rare feelings.

What this boy decides to do with his "knowledge" is a critical question. Will he assume his position as storyteller for his community, and thereby keep stories of horror, violence, and atrocity as well as joy, out of the community's discussions, or, will he use his knowledge in a way that shocks and threatens his standing in the community and the community's rules as well? The decision of the young boy is exciting and needs to be read. But the questions raised by his experience of the reality of the past are contemporary questions that are important for any citizen, irrespective of age.

As a teacher, parent, spouse and citizen I am also concerned about the education for "war" that is such a major force in our culture. The threat of doing poorly in school leads to the threat of poor job opportunities, reduced life expectancy, and dependancy, and drives our culture to frighten children and families at every stage of human development. The values embedded in these pressures for survival appear to drive away attitudes of caring that are reflected in sharing, listening, serving, and loving people. Fair procedures

are scrapped in favor of short cuts that favor a few. The belief in caring as a way of life and as a way of making just decisions is repeatedly under attack. The child who learns best in projects that are cooperative is seen as a danger to the individualized testing culture in the schools. Workplaces are increasing lonely and beleaguered settings for ongoing battles for status, "pseudo-merit," and self destructive choices. The family becomes another setting for conflict that seems ongoing as family rules may be violated by laws, rules, and behaviors that reinforce humiliation. The peaceful family, irrespective of religious orientation, or sexual preference, or political persuasion, or economic status is less and less an option. And, what are we to say to our citizens, our children and our leaders about the reasons for continuing to risk life for a war that has been ill planned, poorly discussed and with dire casualties?

Lowry's gift is to give us one choice for "peace" that forces a discussion of the values we want to live by and to have to endure in our future. Her book introduces, in an exciting way, these basic questions and raises them in a way that makes it hard to ignore as a citizen of a democracy. She is worried that we are prepared to sacrifice the kind of education that will inspire our children to think

See *Peace* Page 8 Col. 3

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Northside-College Hill Kiwanis
 We hold our weekly meetings at noon on Tuesdays at Twin Towers in College Hill. Learn more about Kiwanis, join us for lunch. RSVP: Don Beimesche, 513-542-7800 or 271-2814

Peace—from Page 7
 with wonder, delight, and care seriously about their own lives, the way a community can exist and the importance of choosing what is a “best” way. I strongly urge you to pick up this amazing book and then to pass it on to someone you really care about. I would be very interested in your comments on the book as well.

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Crisis—from Page 3
 nation’s economy and create more than one million jobs annually.
 The foreclosure crisis has not only displaced families; it has filled our neighborhoods with vacant homes which attract crime, litter and blight. It’s time to hold the lenders who created this mess responsible for cleaning it up.
 Congress and the President must act to halt lenders from foreclosing on homes. The lenders should be required to reinvest in the communities they have helped tear apart and pay for the renovation or demolition of the vacant homes they have left in our communities. We need public and private investment and principle reduction now.